



April 14, 2021 • 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

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Remote Only

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Present via Zoom

Most but not all participants were present for the entire meeting.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Jennifer Burington | 12. Cori Mattke | 23. Raining White |
| 2. Chelsey Blanke | 13. Essam Dabaan | 24. Roger Becker |
| 3. James Calkins | 14. Doug Jensen | 25. Marian Shaffer |
| 4. Krishna Woerheide | 15. Emily Dunlap | 26. Shawn Muphy |
| 5. Rob Venette | 16. Paul Erdmann | 27. Laura Van Riper |
| 6. Ariana Richardson | 17. Mari Hardel | 28. Heidi Wolf |
| 7. Andrew Dickhart | 18. Jeffrey Kalin | 29. Katherine Wyman-Grothem |
| 8. Angelique Dahlberg | 19. Emilie Justen | 30. Michelle Grabowski |
| 9. Christina Basch | 20. Liz Anderson | 31. Robert Dunning |
| 10. Tyler Kaspar | 21. Mackenzie Hogfeldt | 32. Angela Gupta |
| 11. Val Cervenka | 22. Deborah Niemi | 33. Megan Weber |

Council Business

- Review and Approve Agenda: Poll indicated 21 participants approved, **Approved**

Engagement Discussions

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Inspections – Deborah Niemi

- Supervisor with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in International Falls
- CBP employs just under 26,000 officers; only a portion of those specialize in agriculture
 - On any given day, they process about a million passengers carrying \$7 billion worth of goods
- Second largest revenue-collecting source in the federal government (\$204 million in duties)
- Quarantine significant pests (doesn't count things that are not regulated)
- There is a lot of turnover in leadership
- Ag Program Goals: Enhance the environment, reduce/prevent spread of noxious weeds, protect agriculture/environment

International Falls

- Largest area port in Minnesota

- Largest rail volume in the nation
- International Seaplane Base
- Falls International Airport
- 63 CBP officers, 11 CBP agriculture specialists – four are trainees and two are managers
- Cargo moves from Shanghai to Prince Rupert to International Falls
- They are targeting intellectual property rights (IPR) issues and agriculture pests and pests of plant products in and on containers
- The pest risk is dramatic. Shipments are put on a train within two days of arriving at Prince Rupert. 2/3 of containers are destined for the U.S.

Trains

- Minimum length of train to leave Prince Rupert is 11,000 ft. U.S. tracks have lower capacity so some containers need to be dropped off in Canada.
 - Travel time from Prince Rupert to Chicago is 110 hours, to New Orleans is 158 hours (trains go through International Falls).
- CBP has been preparing their carrier to process fresh fruits and vegetables from overseas which will significantly affect CBP operations. Ag specialists will have to be there to inspect those items because they are time sensitive.
- They get over 400,000 containers per year (up about 400% from ten years ago). That is a lot of increase in volume with not very much staff. That said, enforcement has been increasing quite a bit.
 - Only inspecting 0.05% of what is coming through.
 - 16,000 ag inspections in FY 20.
 - ~2000 pest interceptions.
 - Percentage of non-compliant ag targets has ranged roughly 20% to 31 % over the past 6 years.
- They have the mindset of “if you’re not looking for it, you’re not going to find it”. If they do not find anything, they keep looking. They do not teach these kinds of inspections at the academy so they train staff at the ports.

Emergency Action Notification Composition

- 60% contaminant, 1% prohibited products, 18% pests, 21% is due to wood packaging material non-compliance.
- People are not cleaning out the containers before they are shipped over. Ag specialists clean them out or the railroads do.
- Fumigation, methyl bromide treatment
 - APHIS PPQ officer provided by Minnesota to oversee treatments which made a major difference

Keys for Successful Inspections

- Target various bills
- High risk commodities
- High risk shipments
- First impression/initial inspection
- Devan inspections
 - Devan inspections are done at their CES building. Examine all sides of the commodity for insects, seeds and contamination. Sweep nets are also useful for catching insects that could

be flying around. Some of the things they are looking for are extremely small. They found a first-in-the-nation fruit fly in a shipment of autoparts. They check everything in the containers – floors, walls, ceiling, etc.

