MEETING MINUTES

South Carolina Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force
9:00 A.M., August 23, 2007
Conference Room
US Forest Service
4931 Broad River Rd, Columbia, SC

No.	In Attendance:	Organization	E-mail
1.	Jen Rawlings	Riverbanks Zoo	jrawlings@riverbanks.org
2.	Susan Wilde	USC/ SCDNR	wildes@dnr.sc.gov
3.	Mark Messersmith	SCDHEC-OCRM	messermj@dhec.sc.gov
4.	Larry Feller	SC Landscape Association	larry.feller@syngenta.com
5.	Steve deKozlowski	SCDNR	dekozlowskis@dnr.sc.gov
6.	Kelly Jo Swygert	SC Department of Transportation	swygertkj@scdot.org
7.	David Wilkins	SC Aquarium	dwilkins@scaquarium.org
8.	David Whitaker	SCDNR Marine Resources	whitakerd@snr,sc,gov
9.	Jack Whetstone	Clemson/DNR/Sea Grant	jwhtstn@clemson.edu
10.	Jeanne Riley	USFS	jriley@fs.fed.us
11.	Chris Page	SCDNR	pagec@dnr.sc.gov
12.	Marilyn O'Leary	SARP	moleary@mbolcomm.com
13.	Robin Mackie	USFS	rmackie@fs.fed.us

1. Call To Order
Steve de Kozlowski, Assistant Deputy Director, LWC Division, SCDNR welcomed the task force and thanked the US Forest Service for hosting the day's meeting.

   Minutes of the May 24, 2007 meeting were reviewed and were approved as written.

2. Chris Page, Program Manager, SCDNR Aquatic Nuisance Species Program, Phragmites Update
Phragmites control was discussed, specifically along the SC coast in the Georgetown area.

3. Development of Management Strategies for South Carolina
The group continued to work on action items for all objectives within the management goals. Some of the objectives were reworded to better reflect the groups' concerns. Specific action items were developed and the verbiage was documented. Those action items were tentatively assigned within the document as listed below.
Changes were made to previous sections and are reflected below. Discussion was continuous throughout the process.

   Objectives discussed:

Objective 1. Increase the coordination of AIS activities.

Action Item #	Description	Implementing (Lead) Organization	Cooperating Organization	Funding Source	Recent Efforts	Planned Effort			
						FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
1A	Maintain existing AIS Task Force and meet quarterly					X			
1Ai	Solidify AIS Task Force by creation of MOU's among partners	SCDNR	AIS Task Force	--	Some Complete	X	X		
1B	Create an AIS coordinator and support staff	SCDNR							
1Bi	Secure interagency cooperation and funding for AIS positions and expenses	SCDNR (Sea Grant)?	AIS Task Force	State, Federal, Grant Funds	Start	X	X	X	X
1Bii	Hire Staff and develop office	SCDNR	AIS Task Force				$50,000	$80,000	
1C	Investigate the possibility of establishing AIS council by law	SCDNR	AIS Task Force			X			
1D	Participate on regional, national ,federal, and AIS organizations (GSARP, Mid Atlantic AIS TF, Clemson)	SCNDR Clemson	US Coast Guard, Federal, Wildlife, Environmental Agencies	X	X	X	X	X	X
1E	Coordinate AIS with border states (NC, Ga.)	SCDNR, Clemson, Sea Grant,	NERRS			X	X	X	X

Objective 2. Educate public and private stakeholders on AIS, their impacts, and how they can help.

