

**Virginia Invasive Species Working Group  
May 15, 2007 - 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Science Museum of Virginia  
Discovery Room**

**Invasive Species Working Group Members and Alternates Present**

The Honorable L. Preston Bryant, Jr. Chair  
Donald Blankenship, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Bill Bolin, Dominion Power  
Steven G. Bowman, Marine Resources Commission  
J. Carlton Courter, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
Gwynn Crichton, The Nature Conservancy  
Roger Mann, Virginia Institute of Marine Science  
Joseph H. Maroon, Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Joseph McCauley, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
John Scrivani, Virginia Department of Forestry  
Robert B. Stroube, Department of Health  
Brian Waymack, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Shepard Zedaker, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

**Staff Present**

Nicole M. Rovner, Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources  
Thomas L. Smith, Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Rick Myers, Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Kevin Heffernan, Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Michael R. Fletcher, Department of Conservation and Recreation

**Others Present**

Andy Alvarez, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Gene Farley, Waterway Research and Management Foundation  
Ray Fernauld, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
Frank Fulgham, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Lisa Moss, Virginia Fish and Wildlife Service  
Rachel Clare Muir, U.S. Geological Survey  
David Phemister, The Nature Conservancy  
Peter Smallwood, University of Richmond  
Sara Stamp MPPDC – Dragon Run SAMP  
Jack Travelstead, Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
Mary Williams, VNLA  
Rosalind Wu, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## **Call to Order**

Secretary Bryant called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. He said that the work of this group was important in addressing the current impact and increasing threat posed by invasive species. Invasive species cost Virginia more than \$1 billion annually to eradicate, monitor and control.

Secretary Bryant asked members and guests to introduce themselves.

Secretary Bryant said that Governor Kaine issued an Executive Directive to create the Invasive Species Working Group. He noted that the Executive Directive expires on July 28, 2007. There will be discussions with regard to the need to extend the Directive.

Secretary Bryant said that the lack of meetings by this working group should not be seen as a reflection of the interest and understanding of the importance of the issue. He noted that the agencies, organizations, and private citizens represented were all taking action in some fashion on this natural resource challenge. He noted that the purpose of this meeting was to advance efforts through collaboration and coordination, beyond what can be done individually.

Secretary Bryant said that for these reasons Governor Kaine created this Working Group under Executive Directive 2. A copy of Executive Directive 2 (2006) "Establishing the Invasive Species Working Group" is available from the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

## **Review of Executive Directive 2 (2006) Establishing the Invasive Species Working Group**

Secretary Bryant asked Tom Smith to give an overview of Executive Directive 2.

Mr. Smith said that Governor Kaine established the Invasive Species Working Group with the recognition that a Statewide Invasive Species Management Plan had been developed and approved for the Commonwealth. He noted that legislation authorizing the previous Invasive Species Council expired on June 30, 2006.

Prior to the dissolution, the Council approved an Invasive Species working plan for the Commonwealth. This plan coordinated efforts in a cost effective and efficient manner. As approved, the plan provides a framework for action to minimize economic, environmental and human harm from invasive species.

Mr. Smith said that a working group can help ensure that state agency and private sector activities concerning invasive species are coordinated, complementary, cost-efficient and effective.

The Working Group is charged under the Executive Directive with the following:

- Coordinate implementation of the VA Invasive Species Management Plan

- Develop a list of invasive species that will be the focus of the working group's coordinated activities
- Develop an invasive species inventory protocol for use by state agencies for assessment of lands they own or lease, provide guidance on prevention and control, and the use of native species as alternatives to invasive species.
- Facilitate the establishment of an information sharing system
- Develop and recommend to the Governor and General Assembly legislative proposals as necessary to advance invasive species management in Virginia.

### **Establishment of the Invasive Species Advisory Committee**

Secretary Bryant said that under the previous Invasive Species Council, the Invasive Species Advisory Committee was extremely productive and valuable in the development of the Invasive Species Management Plan.

