



January 14, 2021 • 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

January 15, 2021 • 9:00 am to 12:00 am

Remote Only

## January 14, 2021, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

---

### Present via Zoom

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

- |                       |                        |                            |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Jennifer Burington | 14. James Calkins      | 27. Shawn Murphy           |
| 2. Chelsey Blanke     | 15. Jeffrey Kalin      | 28. Tyler Kaspar           |
| 3. Megan Weber        | 16. Laura Van Riper    | 29. Val Cervenka           |
| 4. Missy Anderson     | 17. Kate Wyman-Grothem | 30. Katie Sickmann         |
| 5. Ariana Richardson  | 18. Marian Shaffer     | 31. Roger Becker           |
| 6. Bob Dunning        | 19. Michael Rhoades    | 32. Mackenzie Hogfeldt     |
| 7. Chris Jennelle     | 20. Monika Chandler    | 33. Michelle Grabowski     |
| 8. Christin Basch     | 21. Morgan Swigen      | <b>34. Mark Abrahamson</b> |
| 9. Christopher Smith  | 22. Paul Erdmann       | <b>35. Jeffrey Flory</b>   |
| 10. Dave Hanson       | 23. Raining White      | 36. Kelsey Taylor          |
| 11. Doug Jensen       | 24. Rob Venette        |                            |
| 12. Drew Dickhart     | 25. Sascha Lodge       |                            |
| 13. Emily Dunlap      | 26. Tyler Kaspar       |                            |

### Council Business

1. Review and Approve Agenda
  - a. Motion to approve by Doug Jensen, second by Jim Calkins, poll indicated 24 participants approved and two participants abstained, **Approved**

### Engagement Discussions

Chronic Wasting Disease – Dr. Christopher Jennelle

- Research specialist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wildlife health program, which largely focuses on game diseases in Minnesota.
- See slides for additional information
- CWD is in a family of prion diseases.
  - Prions are species-specific proteins (not living organisms) that cause normally functioning proteins to become malformed.
- IHC (microbiological staining) in the lymph node is the gold standard for determining if an animal is affected with CWD.

- Staining shows up more the longer a deer has been affected. If the staining shows up, a deer cannot be considered negative for CWD.
- Transmission modes: see slides
  - Coyotes and crows have been shown to be able to move the prions around (though they do not experience symptoms. It passes through their digestive systems and is distributed in the environment that way.)
  - It is very difficult to detect prions in the environment (RT QuIC is a promising tool for improving this).
- Transmission dynamics: can think of this in two different ways
  - Frequency dependent transmission, in terms of contact rates between animals (this is showing up to be most applicable to CWD)
    - For example, sexually-transmitted diseases are frequency-dependent (they don't scale with density).
  - Density dependence transmission = host density increases as contact rate increases
- CWD has been detected in the midwestern and western-central U.S. and west-central Canada (see map), as well as South Korea, Finland and Norway
- Species barrier
  - Mad cow disease crossed into humans in the 1980s. Research found that certain people were more likely to get it than others were.
  - There are studies currently going on that are following people who have eaten CWD-infected meat to see if they develop prion diseases later in life.
  - One study showed that macaques contracted and showed the symptoms of CWD after being fed CWD-infected meat repeatedly (Chris was not sure if the meat was cooked in this study but studies have shown that cooking does not destroy prions).
- General approach to CWD surveillance
  - Sampling designs vary and are sometimes limited by political boundaries
  - Weighted surveillance approaches
    - Since male deer are more heavily affected, these approaches weigh data from them more highly
- Prevention recommendations: see slides
  - The Board of Animal Health regulates captive cervid facilities
- CWD management
  - At first, managers took a laissez-faire approach
  - Density-dependent approaches
  - Culling
  - Vaccination
  - Genetic modification to make deer less susceptible to CWD (Chris doesn't see this as being very effective in the long term)
  - Reducing buck density can help reduce transmission
- CWD in Minnesota: see slides
- How do we test for CWD?
  - Uses a stepped-testing approach (i.e., if the first testing method produces a suspected-positive result, a second testing method is used to determine if the sample is positive or negative)
- MN DNR CWD management zones: see slides