- There is a glitch in the requirements for CBP – they don't have to tell CBP the actual contents or the shipper of the package until they reach the port of entry (IF is a port of arrival)
- They target companies with prior violations until they clean up their acts.
- China has a lot of wood-boring pests that they're concerned about so they target shipments from some countries more heavily.
- They only give 4 hours' notice that trains are coming so within that 4 hours they are trying to learn what they can about the shipments (backtracking to learn where they are coming from, etc.)
- High-risk commodities/shipments
 - Stone products (e.g., tile, marble)
 - Risk: Snails, wood-boring pests, federal noxious weeds
 - Machinery (e.g., auto parts)
 - Risk: Wood-boring pests, federal noxious weeds
 - Grains
 - Risk: Khapra beetle, plant disease
- They are one of few ports with a "live lift" system. Cranes pick up crates and set them on the ground – they do a quick look to see if they want to inspect the container and do a more thorough exam. They are holding up a train that could have 400 shipments or more. So the longer they hold it – the longer it sits there. They train can keep moving now that they can grab a crate off the train for further inspection.
- Some of the things that they look for are live insects. Look for frass and boreholes. Some flies are actionable.
- Fumigation bay is also negative pressure to contain methyl bromide within the bay and avoid safety hazards.

Significant Interceptions

- *Imperata cylindrical* in pottery – they find this species a lot.
- *Saccharum spontaneum*
- *Cerambycidae* first-in-nation destined for Minnesota in a shipment of washers packed in wood, coming from China. Major pest of fruits and ornamental trees.
- *Bradybaeninae* snail. They put a border of salt around the container to make sure none escape.
- Khapra beetle, *Trogoderma granarium* in a shipment of wire from China (think the beetle actually got into the container in Pakistan. Highly resistant to pesticides. Would be devastating to our economy in the Midwest. Fumigated it and ended up letting it into the U.S (thinking they were all killed). Deborah was disappointed they allowed the shipment in.
- ISPM154 stamps were fraudulent (signals likely illegal activity)
 - Missing facility codes, drawing in extra numbers, no border, no separation line, etc.
 - Companies will try anything to save a dollar but it does not save them any money when they have to send that shipment back.
- NCWPM in a shipment of metal products.
- *Buprestidae* in the middle of a piece of wood in a shipment of excavator parts (only reason they found it because they saw a tiny bore hole).
- Dog ticks, *Rhipicephalus* sp.

- Biologicals
 - Port of Detroit found vials of human brain tissue
 - 4,400 cartons of pork product from China valued at \$125,000 – pork was mislabeled and couldn't come in because of African Swine Fever
 - Rat cerebrums – no required permits
 - Dead birds labeled as “mystical” – concerned about avian influenza and Newcastle disease
 - Lizards, pythons, turtles shoved into toy cars, household items – some endangered and regulated animals

Truck Cargo

- Canadian wood products – logs, paper, veneer, chips, firewood
 - Pests of concern: European gypsy moth, Asian gypsy moth, Emerald ash borer, pine shoot beetle
- Canadian seeds (another type of shipment of interest)

US-Canada Greenhouse Certification Program

- In lieu of phytosanitary certificates
- They have a plan for pest management in case they do find specified pests in their greenhouses
- Began in 1996 and revamped in 2016 to ensure consistent application and pest risk management measures. “Yellow sticker” program.
- They are now allowing plants from outside the US or Canada as long as they have been grown in a certified greenhouse for at least 28 days. They still inspect them though – they do not just accept that sticker.