Action Item #	Description	Implementing (Lead) Agency	Cooperating Organization	Funding Source	Recent Efforts	Planned Effort			
						FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
2A	Identify and prioritize target audiences, e.g. K-12, recreational boaters, elected officials, pet trade industry, etc.								
2Ai	ANS Communications Plan	SCNDR	Other State and Federal Agencies	AFWA Grant	Complete		Revise		Revise/Update

2Aii	Informational Booth at Palmetto Sportsman's Classic	SCDNR	Current	State Water-Rec				
2Aiii	Informational Booth at SEWE	SCDNR/USFWS	Current					
2Aiv	Distribute literature at Marinas	SCDNR	Current	State Water-Rec				
2Aiva	Develop K-12 educational material	Riverbanks Zoo, SC Aquarium, Sea Grant						
2Aivb	AIS program	SC Aquarium						
2Aivc	Cards	Sea Grant						
2B	Develop appropriate educational materials, website, PSA's, videos, workshops, articles, school curriculum, etc.	All						
2Bi	Illegal Aquatic Plants of SC booklet	SCDNR	Current	State Water-Rec				
2Bii	Invasive Aquatic Species website	SCDNR/USGS/ USFWS/USDA	Current	State Water-Rec				
2Biii	SCDNR PSA's	SCDNR	In-progress	State Water-Rec				
2C	Develop or adopt recognizable slogan, logo, or brand.	All						
2Ci	Adopt Protect Your Waters campaign	USF&W/All	In-progress	Federal				

Objective 3. Monitor occurrence and spread of AIS

Action Item #	Description	Implementing (Lead) Agency	Cooperating Organization	Funding Source	Recent Efforts	Planned Effort			
						FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
3A	Identify all existing monitoring efforts and data gaps	DHEC	Clemson, SCDNR, Power Comp.			X			
3B	Integrate existing GIS maps and data on the state and federal level	SCDNR DHEC	State/Fed Agencies , Power Comp.			X	X	X	X
3Bi	Create AIS GIS working group to compile data	State/Fed agencies				X			
3C	Establish and Coordinate ongoing survey of aquatic habitats for the occurrence of AIS and all existing monitoring efforts.	Clemson	State/Fed Agencies					X	

Action Item #	Description	Implementing (Lead) Agency	Cooperating Organization	Funding Source	Recent Efforts	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
3D	Establish protocol for distribution of information	Clemson DHEC	AIS Task Force			X		
3E	Monitor areas of vulnerability for individual AIS	Clemson DHEC	AIS Task Force			X	X	X

Objective 4. Eradicate newly discovered and established invasive species

Action Item #	Description	Implementing (Lead) Agency	Cooperating Organization	Funding Source	Recent Efforts	Planned Effort			
						FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
4A	Develop early detection/rapid response protocols for AIS	USFS Clemson	AIS Task Force			X			
4B	Develop prioritized list of AIS based on risk assessment	SCDNR	AIS Task Force			X	Revise	Revise	Revise
4C	Develop EA/EIS for AIS control on Federal land/water	USFS Fish & Wildlife Service, COE				X			
4D	Identify appropriate protocol for eradication operations on private property	SCLTA SCDNR				X			
4E	Eradicate AIS according to accepted protocol; follow up monitoring	Appropriate Organization				X	X	X	X

Objective 5. Manage invasive species when eradication is impossible

Action Item #	Description	Implementing (Lead) Agency	Cooperating Organization	Funding Source	Recent Efforts	Planned Effort			
						FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
5A	Identify and prioritize species in need of management action	AIS Task Force				X	Revise	Revise	Revise
5Ai	Create regulatory invasive aquatic species lists	Clemson/USDA SCDA SCDNR				X	Revise	Revise	Revise
5B	Identify and prioritize geographic areas in need of management action	AIS Task Force				X	X	X	X
5C	Develop management plans	Appropriate Agency				X	X	X	X

5Ci	Create yearly South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Plan for public waters	SCDNR	In-progress	State Water-Rec		X	X	X	X
5D	Control AIS according to accepted protocol; follow up monitoring	Appropriate Organization		State/Fed/ Private		X	X	X	X

Objective 6. Identify and implement needed research on impacts and control of AIS.

