

**Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**January 27, 2010 Meeting**  
**Capitol Extension Room E1.018**

The meeting was convened by Chairman Dr. Charles Hart, Texas AgriLife Extension, January 27, 2010 at 9:05 am., Committee members attending were Dr. Earl Chilton, Vice Chair, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Dr. Ron Billings, Texas Forest Service, Katherine Calnan, Texas Water Development Board, Mel Davis, Texas State Soil Water and Conservation Board and Dr. Shashank Nilakhe, Texas Department of Agriculture.

Guests: Ksenia Zemlyanova (Staff - Texas Sunset Commission), Allison Scott (Chief of Staff - Rep. Swinford), Lauren Wied (Legislative Staff - Sen. Hegar); Representative David Swinford; Robert Stluka (Consultant - City of Port Aransas).

November 9, 2009 Meeting minutes were approved as amended.

Dr. Chilton reported on his participation as a member to the Invasive Species Council Advisory Committee (ISAC) at the December meeting regarding recommendations to National Invasive Species Committee (handout). He presented details of TPWD's new responsibility to regulate aquatic invasive species and the published request for comments in the development of a list of approved aquatic plants in Texas.

Representative David Swinford, author of the originating TISCC statute, provided details of the intention of the Legislature for this body of agencies to focus on access to federal funding, coordinating those efforts through the Committee for the benefit of the state. Additionally, Rep. Swinford, stated a confidence in the ability of the agencies identified in statute to work together until the next legislative without the acceptance of additional agency members.

The Chair announced request made at November 9, 2009 meeting by Dr. Bill Harris, Texas Water Resources Institute, for TISCC to develop project priorities for funds being awarded to TWRI was withdrawn. Funding was designated by Congress for the management of Giant Salvinia on Caddo Lake exclusively.

Dr. Hart requested committee members recommend participants for subcommittees to be established. Those listed include salt cedar (Dr. Hart), Japanese Climbing Fern (Dr. Billings), *Arundo*, (Dr. Chilton and Mr. Davis), Giant Salvinia, Chinese Tallow, and Soapberry Borer.

The Chair requested Dr. Nilakhe to draft language to address advisory committee responsibilities for next meeting.

Denise Gentsch, TISCC coordinator, reported on the National Invasive Species Weed Awareness conference attended with Johnny Oswald (TSSWCB invasive species coordinator). Ms. Gentsch made an introductory presentation for TISCC at the conference about its formation and goals.

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Ms. Gentsch and Mr. Oswald met with Texas Congressional Delegation members and were requested to submit a letter from TISCC regarding invasive species projects and issues in treatment for the education of the delegation members.

Dr. Hart requested TISCC coordinator to draft a letter for the committee for comments and additional information.

Bylaws were reviewed and approved as amended.

The committee voted to maintain its membership on the Texas Invasive Plant Pest Council to be represented by the TISCC vice chair.

Robert Stluka representing the City of Port Aransas, made a request of the committee for a letter of support to the city's project funding package to treat Brazilian Peppertree. The committee voted to provide a letter for the city's Congressional request.