Other Notable Work

- Animal feed inspections – grains, screenings, supplements, vitamins (plant-based or animal-based); they need permits for these things
- Passenger Environment – boats, etc. they look for zebra mussels on boats, etc. Live wells must be drained. No bait (leeches or minnows) allowed into the U.S.; fruit and veggies
- Trademark infringements: Electric hand massagers (\$500,000), outdoor TVs (\$575,000), point-of-sale workstations (just under \$2 million)

Q&A

- Do you look for state listed pests and invasive species? Yes. They target them before they leave Asia. They stop them a few miles out and check them for gypsy moth.
- What is your background? Inspectors need at least 20 college biological science credits.
- Do you think there's a need for more – could states help advocate for that? There has been some suggestion that they may get more inspectors in the wake of COVID-19. USDA has gone to bat for them and proposals have gone to congress. There was a big push last year to increase the number of K9 teams throughout the country. 12 inspectors is the minimum Deborah thinks is needed. They will have 10 fully trained soon.
- What are ISPM15 stamps? Under the international plant protection convention, shipments must be heat treated or treated with methyl bromide. Shipments are rejected if they do not have a stamp.
- How do you determine what gets seized vs exported? Insects can be fumigated. Noxious weeds can be cleaned out. Depends on the goods. Etc.

- Do you find invasive adult or mosquito larvae in shipment? Have not found those much in shipments. The only thing they have found is watermilfoil on boats. They are looking.
- Are the non-compliance numbers rising because inspectors are targeting potentially problematic containers instead of random inspections? Could be. Targeting has gotten more refined than it used to be.
- Why would there be human brain tissue? Human brain tissue is sometimes brought in from foreign countries for research since it is difficult for student researchers to obtain. This is true for most biological materials encountered by CBP. Foreign countries don't have as stringent regulations on the sale/trade/disposal of body parts and tissues as the US. Human skulls containing brain tissue have also been found in passenger baggage, having been brought in for religious ceremonies.
- May have said, but does Canada only inspect containers at the original port of entry that are not going to leave Canada? The rest go unchecked? Can trains go through to Mexico through the Canadian route? Most of these shipments go by truck. If they are regulated by CBP, they go on a transit bond so they insure that they leave.
- Seasonal pattern to interceptions? Are finds of adult insects more common in summer/fall, for example? This is mostly for the noxious weeds depending on the growing seasons for those plants. As far as insects, they do not see a lot of adult/immature patterns.
- Are there meaningful consequences like fines or limitations on future importations for violations, including required stamps and the associated treatment requirements? If a company imports a shipment that has the noncompliant wood, they can be penalized the value of their shipment.
- What do you do for researchers who may be carrying insects and have a permit to do that (example: hand-carrying permit to come in through Baudette but not International Falls)? USDA generally does not issue permits for regulated items to enter through Ports not staffed by Agriculture Specialists. Permits usually state the items must enter through a specific Port or "any Port staffed by an Agriculture Specialist." They are notified of the date and general time frame of a permit-holder entering the US with a regulated item and the conditions for entry. They get a notice that a permit-holder is coming through and will verify that the permit-holder is coming through with permit in hand and carrying the species according to the permit conditions (e.g., double bagged, etc.).
- Doug mentioned the Don't Pack A Pest project. From 2005-2015, APHIS reported 121,000 violations by academic travelers in four western ports. Minnesota has a lot of international students and study abroad students.
- Will the fumigation facility handle the new coming of fruits and vegetables? Yes. They only problem they would have is when methyl bromide runs out. International supply is dwindling and it is getting more difficult to find as more and more countries say they do not want it in their country. There is no replacement at this time but there is some research going on into this. Methyl iodide has been considered but they do not know if it has the same concerns.
- Deborah invited everyone up to the port!

Zebra mussel-contaminated moss balls – Doug Jensen

- Moss balls
 - Green filamentous algae for aquariums sold by many types of retailers and online
 - Native to the Ukraine (where they think contaminated moss balls have been coming from)
- March 1: Discovered by Seattle Petco employee
- Coordinated response by USDA, USFWS, US CBP

- Objectives: 1) Stop importation into the U.S., 2) properly dispose of contaminated product in supply chain
- USDA regulates plant pests and USDA regulates injurious wildlife like zebra mussels
- USFWS is working on eDNA testing real-time with kits/test strips
- Feds are collaborating with states
 - Doug helped develop messaging for proper disposal
 - Supporting communication with retailers and hobbyists
 - National USFWS and PIJAC news releases
- Summary: Minnesota
 - Petco, PetSmart, and Walmart removed moss balls from shelves
 - USFWS seized and destroyed
 - Etsy, eBay and Amazon cooperated to remove resale ads
 - Sea Grant/Duluth CISMA contacted stores in northeastern Minnesota
 - Minnesota DNR also worked with USFWS to contact all pet stores in the state