He noted that the Governor's Executive Directive provided for the appointment of an Invasive Species Advisory Committee. The following names have been proposed for membership:

James Akerson, National Park Service  
Christopher Asaro, VA Department of Forestry  
Pam Dinkle, Tri-County Lake Administrative Commission  
Ruth Douglas, Virginia Native Plant Society  
Ray Fernald, VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
Jan Ferrigan, Arlington County VA Cooperative Extension  
Frank Fulgham, VA Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Kevin Heffernan, VA Dept of Conservation and Recreation  
Sara Stamp, Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission  
Greg Garman, VA Commonwealth University  
Lloyd Hipkins, VA Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Roger Mann, VA Institute of Marine Science  
Karen Mayne, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Lisa Moss, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Rachel Muir, U.S. Geological Survey  
Rick Myers, VA Dept of Conservation and Recreation  
Steve Nash, University of Richmond  
Richard Neves, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Peter Smallwood, University of Richmond  
Bill Tanger, Friends of the Rivers of Virginia  
Brian Watts, College of William and Mary  
Mary Williams, Dover Nursery

Secretary Bryant said that, without objections, he would proceed with the appointments as listed. He encouraged Working Group members to submit names of additional people who should be included in the Advisory Committee.

**Approval of the Virginia Invasive Species Management Plan by the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force**

Mr. Heffernan address the approval of the Virginia Invasive Species Management Plan.

He said that the plan was submitted as a state plan to the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The approval of this plan will assist in making Virginia eligible for federal funding.

Mr. Heffernan said that with an approved plan, Virginia could receive as much as \$43,000. However this amount will not be known until the fall. The funds are intended as start up funds for states with new plans.

A member asked if this would just be one time funding.

Mr. Heffernan said that the funds are currently awarded year-by-year. He said the focus is for aquatic nuisance species.

**Proposed six-month action plan.**

Secretary Bryant asked Mr. Smith to review the six-month action plan.

Mr. Smith said that based upon the approved management plan and the Governor's Executive Directive the following five priority initiatives have been identified as key work items for the coming months.

- Develop high priority invasive species list and early detection list.
- Initiate education effort
- Legal review of Virginia invasive species laws and regulations
- Conduct survey of existing early detection programs
- Develop state agency survey protocol

Mr. Smith said that Dr. Myers and Mr. Heffernan would address each of these points.

*Develop high priority invasive species list and early detection list.*

Dr. Myers said there were two categories of lists suggested for the working group. He said there are high priority lists of species that currently exist in Virginia that are known threats. He said ideally this would be a list with which most could agree.

Dr. Myers said there are control strategies to develop reasonable costs for the purposes of control.

Dr. Myers said the second set would be an early detection list and would develop a prioritized list of species Virginia wants to keep out.

Secretary Bryant asked for comments regarding this initiative.

Mr. Smallwood said that there might be ways that the University of Richmond could help with the development of the lists. He said that University's environmental studies program conducted a study of existing early detection programs.

Mr. Smallwood said that it might be helpful to get a legal review and suggested that the University of Richmond environmental law group might be of assistance. He did note that there would be limitations due to the structure of the academic calendar.

Secretary Bryant asked Mr. Smallwood to continue working with DCR in that regard.

Mr. Zedaker said that Goal 7 of the plan addressed gathering information on control strategies and the economic and natural resource impacts of invasive species. He suggested developing of a high priority list of species on which to focus.

Dr. Myers said that it seemed it would be best to first develop the list of species. He said that it would be helpful to focus on particular species and determine which battles to undertake. He said that the advisory committee could come to an agreement of which species on which to focus.

Mr. McCauley said the list and the focus were not mutually exclusive, but suggested moving forward on multiple fronts. He said there is an advantage of trying to create a list and to work on a few species.

Mr. Farley said that he had spent some time reading available information regarding invasive species in Virginia. He noted that VIMS had a large inventory of invasive species. He noted that much of the needed research has already been done.

*Initiate education effort.*

Mr. Heffernan said there were four points with regard to initiating the education effort.

- Make invasive species information available via Internet
- Evaluate public awareness programs
- Develop new public information materials
- Encourage on-the-ground action programs via Internet

Mr. Heffernan said that these points come from Goal 7 of the plan. He noted that the website had been fairly dormant, but that DCR has now contracted with some web mechanics who will keep the site up to date.

Mr. Heffernan said that within the plan, there needed to be an education strategy in terms of what type of education is needed.