- Southeast MN deer movement study: see slides
  - 225 deer were collared to track their movements
  - High rates of dispersal were found in male and female deer
- Question and answer
  - Megan Weber: Is it optional for a hunter to turn over their meat if it tests positive? If so, how often do hunters choose to retain their meat? Are there cleaning procedures they need to take or are recommended to take for hunting gear, such as knives to prevent spreading? They are not required to turn in the meat. A: The main restrictions are on movement in the management zones. Cooking and cleaning tools will not help prevent spread.
  - Christopher Smith: What about carcass movement by non-hunters (e.g., county / state hwy crews that pick up roadkill)? A: The DNR has been working with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) on this and there are agreements in place to try to cut that possibility off.
  - Megan Weber: What steps do deer farms take if they find CWD in their herd? Are those required or optional? A: Deer are considered livestock if they are kept in captive herds. The DNR does not have jurisdiction over this (these are regulated by the Board of Animal Health). There are rules in place but it is difficult to know if they are being followed and there are violations every year. There are also a lot of testing procedures in place to try to catch infected deer before they leave a facility.
  - Monika Chandler: Could deer feces be tested for the presence of prions? A: Yes. University of Minnesota researchers are using RT QuIC to detect prions in the environment (this method has not yet been broadly-approved by the FDA but shows a lot of promise). This isn't yet used in Minnesota as a broad-scale surveillance strategy.
  - Doug Jensen: How is deer carcass movement enforced? A: It is difficult but there are intensive efforts to try to detect this when it occurs and there are hefty fines to help prevent this. Chris will check on the number of violations.
  - Megan Weber: With the new case by Rochester being so close to the "edges" of the management zone, does that have the potential to trigger widening that zone? A: Yes.
  - Laura Van Riper: Are there CWD resistant deer found in the west where it has been prevalent longer? Are there parallels with mad cow disease or did that never spread to wild animals? A: The genetics of particular animals does play a role in terms of susceptibility and survivability. Some animals can live longer than others when infected. This is an active research question.
  - Chelsey Blanke: How can invasive species professionals contribute to CWD prevention and management efforts (esp. in terms of outreach)? A: Learn more about CWD and share the information with the constituents you work with. Chris is always looking for improved methods for detection and analysis, invasive species professionals are involved in detection and prevention and might have ideas of ways to detect CWD that they could share.
  - James Calkins: From an invasive species perspective, given the uncertainty about the origin of CWD in Minnesota and elsewhere and that the agent that causes CWD is not a species, is/should CWD be considered an invasive species and be included on invasive species lists? A: Chris asked the group for their thoughts. Laura shared that working on the pathogens for the MISAC species list was very challenging because it is often difficult to determine species origin. The fact that they are proteins and not species adds another layer of uncertainty. Chris said some argue that CWD has been around for a long time and we are just now

detecting it - others have strongly disagreed. Chris suspects it was probably introduced in some form. Rob talked about considering at the Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Pests and Plants Center (MITPPC) and that it often comes down to practicality – addressing something that has the potential to affect human health really requires a vast amount of resources. Offered to talk to Chris about dispersal modeling. Doug noted that VHS is largely considered and AIS.

- There were many additional questions in the Zoom chat. Megan will share them with Chris and he will send written responses to the group.

### Goldfish Invasion Biology Controversy Discussion – Drew Dickhart

- Drew is the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator for Carver County
- Following up on the UMISC presentation about invasive species denial, Drew received a phone call along those lines related to Carver County’s goldfish removal project on Big Woods Lake. Also received some negative feedback on social media. Summary of feedback and voicemail:
  - Voicemail summary: Concerned for the animal’s welfare. We should be researching potential benefits of these species instead of assuming they are negative, esp. when people likely introduced them in the first place. WE need to have a different approach in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
  - Oh this is so sad, oh those poor fish...
  - Humans are the most invasive species on the planet. Why are we worried about these little fish?
  - Just because they’re not from here, doesn’t make them bad.
  - Others came at it from more of a traditional invasive species management perspective (e.g., explaining the potential impacts, etc.)
- Carver County was interested in tagging goldfish to get a sense of movement to help make removal methods more efficient.
- Drew said they did not expect this type of response from the public.
- The most common question they get is “What do you do with the fish?” The goldfish were composted in this case.
- Ariana and Doug emphasized the importance of describing potential impacts of invasive species in communications like this.
- Raining asked if Carver County considers these comments in their management and if Drew suspects that the criticism is only occurring because these were goldfish. Drew said that almost all local feedback was positive and that yes, he suspects there is an emotional connection in play.
- Drew suggested perhaps we could have some guidance for messaging that members could refer to when they get these types of comments.
- Megan suggested that it would be helpful to have a position paper on the MISAC website that organizations could point to or use if they need some responses.
- Doug noted that one issue we might run into is that there is a lack of scientific information on goldfish impacts. Goldfish were listed as high threats in the MISAC species rankings and in the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center’s (MAISRC) priority species list. They are regulated invasive species in Minnesota. Drew mentioned that they hope to receive BWSR funding and do a study.
- Michelle also suggested that it could be helpful to have some guidance or messaging for these types of situations (discussed an example related to food-sovereignty).