Updates and Discussion Topics

MAISRC Support Letter

- Drew: Have we ever had any LCCMR staff attend our meetings? Megan: At one point they were on a list of potential guest speakers.
- Roger suggested Becca Nash could possibly help. MISAC should be apolitical but it would help to hear from them about what they think our role should be. Megan said she had reached out to her in the past and would share contact information. Drew noted we would probably have to get her for an off-session meeting (perhaps July).
- Laura: LCCMR staff is different than membership.
- Review and Approve Letter: Poll indicated 17 participants in favor, 4 abstaining, **Approved**
- James Calkins: More broadly than the support letters from a legislative perspective, is it worth thinking about whether MISAC might be interested in hosting an annual or every-other-year invasive species day for legislators in the future?
 - Jennifer has put outreach tape around ash trees to highlight high-priority species during invasive species awareness weeks.
 - Not sure what state employees are and are not allowed to do
 - Could ask for insights from Nick Phelps, Cori Mattke
 - Doug: The DNR AIS Advisory Committee hosted a legislative event a few years ago at the capitol and they brought in some outside speakers but they only had one legislator or aide that attended. Work in western states has been done with assistant attorney generals who are doing on-the-ground work in those states.
 - MNLA has done these things for many years. They host meetings between legislators and their constituents so it takes some studying up. Got better participation virtually with some outstate folks.
 - Roger: Going to where there are local issues, targeting key legislators, and bringing their constituents was a good way to do this in his experience but it did take a ton of work.
 - Could we incorporate it into a field trip?
 - Doug noted LCCMR used to do that.

2021 Field Trip Planning

- Would probably need a subcommittee to help plan. What do people think given the current state of the pandemic?
- We were thinking summer or fall.
- Val: State employees are still not traveling or riding with anyone else in their vehicles.
- Angie Gupta: It is the same at the U. Travel is only approved on a *must* go basis but that has been a high bar.
- Doug did not think he could travel in-person this summer.
- The U has said that regular instruction will resume for the fall.
- Is there potential for a virtual option here? It might be a challenge to get everyone to International Falls in within a pandemic. Minnesota Master Naturalist has been doing great hybrid events with livestreaming. We would have to ask if recording would even be allowed at the port.
- Laura: We have not heard of anyone actually saying they can travel in person.
- Angie Gupta: Wonder if it is worth the energy for the planners. Could we talk about it again in July?
- Drew, Roger, Angie Gupta and others supported tabling this decision for the July meeting.

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| 8. Angelique Dahlberg | 19. Liz Anderson | 30. Marian Shaffer |
| 9. Val Cervenka | 20. Sascha Lodge | |
| 10. Essam Dabaan | 21. Raining White | |
| 11. Dane Huinker | 22. Shawn Murphy | |

Council Business

- Approval of Meeting Minutes from 1/14 – 1/15/2021 (vote)
 - Motion to approve from Doug, second from Val, no further discussion, **Approved**
- Treasurer's Report submitted by Wildlife Forever, fiscal agent for MISAC (vote)
 - Only expense this quarter was \$300 to NAISMA for webinars.
 - Doug messaged Clair about UMISC-related expenses.
 - Current balance is \$13,849.15.
 - Motion to approve report from Angie Gupta, second from Rob Venette, **Approved**
- 2021 Leadership - Jennifer Burington, Chelsey Blanke, Megan Weber
 - Megan and Laura (past chairs) are available to answer questions of chair and co-chair.
- Upcoming meeting dates: July 13-15 and October 13-14
 - **Jennifer will send out calendar save-the-dates.**

Updates and Discussion Topics

State Plan Update – Chelsey Blanke

- The plan is currently in the partner review phase.
 - It was shared out with a wide variety of partner organizations involved in invasive species work on March 31st and we have asked for reviews to be turned in by June 1st.
 - We are primarily asking for feedback to be submitted through a survey (that asks if they have any additional suggestions for actions to be included in the plan or broader concerns, and to add their organizations to the implementation tables as appropriate).
 - They can also comment on the plan directly.
 - The Federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task force that approves aquatic invasive species plans to make states eligible for funding for implementation of the aquatic portions of the plan is also doing a “pre-review” during this time. They will provide comments that we can address to make the plan more likely to be approved when we submit it prior to their fall meeting.
 - DNR leadership is reviewing the tribal consultation section and will share it with tribes when it is available.