Mr. Heffernan said that under education DCR would like to spend time to develop material for the Virginia Master Naturalist Program. This program is new since the Invasive Species plan was developed. He said this was an ideal opportunity to help guide the education process.

Mr. Smith noted that Ruth Douglas with the Virginia Native Plants Society is very interested in coordinating with the Virginia Master Naturalist Coordinator program.

Secretary Bryant asked if there was coordination with the Farm Bureau membership.

Mr. Fulgham said that VDACS does partner with the Farm Bureau. He said this work is done mainly through the extension offices. There are quite a few cooperative programs at the federal level.

Mr. Scrivani said that the Department of Forestry is also developing an educational resource at the Headquarters in Charlottesville.

Mr. Bolin said that Dominion has offered to include an article in their customer connection newsletter. This would reach over 3 million customers.

Mr. Maroon said that DCR has been discussing the possibility of landowner workshops in local communities. He said that experience has shown that landowners will become more involved if their properties are affected.

Mr. Maroon said that it would be helpful to have a list of priorities and to focus educational efforts across agencies.

*Legal review of Virginia invasive species laws and regulations*

Mr. Smith reviewed the existing law in Virginia as well as federal law that applies to invasive species.

Secretary Bryant asked how frequently these laws were changed or updated.

Mr. Smith said that the law has changed in the past few years with the development and dissolution of the Invasive Species Council.

Secretary Bryant asked if there had been significant changes at the federal level.

Mr. Smith said that had been fairly stable over the last several years.

Ms. Muir said that there had been no substantive changes in the federal Invasive Species Act since 1988. She said that the last Executive Order that was issued was in 1999 that created the federal Invasive Species Council.

Ms. Muir noted that the Aquatic Invasive Species Act was updated two years ago. She said that in recent years there has been more emphasis on the Farm Bill.

Ms. Muir asked if there had been any discussion regarding how to deal with wildlife diseases as a part of this effort. She noted the focus on the avian flu. She said that while that may not be directly relevant to this working group the group would interact with affected agencies.

Dr. Stroube said that the Health Department was included in the Invasive Species Council and the working group because of their focus on the avian flu and West Nile virus in humans and wildlife.

Secretary Bryant said that the advisory group should follow up with this discussion.

Mr. Courter said that the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has a monitoring process for avian flu and other diseases. They are working with the Department of Health to monitor those.

Mr. Blankenship said that VDACS is cooperating with monitoring of livestock. He said there is a working group that has protocols in place.

Secretary Bryant said that the Avian Influenza task force was cross-disciplinary.

*Conduct survey of existing early detection programs*

Mr. Heffernan said that a survey of existing early detection programs would include the following components:

- Survey existing early detection networks,
- Encourage growth of existing federal, state, and private networks
- Rapid Response
- Certainly catalog existing plans and identify existing funds for rapid response; and assess need for additional plans and funds – this step is essential before real resource targets can be discussed; this action is a priority need and efficient use of funds

Mr. Heffernan said that the importance of early detection is the ability to save money and effort.

Mr. Blankenship said that one of the biggest problems for VDACS is the USDA Homeland Security. He said that there are minimal resources at the ports and that much is coming into the country through animals and plants.

Mr. Fulgham said that with regard to early detection there is a network between states at the laboratory level as well as at the identification level. This is the National Plant Diagnostic Network. In Virginia, that lab is at Virginia Tech.

Mr. Maroon asked if any of the work done by the University of Richmond was included in what is already in place for Virginia.

Mr. Smallwood said that the University of Richmond reported on a number of programs in 2004. He was unaware how many were Virginia programs.

Mr. Heffernan said that many of the programs were in midwestern states.

Secretary Bryant said that out of the five items, education and early detection were priorities. He asked if the development of a state agency protocol was achievable.

Dr. Myers said that it was possible to do that within a six-month period.

Secretary Bryant that would be labor intensive and asked if there was a budget sufficient for this work.

Mr. Smith said that he was not certain of the existing budget for FY08.

Mr. Maroon said that in the past there had been contributions from other agencies.

Secretary Bryant asked that if Virginia could receive the \$43,000 from the federal government if that could be applied.

