

**MISSISSIPPI AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES TASK FORCE**  
**Friday, September 22, 2006**  
**Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, Jackson, Mississippi**  
**10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. CST**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Participants:** Henry Folmar and Mike Beiser (MDEQ); Dale Diaz (MDMR); Dennis Riecke (MDWFP); Vernon Hartley (MS Farm Bureau); Craig Tucker and Jimmy Avery (Mississippi State University National Warm Water Aquaculture Center); Josh Clemons (MS-AL Sea Grant Legal Program); Dave Thompson (MDOT); John Madsen (MS State University); Alysia Kravitz Loshbaugh (Center for Bioenvironmental Research).

**I. OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION**

The meeting commenced at approximately 10:00 a.m.

H. Folmar welcomed the task force and thanked them for their attendance. He announced that the end of the management plan process is drawing near, and perhaps one more meeting is warranted once the plan is finished.

**II. "WALK-THROUGH" OF THE MISSISSIPPI MANAGEMENT PLAN**

A. Loshbaugh scrolled through the master MAIS Management Plan document to show the status of the plan and to point out various aspects of the management plan that still require input from the Task Force. Many of the comments received since the June meeting had been incorporated. During the course of the "walk-through," the Task Force provided several comments on the plan, including, but not limited to, the following:

- It was decided by the task force to revise the definition of "aquatic species" to include only those traditionally aquatic plants and animals, and also to allow plants included on the USFWS National List of Plants that Occur in Wetlands. As such, the "Kudzu" and "Tropical Soda Apple" sections of Chapter 3.B. will be eliminated.
- Additional wordage will be added to the "Cogongrass" section regarding its ability to grow along stream banks and outcompete native riparian plants, and that it can be found in wetland reserves along the coast.
- In the "Prioritization of Species" section, the group decided to classify Microorganisms as "Not Applicable" under all four objectives. There will be a footnote stating that the task force decided not to prioritize microorganisms because the topic is very broad, and the "high," "medium," and "low" classifications for each objective may vary on a case-by-case basis.

A. Loshbaugh reviewed the Management Actions/Implementation Table sections, which includes the homework responses from the previous meeting. While some objectives had a lot of suggestions for management actions, other objectives received few or no suggested actions. After some discussion, A. Loshbaugh asked the task force to re-do the homework, and to bear in mind that more actions are needed for the Coordination Objective (Objective 1) and the Education Objective (Objective 2.) See "Homework Question 3" section below for more information.

**III. DISCUSSION: COMMENTS ON MANAGEMENT PLAN TO DATE; PRIORITIZATION OF SPECIES SECTION; MANAGEMENT ACTIONS / IMPLEMENTATION TABLE; PROGRAM MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

See above for comments on the management plan to date and the Management Actions / Implementation Table sections.

The Task Force finished the exercise of prioritizing the various species in the management plan. See third bullet, above, for the prioritization decision on Microorganisms.

C. Tucker volunteered to draft the "Program Monitoring and Evaluation" section of the plan, and he will email it to A. Loshbaugh. The section will be circulated among the task force membership for comments/edits and will then be incorporated in the management plan.

**ACTION:** A. Loshbaugh will incorporate the final Prioritization of Species decisions in the management plan.

**ACTION:** C. Tucker will draft the "Program Monitoring and Evaluation" section and will email to A. Loshbaugh for its distribution to the task force membership.

#### IV. HOMEWORK QUESTION 3: ADDITIONAL PLANNING ACTIONS TO FULFILL MANAGEMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES

In addition to the Prioritization Matrices as a homework assignment, the Task Force was also asked to complete an assignment that will ultimately populate the "Management Actions" and "Implementation Table" sections of the management plan. However, no actions were submitted for Objective 1 (increase coordination) and only three actions were submitted for Objective 2 (prevention via education). A. Loshbaugh asked Task force members to re-do the homework with particular emphasis on these two objectives. The homework can be downloaded from the MAIS Task Force website: <http://is.cbr.tulane.edu/MississippiANS.html>. The homework due date is Wednesday, November 15, 2006.

Task Force members should list any and all ongoing and planned invasive species activities within their organizations, including a brief project description, annual budget and full-time employees, if known, and collaborating entities. In addition, appropriate responses to the homework may include ideas for currently unplanned or unfunded invasive species programs or activities that are needed within the state.

During the discussion of re-doing the homework, D. Diaz informed the group that he was planning to submit a proposal to CIAP to request monies to fund a statewide invasive species coordinator to implement the management plan, once it is completed. He proposed that although the grant, if funded, would pay the coordinator's salary, the new coordinator should be housed in a different state agency. The MDMR is based around the coast, and he felt that an agency with a state-wide presence would be more appropriate. D. Diaz has been in discussions with D. Riecke, and D. Riecke plans to approach MDWFP with the idea of housing the new coordinator at an MDWFP location.

The task force supported D. Diaz and D. Riecke with their proposed actions, and D. Diaz requested letters of support from other task force members' organizations.

Also in this discussion, there was a general consensus among the membership that a Mississippi Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force continue meeting after the completion of the management plan, and that perhaps the proposed coordinator would provide support to the task force. This will be an action under Objective 1 in the management plan.

**ACTION:** A. Loshbaugh will email the homework assignment to the Task Force membership, as well as post it on the website for download.

**ACTION:** The Task Force will re-do the previous homework assignment with an emphasis on proposing actions that will populate Objectives 1 and 2 (coordination and education, respectively.) The Task Force members will complete the homework and return to A. Loshbaugh by November 15.

**ACTION:** D. Diaz will email A. Loshbaugh with bullet points on his proposal to CIAP and contact information for letters of support. A. Loshbaugh will distribute the bullet points to the task force, and task force members wishing to provide a letter of support will send the letters directly to D. Diaz.

#### V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, CLOSING REMARKS, AND NEXT MEETING

A. Loshbaugh announced that this would probably be her last meeting with the Mississippi AIS Task Force, as she has accepted another position within Tulane University. She will continue to serve in an advisory capacity to Richard Campanella, of the CBR, who will administer the task force and see the management plan through to its completion.

R. Campanella's contact information, and A. Loshbaugh's new contact information, is as follows:

Richard Campanella  
Tulane University  
Center for Bioenvironmental Research  
102 Alcee Fortier Hall  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
P: (504) 862-8453  
F: (504) 862-8455  
[rcampane@tulane.edu](mailto:rcampane@tulane.edu)

Alysia Loshbaugh  
Tulane University  
Office of Academic Affairs and Provost  
200 Gibson Hall  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
P: (504) 862-8209  
F: (504) 865-6723  
[akravitz@tulane.edu](mailto:akravitz@tulane.edu) (same email)

The task force did not schedule a next meeting as of yet. A meeting will be scheduled by email once the next draft of the management plan is ready for review and sign off by the task force membership. After the draft is approved by the task force, it will be sent to the Federal Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force for informal review, and it

will be made available for public comment. After comments are received and incorporated, the plan may be submitted to the governor for his approval and formal submission to the ANS Task Force.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m. CST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Henry Folmar  
Chair, Mississippi Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force

Subject to Approval