MISAC Review

- Number of reviewers during MISAC review period: 8 (Angie Gupta, Roger Becker, Jake Walsh, Monika Chandler, Sascha Lodge, Val Cervenka, Rob Venette, Kate Wyman-Grothem)
- Discussion on the plan update so far:
 - **Add PMRCS for all taxa for universities and extension in the table in section 3b, pages 31-32.**
 - **Doug encouraged everyone to take a look at the table and implementation table.**
 - Angie Gupta: “Do no harm” – should we start from the position of doing no harm instead of the position of harm must be proven?
 - Should we prioritize native plants (in urban and community settings) because they cannot by definition become invasive?
 - It is reasonable to plant things until they are proven to be invasive. Angie thinks that sets us up for long-term problems. For woody species, it takes decades to prove species are becoming invasive. The green industry targets species that will survive and so that shortlists the species that are often planted in communities. So, currently a species must be proven to be invasive before it becomes regulated. For many communities, it means we are flat-footed when it comes to manage and we are constantly playing catch up. A different way to approach that is to prioritize natives.
 - Rob: It’s dicey. This is really difficult with responses to invasive species. For example, with the application of various pesticides, are you doing no harm by taking an aggressive stance? So it’s a difficult suggestion but the specific suggestion of prioritizing native plants is a good one and gets into the implementation details of the plan. **It’s something MISAC could think of implementing down the road.**
 - Angie Gupta: Herbicides and biocontrols have intensive regulatory approval processes. Wanted to put this comment in for the sake of further discussion.
 - Doug noted we should make a mention of this in the plan.

- Roger: Invasive species is a loaded term – might want to broaden some areas. Legal term invasive species vs. a plant that invades and causes problems.
 - Doug: **Also acknowledge that things are and will change over time.**
 - **Chelsey will share native plant-related actions that are currently in the plan with MISAC.**
- Graphic design elements will be added to the plan at a later date.
- Jeff Forester with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLRA) has expressed concerns about the draft plan and had not yet distributed the plan for review by MLRA members.
 - The plan was meant to be an umbrella under which any organization that wished to participate could implement. Intent was not to prescribe actions for any organization. Doug has invited DNR AIS Advisory Committee members to participate in MISAC meetings.
 - MISAC wants to be inclusive to important audiences.
 - We have provided the opportunity to review.
 - Will also distribute the plan to AIS Detectors.
- At a future meeting, **MISAC should talk about the details of how we would evaluate plan implementation.**

2022 MISAC Calendar – Sascha Lodge

- Have been working on editing text and have sent it to authors for final comments
- Call for calendar orders will be coming up. Hoping price will be about the same.

Website & DEI Committee Update – Ariana Richardson

- No updates. These committees have not yet met.

Goal Review, Goal Setting, and Membership – Jennifer Burington

- Membership: How do we want to start getting a listing of people and groups to invite to join MISAC?
 - Membership could likely get quite large. How can we manage this?
 - Megan: Have tried a few times to send mass invites and have not gotten many takers.
 - Want to have a representative from a program area if we are worried about a bunch of people coming in.
 - If there gets to be a point where there tends to be too many people, we can re-evaluate then.
 - Angie Gupta: Try to reach out to multiple people at MPCA so at least one of them attends the meeting. Allison Gamble had interest in continuing when she moved from DNR to MPCA.
 - Doug: We should try to get someone from MNCOLA involved and also the Association of Minnesota Counties.
 - Jennifer: Associations of townships and municipalities.
 - Megan: [SWCDs](#) and watershed districts ([Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts](#))
 - Jim: Association of Counties. Homeowners. Agricultural groups.
 - Ariana: Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota out of the Twin Cities (EJAM), Isaac Walton League
 - Doug: More non-profits. They have more ability to speak freely than state entities.
 - Ariana: If we do have a ton of groups that want to participate, could have a biannual meeting for nonprofits and LGUs to participate.