Mr. Smith said that was possible and that those funds would be available in October. He noted that a lot of the cost dealt with staff time. He said that DCR could cover some of that cost.

Mr. Maroon noted that The Nature Conservancy gave a substantial contribution to get the work started. He expressed appreciation for that assistance.

*Develop state land invasive species survey protocol*

Mr. Smith said that the state land invasive species survey protocol was called for in the Executive Directive. He said this would be used by agencies that own or lease lands.

Ms. Rovner said that it was important for the legal review to not only be what is in the Code of Virginia, but to also include what programs are being implemented. She noted that the Code would not give a complete picture.

Mr. Zedaker suggested that the advisory group develop a list and pay particular attention to the economic impact or change in human health from the thread of invasive species.

Ms. Muir said that the Heritage program has a standardized method for collecting information across the states. She said this could be a framework for collecting invasive species information as well.

Mr. Zedaker said that the Department of Forestry also participates in the federal system of forest inventory.

Mr. Phemister from The Nature Conservancy said that while the work to develop a six-month plan is impressive, the advisory committee should not overlook issues just because there currently are no available resources. He said that that it would be beneficial to have a list of those opportunities in the event that additional resources could be identified. He said that recommendations could be made to the Governor and the General Assembly about legislative or funding changes to carry out the program fully.

Mr. Phemister asked the time frame for moving forward.

Mr. Smith said that he would like to see the advisory committee meet within the next month. He said the intent would be to develop subcommittees to have multiple groups dealing with the various issues.

MOTION: Mr. Scrivani moved that the Invasive Species Working Group approve the proposed six-month action plan as presented by staff.

SECOND: Dr. Stroube

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

### **Working Group Member Updates**

Secretary Bryant asked for members of the working group to provide updates regarding their agency/organization work.

Mr. Waymack said that VDOT is working with Virginia Tech and is addressing the issue of roads signs. He said that VDOT has approximately 100 roadside management staff, which includes about 70 pesticide applicators. He said that VDOT coordinates with Virginia Tech and VDACS regarding aquatics programs.

Mr. Waymack said that VDOT is developing a website regarding roadside management.

Mr. Bolin said that Dominion Virginia Power has a couple of programs dealing with invasives. Dominion has a zebra mussel monitoring program and collects biological data from the various stations. He said that a couple of the stations are considered at risk for zebra mussel infestation. Dominion also has a program to monitor Asiatic clams.

Mr. Bolin said that Dominion has extensive experience in combating hydrilla, and that they also treat for phragmites.

Mr. Bolin said that Dominion also deals with monk parakeets. He said these birds, while typically tropical, are released and will build nests around transformers.

Ms. Crichton from The Nature Conservancy provided handouts and discussed efforts of the TNC at the national level. A copy of those handouts is available from DCR.

She noted that in a handout called “Ounce of Prevention” that the USDA has an animal inspection service that currently lacks the adequate regulations to prevent pathogens from entering the country. She said that according to 2005 statistics, the US was importing 2 billion nursery stock plants annually. She said this was largely due to changes in global trade. Currently only about 2% of these plants are inspected.

Ms. Crichton said that TNC has a global forest health program working to secure a substantial increase in resources for the agency to undertake a more efficient program.

Ms. Crichton said that it was the strong recommendation of The Nature Conservancy that the Administration renew the Executive Directive for another year. She said that TNC looks forward to working on the 6-month action plan.

Ms. Crichton said that TNC would like to see a permanent Invasive Species Council established. She said there is a need for a full time coordinator.

Mr. McCauley said that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has fourteen national wildlife refuges in Virginia. He said that the agency has been mapping invasive species in these refuges since 2002.

Mr. McCauley said that through that mapping they have identified 28 species on the refuges in Virginia. He said that there is a control program underway for 13 of those species. He said that the number 28 is probably low.

Mr. McCauley said that phragmites receive a lot of attention. He said that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is pleased to be cooperating on DCR with a significant mapping project on the Rappahannock River. The hope is to map all the phragmites in the tidal portion of the Rappahannock.

Mr. Zedaker said that nearly every biologically based department at Virginia Tech is doing outreach on invasive species. He said that, as had been mentioned, Virginia Tech cooperates with many state agencies.