- Jennifer and Laura suggested forming a subgroup to discuss this further. **Drew, Chelsey, Megan, Ariana, and Doug volunteered to be a part of this.**
  - Jennifer suggested that the subgroup could send out a survey to MISAC for further input.
  - **Drew offered to help kick the subgroup off.**
- Rob Venette suggested considering this as part of the update to Minnesota's/MISAC's invasive species management plan as well.
- Chelsey (in chat). [Here's an article](#) that popped into my email recently that gets at some of the things we're talking about.
- Ariana (in chat): Just a side note on compassionate conservation: there is a cultural context and depending on where you are at some areas that do NOT kill animals and address populations with sterilization or other non lethal methods - focusing on the distinction of non native vs invasive and the preservation of other wildlife via control it think would improve how the message is received.

#### Emerald ash borer (EAB) Regulations – Mark Abrahamson

- USDA proposed deregulating EAB and that went forward as of this week.
- EAB regulation has been a partnership between state (within state) and federal (state-to-state) government
- At the federal level, it is understandable but we are in a much different status in Minnesota.
- The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) program will remain largely the same, with increased effort toward preventing potentially infested material from coming into the state.
- While the MDA does have authority to fill in with state-to-state movement, that authority does not exist for international movement of materials.
  - The MDA can petition USDA to recognize the MDA's EAB program and continue to have Customs and Border Protection agents inspect for materials at the U.S.-Canada border. Mark suspects that this petition will be granted.
- Rob asked about the USDA-APHIS structured survey they would conduct in counties that are not known to have EAB and whether or not the MDA will be taking on any of that work. The MDA will not be taking that on but will maintain reporting systems and a network of individuals capable of detecting EAB.
- Doug: Is there any evidence that Minnesota's program has more effectively slowed EAB spread, compared to other states? Mark: Yes. Based on number of counties, spread appears to be 30-40% lower than in other states. It is difficult to know for certain if the quarantines are significant factors in controlling the spread.
- Studies have shown that there tends to be a 4-5 year lag between invasion and detection. Maps showing areas that are at-risk take this into consideration.
- MISAC submitted a letter early-on in original EAB regulations and can do this again when the upcoming comment period opens.

#### Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center (MITPPC) Letter of Support

- MITPPC is a unique research group that does cutting-edge research on terrestrial invasive species.
- Historically, MITPPC has received the majority of its funding through the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). Distribution of ENRTF funding was held up at the legislature last year, which has prevented MITPPC from being able to take on any new projects which has been at the detriment of the community.
- A new bill was introduced last week that would fund the projects recommended last year. Just learned this week that the senate might actually take up the bill.

- Monika supported sending a letter but expressed concerns about the language in the draft letter related to prioritization of projects and suggested that it should be edited. Kelsey suggested still including the prioritization process in some form since there is so much effort that goes into this.
- Rob would like to have the letter sent out within two weeks. **Jennifer offered to do some word-smithing and asked MISAC members to send suggested edits to her. There will be an online vote on the final version.**
- Laura and Monika suggested that the DNR and other state agency staff may have to abstain on this vote due to legal reasons. **Mark thought that if the letter was coming from MISAC, it would be ok but said he would check on this.**

Future engagement discussion topic and speaker suggestions

- **Jennifer wanted to get this on everyone’s radar; starting to think of potential speakers and will send something out to the group.**

## Updates and Discussion Topics

- The group decided to modify the agenda and move the MISAC calendar discussion to tomorrow morning.