- **Send more suggestions to Jennifer or Chelsey.**

Updates from Members

Krishna Woerheide – Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa – Will be looking for spiny waterflea, spotted wing drosophila, and rusty crayfish on the reservation. Also interested in starting a vector surveillance program looking at mosquitos and a passive surveillance program looking for certain tick species

Roger Becker – Getting past the virus. Extension meetings and tours. Starting to be glimmers of hope of doing things this summer. Knotweed seeds are starting to pop up. Looking forward to getting into the field and looking for invasives again.

Megan Weber – University of Minnesota Extension – Just wrapped up the online course focused on management (it was a consumer/community education on IS management). Registration just opened for [AIS Detectors core course](#). Also added a “Professionals: track this year that includes the same workshop for volunteers but some more specialized ID training for professionals.

Angie Ambourn – Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) – Continuing exotic insect and disease surveys in community gardens, survey of community supported agriculture orchards, vineyards and berry farms. Survey looking for forest pests in city parks, campgrounds, natural areas that may have potential for invasives to come in and get established. Specialty crop block grant surveying for samurai wasp. This insect has already been found in several states across the country. Working with U of M on cold tolerance of elongate hemlock scale. Biocontrol effort collaboration with USDA APHIS and University of Missouri. Standard commodity crop survey – moving out of soybean and back into corn because they have a hiring freeze and do not have a lot of money or people. Dialing back some statewide surveys (no swede midge survey, soybean gall midge). If things change and they can expand through the season, they will do that. Annual reports of different detections are available and will be shared with MISAC. In the fall, will be going back into potatoes to work on cyst nematode survey. A few reports of improperly labeled seeds have come in again already this year.

Andrew Dickhart – Carver County Water Management Organization – Gearing up for another year of watercraft inspection program (have been doing it for 10 years). Working on a few rough fish projects. Common carp management on Benton Lake in Cologne – last year of grant funding – going to try using an electric guidance system in a creek that connects Benton to another lake where carp have been spawning to try to guide them into an enclosure for removal. Second year of a goldfish management project – 3-year feasibility study through BWSR, tracking fish movement and trying to find nurseries and essentially doing a pretty broad fisheries survey, age classes, experimental removal. Also have been working with Keri from Anoka County on *Phragmites* control. Treated a handful of areas in Carver County last year. Creating a long-term *Phragmites* management strategic plan.

Angie Gupta – U of M Extension Forestry – [Several invasive species projects launching using citizen scientists](#). Mysterious Mulberries using iNaturalist. Also Japanese tree alder, Siberian squill, etc. Jumping worms report management – working to apply ecopsychology to invasive species. Community of practice continues to work on a few common names – hopefully will have something to share soon - also working on a journal article about this to make it available to colleagues across the nation. Capacity has been significantly reduced and need to do some serious prioritizing.

Angelique Dahlberg – University of Minnesota – All research is on zebra mussel suppression. Starting to make some headway on a systematic review of the effects of copper on aquatic organisms. Initial database queries found over 7,000 journal articles. Also testing the abilities of some predictive models of copper

in non-target organisms. Will be using lakeside mobile laboratory on Pelican Lake in the Brainerd area. Doug noted EPA lab in Duluth research and methods on copper – primary issue is trying to hold the pH at a stable level.

Ariana Richardson – Meeker County – Preparing herbicide stewardship efforts in the county – goal is to reduce the amount of 2,4-D used in Meeker County lakes, working with DNR contact. Early detection and monitoring in a lake infested with zebra mussels last year. Piloting bait bag and freshwater outreach effort (reduce amount of bait dumping). Currently working out scouting local partners for a pet surrender event in the fall – hoping to work with two local schools. Doug offered to provide materials for use during the event. There is now a nonprofit in Wisconsin that's hosting surrender events as well.