Mr. Blankenship noted that he had already discussed the VDACS emergency response plan for animal diseases. VDACS is cooperating with the USDA.

Mr. Blankenship said that Virginia also has a cooperative agricultural pest survey program.

Mr. Blankenship said that VDACS was actively involved in the SJR 38 study about the Virginia beekeeping industry. In 2007 the General Assembly appropriated \$250,000 to address the issue of honeybees.

Dr. Myers said that the Department of Conservation and Recreation continues to focus on phragmites in Virginia. He said the third annual Virginia Phragmites working group meeting would be held on May 17.

Dr. Myers said that in the summer of 2006, DCR staff treated over 150 acres of public lands on the Eastern Shore. He said DCR worked with NASA and treated nearly 100 acres on Wallops Island.

He said that over 125 people have participated in workshops on this issue.

Dr. Myers said that DCR has expanded aerial mapping efforts on the ocean side of the Eastern Shore. DCR has a grant through DEQ and has hired VCU to develop the mapping.

Mr. Mann said that the Code of Virginia tasks the Virginia Institute of Marine Science with monitoring a number of species of commercial and ecological importance. He said that 150 commercial water boats are working with VIMS on the control program.

Mr. Mann noted that Virginia is considering the introduction of a non-native oyster. VIMS is working on an environmental impact statement.

Mr. Courter provided the following update from VDACS

**Snakehead Fish:** Since their discovery in the Potomac River system in 2004, DGIF has monitored Virginia's northern snakehead (*Channa argus*) population; primarily by boat electrofishing and angler catch data. Electrofishing and angler catch rates have increased significantly each year, with the largest specimen collected to date being a 31-inch long female weighing 12 pounds. Natural reproduction was confirmed by location of a nest in September 2006, and eight year-classes have been identified from otolith interpretation. There is evidence of protracted or repeated spawning from May to September, with females carrying an average of 40,786 eggs. Seventeen food items, including 15 fish species, have been identified in stomach contents. Banded killifish has been the dominant food item, though bluegill, pumpkinseed, and white perch are commonly consumed. Although the documented population size increased, known range did not appear to expand until spring 2007. The known range now extends southward to Aquia Creek in Stafford County. Telemetry data suggests that large, adult fish are relatively sedentary and exhibit minimal dispersion, discrete home ranges, and high site fidelity. Dispersion may be occurring mainly by juvenile or subadult fish.

**Zebra Mussels:** We have not experienced any adverse effects from the muriate of potash treatment in Millbrook Quarry. Five private wells located near Millbank Quarry continue to be monitored for elevated levels of potassium and chlorides. Likewise, Broad Run is being monitored for elevated levels of potassium due to leakage from the quarry. To date, no significant fluctuations or increases above the pre-treatment concentrations have been detected. The potassium concentration in Millbrook Quarry one-year post-treatment remained near treatment levels, at about 80-100 ppm. A study of the quarry's microbial community did not indicate any differences in aerobic or anaerobic bacteria outside of typical seasonal variations. Finally, no additional populations of zebra or quagga mussels have been reported in Virginia, though recent infestation of another popular scuba diving quarry in Pennsylvania is of concern to regional interests. New zebra and quagga mussel infestations continue to appear at

isolated locations throughout the western United States, most significantly at Lake Mead.

**Mute Swans:** Wildlife Division staff is managing the mute swan population in the Virginia portion of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Efforts are directed at limiting mute swan reproduction by removing nests, and by removing problem birds where they are causing conflicts with human populations, or with native wildlife species and habitats. The 2005 mute swan count was 725 swans.

**Phragmites:** Wildlife Division staff controls phragmites on several hundred acres of DGIF land each year through application of herbicides and periodic burning. VDGIF is also working with other agencies on cooperative efforts to control phragmites on other public and private lands.

**Signs at Boat Ramps:** The Department has posted two new signs regarding aquatic invasive species at popular DGIF boat ramps throughout the Commonwealth. One, representing the national “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers” initiative emphasizes cleaning of boats, trailers and other recreational equipment; the other encourages anglers to dispose of unused bait in the trash, rather than dumping it into natural waterbodies. Both signs were cooperative ventures with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and national SeaGrant programs.