## January 15, 2021, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

---

### Present via Zoom

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

- |                       |                        |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Jennifer Burington | 11. James Calkins      | 21. Paul Erdmann       |
| 2. Chelsey Blanke     | 12. Jeffrey Flory      | 22. Raining White      |
| 3. Megan Weber        | 13. Jeffrey Kalin      | 23. Rob Venette        |
| 4. Ariana Richardson  | 14. Kate Wyman-Grothem | 24. Sascha Lodge       |
| 5. Bob Dunning        | 15. Kelsey Taylor      | 25. Val Cervenka       |
| 6. Cori Mattke        | 16. Krishna Woerheide  | 26. Shawn Murphy       |
| 7. Dane Huinker       | 17. Laura Van Riper    | 27. Mackenzie Hogfeldt |
| 8. Drew Dickhart      | 18. Marian Shaffer     | 28. Dave Hanson        |
| 9. Emily Dunlap       | 19. Michael Rhoades    | 29. Doug Jensen        |
| 10. Heidi Wolf        | 20. Monika Chandler    |                        |

### Council Business

- Approval of Meeting Minutes from 10/15/2020
  - Motion to approve Megan, second Laura, in poll, 19 approved and 2 abstained, **Approved**
- Treasurer’s Report submitted by Wildlife Forever, fiscal agent for MISAC
  - The only change since our last meeting has been the expense for UMISC awards
  - No income or revenue during the last quarter
  - Ending balance is \$18,649.15
  - Motion to approve Rob, second Megan, 20 approved and 1 abstained in poll, **Approved**
- 2021 Leadership
  - Jennifer Burington is chair
  - Chelsey Blanke is co-chair

- Missy Anderson would be past chair but she has taken an new position and cannot be as involved in MISAC
  - Laura suggested that Jennifer and Chelsey could reach out to previous past chairs as needed, rather than filling this role. Laura offered to help with food if we have any in-person meetings this year.
  - Megan offered to help as needed as well.
- Upcoming meeting dates: April 14-15, July 13 & 15, October 13-14

## Updates and Discussion Topics

### 2022 MISAC Calendar – Sascha Lodge, Laura Van Riper

- Sascha is the DNR's terrestrial invasive plant species coordinator in Forestry
- MISAC produces an invasive species calendar every year that includes terrestrial and aquatic species, success stories, pathways, and more
- Needs to be ready to go in the summer to be printed for 2022
- Sascha shared a list of potential topics that members have suggested; participants brainstormed additional ideas (see list for all species suggested).
  - Lily leaf beetle and European chafer were detected by MDA this year. Lily leaf beetle is bright red and showy. They have impacts on lilies (and therefore, homeowners).
  - Elongate hemlock scale. This was included previously as part of the holiday greenery pathway but not focused on the species.
  - Corn tar spot. Rob mentioned that Dean Malvick would have a lot of details and information.
  - Hybrid barberry. We're struggling with identification at this time so in a couple years, we might be better able to write about this.
  - Wildlife/waterfowl pooping. This can be tricky because it can be an argument on the aquatic side but makes sense for palmer amaranth.
  - Seed in manure. Picture could be a cow.
  - Jeffrey noted seeing that native *Phragmites* had been used as a duck blind along the Moosehorn River but it could have easily been an invasive. Invasive *Phragmites* was highlighted in 2021, however.
- There will be a process to narrow down the list and then work with content experts to draft up descriptions and select photos.
- Wild parsnip and knotweed phenology. It would be great to get the word out about Pesky Plant Trackers and they are always looking for volunteers. The project should still be running in 2022 and the date collection system should remain beyond that.

### 2021 Field Trip

- Poll yielded a virtual half-day field trip was most popular, followed by in-person half-day
- Kelly Randall from the DNR Scientific and Natural Area Program has virtual field trips for some of their SNAs (where you can click on particular location and see pictures)
- Megan talked about a similar field trip she attended
- Could have something pre-recorded, followed by a live discussion and Q&A
- Megan mentioned that we need to make sure if live-streaming outdoors that the person doing it has appropriate equipment to handle audio - wind can become problematic quickly without a good microphone (not just a built-in mic).
- Would be helpful to think of if we have particular topics we want to highlight.