Christina Basch – MDA Noxious and Invasive Weed Program – Emelie is working on finalizing grants for the next fiscal year. Monika is working more with biocontrol, hopefully getting out into the field for collections more this year. Lots of unknowns with the next fiscal budget.

Chelsey Blanke – Minnesota DNR – State plan. Also working with a contractor to assess the availability of invasive species at pet stores and seafood markets in Minnesota. Conducting outreach related to crayfish boils and the use of prohibited red swamp crayfish. Working with Great Lakes regional partners to contact online sellers of invasive species. Western Lake Superior AIS work group now has a framework for response communications in place.

Essam Dabaan – USDA APHIS PPQ – Office conducted a few surveys last year on wood-boring insects and bark beetles. Also did a survey on gypsy moth in west-central Minnesota – all specimens collected were negative. Staff have responded to a few national responses including to *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 (the plant pathogen bacterium that causes brown rot (or bacterial wilt) of potato, Southern wilt of geranium, and bacterial wilt of tomato) which started to show up in April 2020. Geranium cuttings going to 39 states were infected by the fungus - in Minnesota, infected geranium plants were collected from greenhouses and destroyed by sending them to a landfill. Office also participated in response to mystery seeds – unsolicited seeds that were received by people across the country in July 2020 – testing to see if they have any kinds of pests, plant pathogens – very few did and PPQ management and APHIS worked with ecommerce to prohibit the sale of those seeds coming from outside the US. Will be continuing to survey for wood-boring insects at high risk locations and trap for gypsy moth in northwestern Minnesota.

Doug Jensen – University of Minnesota Sea Grant Program – Launching Don't Pack A Pest – just completed 5 focus groups with international and study abroad students. Students have been very engaged but generally unaware of the issue. APHIS has chosen to fund the second phase of the project to reach out to private schools in the next year. Lake County funded a proposal to support the BWCAW Coalition being led by Jeff Forester and work on invasive species signage. Working with St. Louis County on a check-in/check-out project where people can pull up images on their phone of where to look, affirm that they have taken action and will continue to take action at the next launch. Working with the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species with support of the Great Lakes Commission, Doug and Adam Doll are coordinating this year's Great Lakes Landing Blitz.

Emily Dunlap – Three Rivers Park District – Getting started on spring invasive species control (narrowleaf bittergrass). Just got a report of squill yesterday. Planning on hosting a few small socially-distant volunteer gatherings.

Val Cervenka – DNR – Most of the forest health specialist staff are back full time at the DNR, but one is still redeployed at the state Department of Health until July. Fairly certain we'll be able to do our annual aerial insect and disease detection survey after a year off due to COVID-19 restrictions. In case anyone is interested, the 2021 North American Forest Insects Work Conference registration is open at [2021 North American Forest Insect Work Conference | College of Continuing & Professional Studies](https://www.umn.edu/extension/continuing-professional-studies/north-american-forest-insect-work-conference) (umn.edu)

Bob Dunning – Minnesota Association of County Agricultural Inspectors – HF. 2147 for a \$1 million per year to support the work of county ag inspectors. Currently an unfunded mandate. The bill was heard in front of the Agriculture and Finance Committee and recommended to go forward in the omnibus bill. Also hoping to have an in-person conference at the end of July but will have a virtual back up. A letter of support from MISAC would be helpful.

Motion from Angie Gupta to vote to MISAC providing a letter of support Bob and **the Executive Board will work on putting together a draft and send it out to MISAC for final approval**, second from Drew, **Approved**

James Calkins – Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association - Most recently the MNLA has been focusing on continuing to educate and engage their membership on the topic of jumping worms, to be on the lookout and report jumping worms, and work to keep jumping worms out of their production and garden center facilities. We are also putting together two presentations on jumping worms - one for their membership and one in partnership with the Minnesota State Horticultural Society.

Paul Erdmann – Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources – Working on seed mixes. Working on habitat-friendly solar program (which encourages wildlife-friendly vegetation on solar sites) with the Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce, and DNR on vegetation management plans for those sites. European highbush cranberry and European guelder rose are sometimes confused with natives (by SWCDs and others) and so will be doing some outreach around this issue.