**Crayfish Poster:** A new educational poster depicting the native crayfish of Virginia also addresses four exotic species of crayfish known or likely to occur in the Commonwealth, encouraging Virginians to assist with preventing the spread or introduction of these species.

**Mid-Atlantic Panel:** Ray Fernald, along with Tom Smith of DCF and Roger Mann of VIMS, continues to represent the Commonwealth on the Mid-Atlantic Panel for Aquatic Invasive Species (MAPAIS). The MAPAIS website has recently been activated for public access (<http://www.midatlanticpanel.org>), and features Virginia’s eradication of zebra mussels as the highlighted regional success story.

**Mitten Crab:** Two adult males of the Chinese mitten crab, an invasive exotic species naturalized in the U.S. west coast, were found in 2006 in Maryland tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. This catadromous species spends 2-5 years in freshwater tributaries where it can extend up to 50 miles inland and above fall lines. Mature males and females then migrate downstream to mate and spawn in saltwater estuaries. They are adept walkers on land, and can move readily across banks or levees, or around obstructions. Mitten crabs potentially pose ecological, economic, and human health threats if they become established in the Chesapeake Bay drainage. Maryland and federal authorities are working with other agencies to determine the status of the species and to detect other occurrences in the Bay.

**Wildlife Diseases:** VDGIF continues to monitor for wildlife diseases throughout the Commonwealth, including potential threats such as Chronic Wasting Disease in white-tailed deer and High Path Avian influenza in wild birds. The Department has in place

surveillance and response plans for these two diseases. In addition, VDGIF continues to investigate morbidity and mortality events in wild animal populations, and works cooperatively with the VDACS and VDH to monitor wildlife diseases that also could impact domestic and human health, such as monkeypox and West Nile Virus.

Additional invasive wildlife species of concern include nutria, hogs, and coyotes.

Dr. Stroube said that the Department of Health provides a weekly avian flu update to the Governor. He said that Virginia now has enough antiviral to treat over 25% of all Virginians. This cost about \$11 million.

Dr. Stroube referenced the disease commonly called Mad Cow Disease. He said that there has been intensive surveillance for this disease in Virginia. He noted the disease is acquired overseas.

He said the disease is being found in some by way of blood transfusions. He said that there are testing procedures now in all U.S. blood banks.

Dr. Stroube said there were cases of malaria in Loudoun County a couple of years ago. This was transferred from mosquito bites.

Dr. Stroube said that while Virginia does not yet have dengue fever, it would inevitably be here.

Mr. Bowman said that the Marine Resources Commission is also concerned about aquatic hitchhikers.

Mr. Scrivani said the spring issue of Forest Health Review includes an update on invasive species the Department of Forestry is dealing with.

He said that through a grant from the U.S. Forest Service DOF is able to hire an intern to look at the control of ailanthus. He said that DOF is actually looking at possible uses for ailanthus wood.

Mr. Scrivani said that DOF continues to monitor for sudden oak death and has been monitoring special nurseries.

He noted that rhododendron is also a host for a sudden death pathogen.

### **Public Comment**

Secretary Bryant called for public comment.

Mr. Jean Farley addressed the issue of Hydrilla on the Chickahominy River.

Mr. Farley said that he had recently become aware of the issue of hydrilla on waterways.

He said there were two camps. There are residents who enjoy living on the water and there are those who enjoy the waterways for recreational purposes.

Mr. Farley noted that hydrilla in the Chickahominy River has had a negative impact and that the instances of hydrilla have increased dramatically.

He said that he began working with state and federal agencies and various programs to address this issue. He said that he had begun working with Virginia Tech for the possible development of a commercial use for hydrilla. He is working with bioengineers to see if there is some commercially viable product. However, he noted that it is too early in the process to speculate.

Mr. Farley thanked the Invasive Species Council for their attention to this and other invasive issues.

There was no further public comment.

Mr. Smith said that staff would be in touch regarding the meeting of the Advisory Committee as well as any future meetings of the Working Group.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honorable L. Preston Bryant, Jr.  
Chair

Joseph H. Maroon  
Director