Action Item #	Description	Implementing (Lead) Agency	Cooperating Organization	Funding Source	Recent Efforts	Planned Effort			
						FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
6A	Study life histories of AIS that occur in or threaten SC	Sea Grant	Universities/ Research Orgs.	Grants		X	X	X	X
6Ai	Study environmental and economic impacts	Sea Grant	Universities/ Research Orgs.	Grants		X	X	X	X
6B	Identify and investigate environmental tolerances of AIS	Sea Grant	Universities/ Research Orgs.	Grants		X	X	X	X
6C	Investigate management and control alternatives for SC AIS	Sea Grant	Universities/ Research Orgs.	Grants		X	X	X	X
6D	Identify priority research in coordination with regional organizations, i.e. GSARP, SARP (by SCAIS taskforce)	SCDNR				X	X	X	X
6Di	Survey stakeholders and scientists	Sea Grant	Universities/ Research Orgs.	Grants		X	X	X	X
6E	Create clearinghouse for AIS research in SC	Sea Grant	Universities/ Research Orgs.	Grants		X	Revise	Revise	Revise
6Ei	Hold periodic workshops to share research information	Sea Grant	Universities/ Research Orgs.	Grants		X	X	X	X
6Eii	Identify existing literature	Sea Grant	Universities/ Research Orgs.	Grants		X	X	X	X
6F	Develop or compile appropriate risk assessments on AIS	Appropriate Agency				X	X	X	X

Objective 7. Strengthen legislative and regulatory authority

Action Item #	Description	Implementing (Lead) Agency	Cooperating Organization	Funding Source	Recent Efforts	Planned Effort			
						FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
7A	Review existing federal and state legislation and regulations to identify needed changes (inconsistencies and gaps)	Clemson U./ Dept. of Ag/ SCDNR	AIS Task Force			X	Review	Review	Review
7B	Propose needed legislation and modify existing regulations						X		
7Bi	Coordinate State legislative authority								
7Bia	Increase penalties and fines	Clemson U./ Dept. of Ag/ SCDNR							
7Bib	Increase regulatory authority in existing legislation	Clemson U./ Dept. of Ag/ SCDNR							
7Bic	Create regulations regarding the aquarium and pet trade	SC Dept. of Ag/ SCDHEC							
7Bid	Develop or modify regulations regarding Aquascaping Industry	SCDNR/SC Dept of AG/ SCDHEC							
7Bie	Develop or modify regulations regarding Aquaculture	SCDNR							
7Bii	Coordinate Federal Legislative authority								
7Biia	Develop or modify regulations regarding the aquarium and pet trade	USDA – APHIS PPQ / USCG							
7Biib	Develop or modify regulations regarding shipping	USDA – APHIS PPQ / USCG							
7Biic	Develop or modify regulations regarding Aquascaping Industry	USDA – APHIS PPQ / USCG							
7Biid	Develop or modify regulations regarding Aquaculture	SC Sea Grant Consortium							
7C	Educate state and federal law enforcement officials of existing AIS laws and regulations; Encourage enforcement	SCDNR	Clemson, USDA-APHIS, USFWS, SCDPS, US Coast Guard			X	X	X	X
7D	Educate public and private stakeholders on new and existing laws *Through existing education plans	AIS Task Force				X	X	X	X

7E	Coordinate legislation with neighboring states	Clemson SCDNR	AIS Task Force				X		

Objective 8. Secure funding for AIS activities

Action Item #	Description	Implementing (Lead) Agency	Cooperating Organization	Funding Source	Recent Efforts	Planned Effort FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
8A	Identify existing funding in cooperating AIS taskforce agencies dedicated to AIS activities	AIS Task Force				X			
8B	Identify grant opportunities (Federal, State, Local, Private industry, Nonprofit)	Sea Grant/NRCS/ USFWS/USGS/ USCOE							
8C	Work together to secure grants through cooperative applications								
8D	Secure recurring funding via legislative action in state agency budget								
8E	Seek federal funding to support statewide AIS activities	All							

Mark Messersmith of SCDHEC-OCRM indicated that they would take the lead in identifying all existing monitoring efforts and data gaps and integrating existing GIS maps and data on the state and federal level.

Much of the detail was removed from the implementation table. The final product to be included in the South Carolina AIS Plan, with some modifications from the members is as follows:

Goal: Prevent and control the introduction, spread and impact of aquatic invasive species in South Carolina.

Objective 1. Increase the coordination of AIS activities.