- We could also skip it this year.
- Laura suggested that we would need a chair for a field committee by our next MISAC meeting or it probably won't happen.
- Chelsey also suggested possibly paying for a field filming crew if the main issue is equipment and expertise with that. Also maybe if we were to have the field trip later in the year, when hopefully the pandemic is under control, it might be neat to have a mystery snail removal project (though Kelsey and others would be better qualified to say if that's a good or bad idea).
- Drew said it might be cool to have a compilation of what many of us are doing.
- Decided to wait until April

#### State Plan Update – Chelsey Blanke

- As a reminder, there is a MISAC subcommittee working to update Minnesota's Invasive Species Management Plan which was developed by MISAC and approved by the Federal Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force in 2009. The team is building upon the existing plan. Approval from the task force makes state agencies eligible for federal funding for aquatic invasive species work.
- The subcommittee began working on the plan update in earnest in September 2020, there were a few meetings before that to set the scope of the project.
- The subcommittee is now reviewing a first draft updated plan.
- The subcommittee initially aimed to submit the plan for review and approval by the Task Force in their spring meeting. That has been pushed back to fall 2021 as a result of a recommendation from Don Maclean (with USFWS and lead for the Task Force on state plans) to submit the plan for a 45-day "pre-review" period.
- Timeline: Planning for review by MISAC in March, followed by revision and a 45 business-day partner and ANS Task Force Review mid-March through May, followed by revision and final MISAC review and agency approvals, followed by submission to the Task Force towards end of August.
- Note the MISAC review periods – we don't have much room for leeway if we want to make the fall Task Force meeting. We don't know when the fall Task Force meeting will be yet but we are pushing it if the meeting is in September (the Task Force requires 30 days to review when plans are submitted for approval). **All members interested in reviewing and commenting on the plan should mark their calendars for MISAC review periods (February 22-March 5 and June 28-July 9).** If people are really having a hard time fitting in review along this timeline, let Chelsey know and we can make decisions about the need to revise and potentially push back the submission to the Task Force at a later time.

#### Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) 2020 Recap – Doug Jensen

- We drew an amazing attendance number of 1,003
- 6 symposia and workshops, 218 presentations, 24 posters, 29 exhibitors
- A slightly smaller number of sponsors (21) but existing sponsors increased their sponsorship
- Attendance from multiple countries (3) and states (30)
- 2/3 of the audience was female which is a stark change from when UMISC began
- 98% white, 4% indigenous, , state 34% and fed managers 12% (46% total), academic 19.5%, non-profits 24%, county/municipal 20.5%, Ext 15%, CISMA/CWMA/PriSM 15%
- Still have work to do in terms of recruiting students (5% of attendees)
- Recordings of presentations will only be available to attendees in January
- Evaluation results are glowing and Clair and Doug are working on an evaluation report and executive summary



- 2022 conference will be hosted in Green Bay, October 24-27
- Meeting participants expressed a great deal of enthusiasm about their experiences with the conference
- Roger, Megan, and Monika suggested commending Clair’s work as conference administrator
  - **Jennifer offered to draft something up and share with the group prior to sending it to Clair**
- The conference committee is considering a hybrid model for 2022, which will be another major pivot.
- MISAC will start setting up an MOU for admin in April.

#### Website Committee Update – Ariana Richardson

- Committee members: Ariana Richardson, Doug Jensen and Kelsey Taylor; **Ariana will confirm members**

#### DEI Committee Update – Ariana Richardson

- Committee members: Ariana Richardson, Raining White, Megan Weber, Katie Sickmann, Kate Hagsten, Katherine Wyman-Grothem, Jennifer Burington, Val Cervenka, Andrew Dickhart
- Framework and mission statement are mostly set up but want to give everyone some time to review