Liz Anderson – Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District – Launched a new website this winter inspired by the MDA tactical plan website - has a lot of applications and StoryMaps so hope it will increase awareness of AIS efforts in Lake County. Hiring watercraft inspectors for the southern half of the county and contracting out the northern half with North St. Louis SWCD. Adding Lake Superior tributaries and trout streams into sampling following up on recent didymo presentation by Heidi Rantala at the Western Lake Superior AIS group meeting. The International Rainy - Lake of the Woods Watershed Group is nearing completion on its coarse AIS risk assessment tool for the basin and will begin analysis of species of highest concern. They are also planning a basin-wide social media outreach campaign and using materials developed through the “Stop Spiny” campaign. Bait disposal bin project. Also participating in bait bag distribution.

Sascha Lodge – DNR Forestry – Planning terrestrial invasive species (TIS) management projects on state forest lands for the year. Collaborating with Laurie from Duluth CISMA on grants from the Forest Service to do TIS work on private lands in the arrowhead region.

Raining White – Not much new. Starting a starry stonewort survey and expanding watercraft decon with surrounding counties using CD3 stations. Struggling to find potential employees so if you know anyone around Leech Lake, perhaps a Bemidji State student, they have postings for aquatic inspections, invasive terrestrial techs and more posted [here](#). On a wait list for purple loosestrife biocontrol and a weevil used for spotted knapweed. Ordering from a company in Montana and hope to have a population stable enough in the future to relocate and share.

Note from Doug Jensen: CD3 stations are not intended to be decon stations.

Marian Shaffer – National Park Service – St. Croix National Scenic Riverway – Will be collaborating with the St. Croix River Association this year to raise purple loosestrife biocontrol beetles for control throughout the riverway. Also working on control of yellow iris if the funds are approved. Collaborating with other organizations on garlic mustard control in locations where visitor use is high. Will be doing rusty crayfish sampling in a river in Pine County.

Shawn Murphy – Metropolitan Mosquito Control District – Been collecting blackfly and mosquito samples. In northern Washington and Anoka counties, have seen Jamestown Canyon virus and are watching that.

Tyler Kaspar – 1854 Treaty Authority – Invasive species staff have been working on emerald ash borer road surveys in and around Duluth up to Two Harbors. There has been some control work for invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle. Crew has been partnering with the Lake Superior Zoo to remove invasive species there – hand pulling buckthorn and a few other species (honeysuckle, amur maple, etc.). Hiring seasonal staff. Surveillance for rusty crayfish, spiny water flea, zebra mussels coordinating with the DNR and Cook, St. Louis and Lake counties to make sure there is no duplication of effort. Terrestrial work will be surveillance. Also working with Doug on check-in/check-out program. Working with Fond du Lac and others on refining eDNA markers for rusty crayfish in ceded territory lakes.

Laura Van Riper – Minnesota DNR – Have been getting a lot of jumping worm reports – jumping worms are “annual” worms so they hatch in the spring and are small right now (large mature worms are not likely to be jumping worms right now). They cannot be identified until they develop the clitellum. U of M has been distributing good information about preventing jumping worms through plant sales, etc.

Rob Venette – Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Pests and Plants Center – Legislature will be determining the fate of the center in a matter of days. MISAC, MNLA, TNC, Fond du Lac, Minnesota Soybean Growers, Minnesota Corn Growers and others have all come out and expressed support. HF 1076 and SF 1059 both include funding for MITPPC through ENRTF. Conference committee discussions could be interesting. Have had good press coverage on DNA test for palmar amaranth, novel organic methods of control for spotted wing drosophila. Paper on moving invasive seeds with other seed mixes – working with Diane and Jen Larson with USGS and paper has come out with recommendations – [Balancing the need for seed against invasive species risks in prairie habitat restorations](#).

Jennifer Burington – MDA – [Gypsy moth BTK treatments](#). Near Duluth, have been trying to do outreach but haven't had a lot of engagement so far and working on getting more. Ground BTK treatments near Loring Park in Minneapolis.

Closing

Motion to adjourn from Rob Venette, second from Angie Gupta, **Adjourned**.