Action Item #	Description	Implementing (Lead) Organization	Cooperating Organization	Funding Source	Recent Efforts	Planned Effort FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
1A	Maintain existing AIS Task Force and meet quarterly					X			

Action Item #	Description	Implementing (Lead) Agency	Cooperating Organization	Funding Source	Recent Efforts	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
1Ai	Solidify AIS Task Force by creation of MOU's among partners	SCDNR	AIS Task Force	--	Some Complete	X	X		
1B	Create an AIS coordinator and support staff	SCDNR							
1Bi	Secure interagency cooperation and funding for AIS positions and expenses	SCDNR (Sea Grant)?	AIS Task Force	State, Federal, Grant Funds	Start	X	X	X	X
1Bii	Hire Staff and develop office	SCDNR	AIS Task Force				$50,000	$80,000	
1C	Investigate the possibility of establishing AIS council by law	SCDNR	AIS Task Force			X			
1D	Participate on regional, national ,federal, and AIS organizations (GSARP, Mid Atlantic AIS TF, Clemson)	SCNDR Clemson	US Coast Guard, Federal, Wildlife, Environmental Agencies		X	X	X	X	X
1E	Coordinate AIS with border states (NC, Ga.)	SCDNR, Clemson, Sea Grant,	NERRS			X	X	X	X

Objective 2. Educate public and private stakeholders on AIS, their impacts, and how they can help.

Action Item #	Description	Implementing (Lead) Agency	Cooperating Organization	Funding Source	Recent Efforts	Planned Effort			
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2A	Identify and prioritize target audiences, e.g. K-12, recreational boaters, elected officials, pet trade industry, etc.								
2Ai	ANS Communications Plan	SCNDR	Other State and Federal Agencies	AFWA Grant	Complete		Revise		Revise/Update
2B	Develop appropriate educational materials, website, PSA's, videos, workshops, articles, school curriculum, etc.	All							
2C	Develop or adopt recognizable slogan, logo, or brand.	All							

Objective 3. Monitor occurrence and spread of AIS

Action Item #	Description	Implementing (Lead) Agency	Cooperating Organization	Funding Source	Recent Efforts	Planned Effort			
						FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
3A	Identify all existing monitoring efforts and data gaps	DHEC	Clemson, SCDNR, Power Comp.			X			
3B	Integrate existing GIS maps and data on the state and federal level	SCDNR DHEC	State/Fed Agencies , Power Comp.			X	X	X	X
3Bi	Create AIS GIS working group to compile data	State/Fed agencies				X			
3C	Establish and Coordinate ongoing survey of aquatic habitats for the occurrence of AIS and all existing monitoring efforts.	Clemson	State/Fed Agencies				X		
3D	Establish protocol for distribution of information	Clemson DHEC	AIS Task Force				X		
3E	Monitor areas of vulnerability for individual AIS	Clemson DHEC	AIS Task Force				X	X	X

Objective 4. Eradicate newly discovered and established invasive species

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4B	Develop prioritized list of AIS based on risk assessment	SCDNR	AIS Task Force			X	Revise	Revise	Revise
4C	Develop EA/EIS for AIS control on Federal land/water	USFS Fish & Wildlife Service, COE				X			

| 4D | Identify appropriate protocol for eradication operations on private property | SCLTA SCDNR | | | | X | | | |
| 4E | Eradicate AIS according to accepted protocol; follow up monitoring | Appropriate Organization | | | | X | X | X | X |

Objective 5. Manage invasive species when eradication is impossible

Action Item #	Description	Implementing (Lead) Agency	Cooperating Organization	Funding Source	Recent Efforts	Planned Effort			
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5A	Identify and prioritize species in need of management action	AIS Task Force				X	Revise	Revise	Revise
5Ai	Create regulatory invasive aquatic species lists	Clemson/USDA SCDA SCDNR				X	Revise	Revise	Revise
5B	Identify and prioritize geographic areas in need of management action	AIS Task Force				X	X	X	X
5C	Develop management plans	Appropriate Agency				X	X	X	X
5Ci	Create yearly South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Plan for public waters	SCDNR	In-progress	State Water-Rec		X	X	X	X
5D	Control AIS according to accepted protocol; follow up monitoring	Appropriate Organization		State/Fed/ Private		X	X	X	X

Objective 6. Identify and implement needed research on impacts and control of AIS.