#### Goal Review, goal setting, and membership – Jennifer Burington

- Goals: Reviewed list of goals included in the meeting agenda and gave participants a chance to make additions
  - Rob mentioned that there was comment mentioned to him recently about a number of committees related to invasive species in Minnesota and that not all of those committees are fully coordinated. The question was raised of whether there should be some form of communication between the groups.
    - Monika agreed that this would be good to do. Offered to share meeting information for NWAC meetings. MISAC will also share meeting information with NWAC, via Monika.
    - Eli Sagor is the MITPPC advisory committee chair and would likely be happy to provide updates as needed.
    - Cori offered to provide updates from MAISRC’s advisory committee.
    - Doug offered that the DNR’s AIS Advisory Committee chair could provide updates and that we could have rotating updates from each of these committees.
      - Jennifer supported the idea of rotating updates.
    - *There may also be regional and national groups that we can and should request updates from (e.g., the Great Lakes Panel on ANS, the federal ANS Task Force, Mississippi River Basin Panel, and potentially the Western Regional Panel, another interstate invasive species organization)*
  - Shawn Murphy mentioned that Kelly Pennington was working on genetic control and wondered if there was any follow-up on that. Heidi and others mentioned there was a follow-up presentation at a MISAC meeting and the DNR would be happy to send summary materials out again. The DNR’s next steps will be to get input from tribal entities on genetic biocontrol but this has been put on hold due to the pandemic. Laura also emphasized the importance of continuing to have researchers working on this topic communicating to MISAC.

- Membership: Jennifer shared a slide listing MISAC member organizations. Are there additional organizations we should invite?
  - 20% of UMISC attendees were city and county staff, Doug suggested inviting a *county entity from the northern* and southern parts of the state (recognizing that Drew is already on board with the southern region)
    - Megan mentioned that Itasca County would be a good one in the north
  - Drew suggested *Minneapolis Park District* (Megan mentioned we may have someone in our Google Group already)
  - **Megan suggested sending the list of organizations out via email to full MISAC membership and make sure they see their organizations on the list**
  - Shawn suggested the *Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts*
  - Monika suggested the *Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts*
  - **Jennifer said she would create something to share with these groups**

## Updates from Members

Megan Weber – University of Minnesota Extension – Will be again hosting AIS 101 course with a focus on consumer education (so it's a non-professionals course). It talks about biocontrol and pesticides. Registration should open any day now and the course opens on March 1<sup>st</sup> and runs for about a month. More information on [this webpage](#).

Sascha Lodge – Minnesota DNR Forestry – About 20 invasive plant management plant projects are happening in state forests this fiscal year. A handful of staff have been redeployed to the Department of Health (MDH) but there is still good work happening.

Bob Dunning – County Agriculture Inspector Association – Drafted a bill to try to secure funding for the county ag inspector position since it is an unfunded mandate. They are discussing it at the AMC Board meeting today. A lot of counties are only allowed to dedicate 5-25% of their time to county ag inspector duties.

Laura Van Riper – Minnesota DNR Terrestrial Invasive Species - In 2021 Noxious Weed Advisory Committee Listing Subcommittee will be writing risk assessment for these species: callery pear, castor bean, garden valerian, hardy kiwi, honeyberry, Japanese tree lilac, Johnsongrass, kudzu, and Amur cork tree. If you see any of these plants, please get reports into EDDMapS.

Drew Dickhart – AIS Coordinator for Carver County – Last year was challenging for all programming. Watercraft inspections were successful with help from the DNR, started on-time in May. Still seeing a low number of violations. Moving forward in seeking funds for rough fish management projects (carp and goldfish control projects). Drew is also part of a metro-area carp management group that will be meeting January 27<sup>th</sup> – let Drew know if you're interested in joining.

Jim Calkins – Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association – Northern Green was held virtually this week. The annual invasive species/noxious weed update was presented.

Paul Erdmann – Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources – Kicking off work on the state seed mixes used for numerous things throughout the state.

Cori Mattke – MAISRC Associate Director – Launched 12 new research projects at the beginning of the year. Summaries are available on the MAISRC website. The 2021 RFP has also been posted, can be viewed on [this webpage](#). MAISRC is actively engaging with the legislature to support continued funding for the center.

Jeffrey Flory – 1854 Treaty Authority – Jeffrey can speak to 1854 Treaty Authority’s terrestrial invasive species work. Due to the pandemic, was not able to conduct as much public outreach during 2020. They plan to create virtual outreach materials in 2021, such as creating StoryMaps and videos that will be posted on Facebook and their website. Jeffrey is detecting these non-native species spreading in NE MN: European highbush cranberry (*Viburnum opulus* var. *opulus*) which spreads by similar vectors as invasive honeysuckle and threatens to hybridize with our native highbush cranberry, hybrid whitecrack willow (*Salix x rubens*), and queen-of-the-meadow (*Filipendula ulmaria*) which can spread along roadsides and invade wetland habitats (similar vectors as non-native *Phragmites*).

