

**Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee
Organizational Meeting of 01 April 2013, LOB 307, 1:00 PM
Minutes of Proceedings**

Members present: Rep. Ben Lefebvre (Interim Chair), Rep. Dennis Malloy, Rep. Rose Marie Rogers; Public Members Andrea LaMoreaux and Bob Reynolds (Clerk)

NHDES Representative: Amy Smagula (Exotic Species Program)

Members Absent: Rep. David Kidder, Rep. Adam Schroadter, Sen. Bob Odell, and Public Member Don Foudriat

Guests present: Tom O'Brien (NH Lakes Association) and Jeff Winters (Rochester Conservation Commission)

Rep. Lefebvre called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM. Members and guests introduced themselves. It was noted that all of the elected members are new to the EAWS Committee this year. Ms. LaMoreaux replaces Ken Warren as the public member appointed by the NH Lakes Association.

Ms. Smagula and Mr. Reynolds presented a brief overview of the EAWSC's activities during the past two years, including numerous presentations on key issues relevant to the spread and control of invasive species and the identification of new legislation or needed changes to existing legislation that would impact the exotic species program. Minutes of the 2011-2012 meetings were previously distributed to the members. Ms. Smagula mentioned that publication of her 2009-2012 Exotic Species Program Report was imminent, and she expected to distribute it to all EAWSC members within a week or two. (Note: After the meeting, Ms. Smagula emailed documents and Internet links containing information about exotic aquatic plants and animals in New Hampshire.)

Mr. O'Brien recommended that the members quickly clarify the EAWSC's purpose and objectives. If the goal is to improve upon the state of invasives management in New Hampshire, then this will likely require focused education, legislation, and additional funding. He noted that the cost of invasives control currently exceeds the available funding, and the costs will continue to grow as invasive species spread and grow.

Legislation previously proposed by the EAWSC was discussed, including the boat registration fee surcharge that provides dedicated funding for the

DES Exotic Species Program, a “check-off” option on tax return forms to donate money to the invasives program, three attempts to establish a milfoil “sticker” program, and a request for general funding to the Governor’s office. The status of current relevant legislation was discussed:

- HB292, a bill to create an invasives “sticker” program for boats not registered in New Hampshire, was retained by the House Resources, Recreation, and Development Committee.
- HB411, a bill requested by the Safety Department to repeal the provision to “sunset” portions of boater registration fees in 2015, was passed in the House and is pending in the Senate. This includes the total funding for the DES Exotic Species Program.
- HB527, a bill to dissolve the EAWS Committee, was voted Inexpedient To Legislate.

One task assigned to the organization meeting is to elect a Committee Chairman and Clerk. Some concern was expressed that three elected members of the EAWSC were not present today, and the members agreed to elect an Interim Chairman today and elect a “permanent” Chairman at the next meeting, when hopefully all members will be present. Rep. Malloy moved to elect Rep. Lefebvre as Interim Chairman; Mr. Reynolds seconded. The motion passed 4-0-1 (Rep. Lefebvre abstained). Rep. Malloy moved to elect Mr. Reynolds as Clerk; Ms. LaMoreaux seconded. The motion passed 4-0-1 (Mr. Reynolds abstained).

Interim Chairman Lefebvre suggested that the members consider what the EAWSC’s goals should be during the next two years, if any other members should be added, and that these topics be discussed at the next meeting. Rep. Rogers suggested that the EAWSC should decide which invasive species were most important and focus more narrowly on them during the next two years. Mr. Reynolds suggested that the EAWSC should discuss and advise on legislative actions related to the pending “sun-setting” of funding for the DES Exotic Species Program. Ms. Smagula agreed to present information about the key invasive species at the next meeting.

Rep. Malloy moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:57 PM. Ms. LaMoreaux seconded. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Reynolds, Clerk