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6A	Study life histories of AIS that occur in or threaten SC	Sea Grant	Universities/ Research Orgs.	Grants		X	X	X	X
6Ai	Study environmental and economic impacts	Sea Grant	Universities/ Research Orgs.	Grants		X	X	X	X
6B	Identify and investigate environmental tolerances of AIS	Sea Grant	Universities/ Research	Grants		X	X	X	X

Action Item #	Description	Implementing (Lead) Agency	Cooperating Organization	Funding Source	Recent Efforts	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
			Orgs.						
6C	Investigate management and control alternatives for SC AIS	Sea Grant	Universities/ Research Orgs.	Grants		X	X	X	X
6D	Identify priority research in coordination with regional organizations, i.e. GSARP, SARP (by SCAIS taskforce)	SCDNR				X	X	X	X
6Di	Survey stakeholders and scientists	Sea Grant	Universities/ Research Orgs.	Grants		X	X	X	X
6E	Create clearinghouse for AIS research in SC	Sea Grant	Universities/ Research Orgs.	Grants		X	Revise	Revise	Revise
6Ei	Hold periodic workshops to share research information	Sea Grant	Universities/ Research Orgs.	Grants		X	X	X	X
6Eii	Identify existing literature	Sea Grant	Universities/ Research Orgs.	Grants		X	X	X	X
6F	Develop or compile appropriate risk assessments on AIS	Appropriate Agency				X	X	X	X

Objective 7. Strengthen legislative and regulatory authority

Action Item #	Description	Implementing (Lead) Agency	Cooperating Organization	Funding Source	Recent Efforts	Planned Effort			
						FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
7A	Review existing federal and state legislation and regulations to identify needed changes (inconsistencies and gaps)	Clemson U./ Dept. of Ag/ SCDNR	AIS Task Force			X	Review	Review	Review
7B	Propose needed legislation and modify existing regulations						X		
7C	Educate state and federal law enforcement officials of existing AIS laws and regulations; Encourage enforcement	SCDNR	Clemson, USDA-APHIS, USFWS, SCDPS, US Coast Guard			X	X	X	X
7D	Educate public and private stakeholders on new and existing laws *Through existing education plans	AIS Task Force				X	X	X	X
7E	Coordinate legislation with neighboring states	Clemson SCDNR	AIS Task Force				X		

Objective 8. Secure funding for AIS activities

Action Item #	Description	Implementing (Lead) Agency	Cooperating Organization	Funding Source	Recent Efforts	Planned Effort			
						FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
8A	Identify existing funding in cooperating AIS taskforce agencies dedicated to AIS activities	AIS Task Force				X			
8B	Identify grant opportunities (Federal, State, Local, Private industry, Nonprofit)	SeaGrant/NRCS/ USFWS/USGS/ USCOE							
8C	Work together to secure grants through cooperative applications								
8D	Secure recurring funding via legislative action in state agency budget								
8E	Seek federal funding to support statewide AIS activities	All							

O'Leary added that the dates in this document are not carved in stone and are flexible to a degree. If you think that the dates are unrealistic at this point it is not that important to get stuck in changing the timeline.
The basic time table now for the document is as follows:

1. Preliminary draft to members of the task force. Changes should be submitted back to SCDNR.
2. Draft should then go to the agencies involved with the task force for review (up the chain of command with a deadline of 1 month).
3. Return document to SCDNR with a letter of support stating that the agency is in favor of supporting the plan and will conform to the guidelines.
4. Send document to national task force for informal review.
5. Send to Governor for signature and submit to national task force for final approval

4. Other business
   a. Homework assignments
      i. Review draft plan and associated tables
      ii. Send comments on existing plan
      iii. Receive updated copy and get approval from agencies
      iv. Finalize document

5. Adjourn
   Adjourned at 3:00