

MEETING MINUTES

**South Carolina Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force
9:00 A.M., March 29, 2007
Conference Room
SC Forestry Commission
5500 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212**

<u>No.</u>	<u>In Attendance:</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
1	Clint Ball	SC Aquarium	cball@scaquarium.org
2	Stephen Compton	Department of Plant Industry	scompto@clemson.edu
3	Steve deKozlowski	SCDNR	dekozlowkis@dnr.sc.gov
4	Mary G. Douglass	USDA, APHIS	Mary.g.douglass@aphis.usda.gov
5	Jeannie Eidson	SCDHEC	eidsonjp@dhec.sc.gov
6	Ed EuDaly	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	ed_eudaly@fws.gov
7	Larry Feller	SC Landscape Association	larry.feller@syngenta.com
8	Ken Glenn	USDA - APHIS-PPQ	William.k.glenn@aphis.usda.gov
9	Mike Hook	SCDNR	HookP@dnr.sc.gov
10	David Knott	Marine Resources Research Institute- Southeastern Regional Taxonomic Center	KnottD@dnr.sc.gov
11	Chris Page	SCDNR	PageC@dnr.sc.gov
12	Jen Rawlings	Riverbanks Zoo	jrawlings@riverbanks.org
13	Jeanne Riley	US Forest Service	jriley@fs.fed.us
14	Denise Sanger	SC Sea Grant Consortium	denise.sanger@scseagrant.org
15	Alan Shirey	US Army Corps of Engineers Charleston District	alan.d.shirey@usace.army.mil
16	Kelly Jo Swygert	SC Department of Transportation	swygertkj@scdot.org
17	Chris Thomason	SCDNR	ThomasonC@dnr.sc.gov
18	Jack Whetstone	Clemson/Seagrant/SCDNR	jwhtstn@clemson.edu
19	Susan Wilde	USC/ SCDNR	wildes@dnr.sc.gov
20	David Wilkins	SC Aquarium	dwilkins@scaquarium.org

1. Call To Order

Steve de Kozlowski, Assistant Deputy Director, LWC Division, SCDNR welcomed the task force and thanked the SC Forestry Commission for hosting the day's meeting.

Minutes of the February 8th meeting were reviewed and were approved as written with some minor changes.

2. Avian Vacuolar Myelinopathy: Linking invasive aquatic plants, novel cyanobacterial species, and an emerging wildlife disease, Dr. Susan Wilde and Sarah Williams, USC and SCDNR, Charleston, SC

Susan Wilde gave a presentation on Avian Vacuolar Myelinopathy (AVM) and associated research. AVM is the cause of the largest and most significant bald eagle mortality in the United States. Waterfowl are also highly affected by AVM. AVM research has shown that there is a clear food chain link between the deaths and a periphytic alga that grows on aquatic vegetation. Coots and waterfowl eat algae covered vegetation, they become sick, and are then easy prey for bald eagles which in-turn become sick and die. The alga, Stiganematales, produces an unknown toxin that causes brain lesions and a neurological disorder. The "disease" seems to be limited to manmade impoundments in the piedmont area of the southeastern U.S. with large infestations of invasive plant species such as hydrilla, Brazilian elodea and Eurasian watermilfoil. It also appears that grass carp can contract AVM but do not seem to be affected by it. The eagle population around Lake Thurmond appears to be the most impacted with nine dying last winter and over 43 in the past six years. A new site was discovered on Lake Moultrie that contained the algae. Dr. Wilde addressed numerous questions following her presentation.

3. Development of Management Strategies for South Carolina

The group worked on action items for each of the eight management goals. Some of the objectives were reworded to better reflect the groups' concerns. Specific action items were developed and the verbiage was documented. Discussion was continuous throughout the process. To date this is the completed list of goals and action items which arose from the discussions around the room:

Objectives:

1. Increase the coordination of AIS activities.
 - a. Maintain existing AIS Task Force and meet quarterly
 - i. Solidify AIS Task Force by creation of MOU's among partners
 - b. Create an AIS coordinator and support staff
 - c. Investigate the possibility of establishing AIS council by law

- d. Participate on regional, national, and international AIS organizations
 - i. GSARP
 - ii. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
2. Educate public and private stakeholders on AIS, their impacts, and how they can help.
 - a. Identify and prioritize target audiences, e.g. K-12, recreational boaters, elected officials, pet trade industry, etc.
 - b. Develop appropriate educational materials, website, PSA's, videos, workshops, articles, school curriculum, etc.
 - c. Develop or adopt recognizable slogan, logo, or brand.
3. Monitor occurrence and spread of AIS
 - a. Identify all existing monitoring efforts and data gaps
 - b. Integrate existing GIS maps and data on the state and federal level
 - c. Establish ongoing survey of aquatic habitats for the occurrence of AIS
 - d. Coordinate all existing monitoring efforts
 - e. Identify areas of vulnerability for individual AIS (research)
4. Eradicate newly discovered and established invasive species
 - a. Develop early detection/rapid response protocols for AIS
 - b. Develop appropriate risk assessment
 - c. Develop prioritized list of AIS based on risk assessment
 - d. Develop EA/EIS for AIS control on Federal land/water
 - e. Utilize or develop appropriate regulatory protocol for eradication operations on private property
5. Manage invasive species when eradication is impossible.
 - a. Identify and prioritize species in need of management action
 - b. Identify and prioritize geographic areas in need of management action
 - c. Develop management plans
 - d. Develop EA/EIS for AIS control on Federal land/water
 - e. Utilize or develop appropriate regulatory protocol for control operations on private property
6. Identify and implement needed research on impacts and control of AIS.

7. Strengthen legislative and regulatory authority
8. Secure funding for AIS activities
 - a. Short term
 - b. Long term

4. Other business

- a. Homework assignments
 - i. Review and be ready to discuss objectives. Develop strategies (action items) for each remaining objective; include estimated cost and timing for implementation. Send in or have available for next meeting.
 - ii. Continue to send comments on existing plans
 - iii. Send strategies/action items for addressing objectives
- b. Next meeting
 - Date: May 24, 2007
 - Location: Charleston, S.C. Sea Grant offices
 - Speaker – TBD

5. Adjourn for Lunch

Adjourned for lunch at 12:15