Rob Venette – MITPPC Director – Also trying to secure funding for the center at the legislature. MITPPC has launched new research projects. Dr. Dean Malvick will be working on corn tar spot a new disease of corn in Minnesota. Dr. Pablo Olivera will be leading a new team to study hybrid barberry, developing diagnostic tools and evaluating the role of the plant in stripe rust on wheat. Drs. Bob Koch and Aaron Lorenz will continue research on soybean aphid, detecting the insect with drones and breeding new soybean lines with resistance. MITPPC will also be making their invasive species assessments available for comment.

Val Cervenka – Minnesota DNR forest health program coordinator – Focusing more and more on oak wilt. Partnered with Angie Gupta’s citizen science project last year. All other forest health program staff have been redeployed to the MDH, potentially until July 1.

Emily Dunlap – Three Rivers Park District Invasive Species Coordinator – Has had a lot of interest from new volunteers who are helping with early detection and rapid response. Also working oriental bittersweet, with funds from a CPL grant.

Roger Becker – University of Minnesota Extension – Anecdotally, seeing ash trees being removed due to EAB in the Twin Cities.

Doug Jensen – AIS Program Coordinator for the Minnesota Sea Grant Program –

The ANS Task Force discussed early detection and rapid response, the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA), RFP for evaluating the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers and Play Clean Go campaigns. Also developing a national invasive species community of practice group.

The Great Lakes Panel also discussed VIDA and the Organisms in Trade (OIT) ad hoc committee is developing an OIT symposium and priority list. The information and education committee is creating recommendations, including holding a summit on boater movement and, risk assessment tools, and surveillance to help improve outreach.

The Great Lakes Landing Blitz had an extensive reach in 2020 (though not all states were able to participate in in-person inspections), more focus using social media. Over 69k reached in NE MN.

Poster presentations at UMISC: 1) Increasing reporting of sightings of invasive species in northeastern Minnesota (many unreported populations documented as part of this effort) and 2) AIS sign inventory to determine where and how many accesses had AIS signs.

Don’t Pack a Pest: Effort to educate international and study abroad students not to transport live

organisms. Will be conducting online focus groups to determine what they pack and why. A large number of violations have been reported by academic travelers in the past.

Kate Wyman-Grothem – USFWS Fisheries Program in Bloomington – Focuses on prevention and risk assessment. The [USFWS Ecological Risk Screening Summaries website](#) has been updated to make it easier to navigate. Also did horizon scans for invasive fish, micro-crustaceans, and plants that could be introduced to the U.S which should be made publically available soon.

Michael Rhoades – Acting Natural Resources Program Manager for the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway – Previous program coordinator, Byron Karnes, retired in September and will be interviewing for his position soon. Planning a lot of invasive plant work for the upcoming season, including a large project in Chisago County.

Marian Shaffer – Aquatic Program Lead for the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway – Did a lot of work controlling yellow iris and purple loosestrife within the park. Seeking funding for a large-scale intensive control effort.

Ariana Richardson – AIS Program Coordinator for Meeker County – Awarded over \$97,000 for treatment grants and decontamination. Also developing rapid response kits for the local Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA). Over 11,000 inspections done in 2020 – saw a 7% increase in violations which may be a product of increasing inspection effort.

Chelsey Blanke – Minnesota DNR Invasive Species Program – Our program currently has an RFP open for surveying retail stores for prohibited and regulated invasive species. To view the details of the seller surveillance RFP, visit [this website](#), navigate to “Bidding Opportunities” and search for Event ID 2000011341.

Jennifer Burington – MDA – Working on fieldwork reports, which will be provided to MISAC. There is also an industrial hemp forum coming up. USDA is still looking into the mystery seeds received by at least 800 individuals in Minnesota in 2020, which was likely a brushing scheme.

## Closing

The group agreed that breaking the meeting up into two days worked well for virtual meetings.

Motion to adjourn from Drew, second from Doug, 15 participants voted to adjourn, **Adjourned.**