

Invasive Species Leadership Team Accomplishments

Request for membership nominees in July 2005.

Team charter signed by Gerald Barnes, Chief, Ops HQUSACE, on 31 Mar 06

First team meeting conducted in Aug 2006.

August 2006 Meeting in DC

- Received an update on the status of invasive species in the Corps – field challenges, R&D programs, etc. This included perspectives from Joe Wilson and Tim Toplisek of HQUSACE.
- Identified 24 IS related strategic threats/challenges being faced in the Corps and prioritized needs. Each MSC was asked to identify their top elements and then national priorities were established.
- Top Needs: Develop IS national policy, share information and best practices to include education, explore funding options. Be the IS “voice” for the Corps.
- Identified 27 IS related strategic opportunities in the Corps.
- Met with the Executive Director of the National Invasive Species Council
- Met with representatives of the interagency Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force
- Initiated work on ISLT PMP or PgMP.
- Reviewed IS policies from other agencies – Corps the only major federal land manager without an IS policy.
- Viewed demos of IS management tools from ERDC
- Elected the first ISLT Chairman, Bill Zattau, SAJ.
- Developed 11 action items for further action.
- Identified topics and logistics for the next ISLT meeting.

Presentations/Exhibits by ISLT Members in 2006:

Need to insert any IS presentations or exhibits done by ISLT members on behalf of the team in 2006.

March 2007 Meeting in Jacksonville, FL

- HQUSACE updates from Joe Wilson and Tim Toplisek
- ERDC R&D and MSC IS Updates.
- Reviewed existing references to IS in Corps regulations
- Reviewed draft Corps IS national policy ISLT sub-team developed and made suggested changes. Consensus to begin with a draft policy memo similar to the methodology used for recent recreation development and easement policies.
- Began developing ISLT NRM Gateway page and related Gateway Invasives page. See <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/islt/islt.cfm>. and <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/invasive/invasive.cfm>.

- Discussed all business lines that are impacted by IS and methods for getting them to consider addressing them. Examples – regulatory permits, dredge disposals sites and contracts, ecosystem restoration projects, vehicle maintenance and cleaning, etc.
- Looked at possible Budget EC language (including designated Work Category Code) for IS funding.
- Identified funding sources for IS work through Environmental Stewardship, Navigation, etc.
- Examined and recommended changes for IS tracking in OMBIL.
- Identified education/communication opportunities for the year.
- Identified top 5 IS R&D Needs, top 5 IS Management Needs, and top 5 species of concern – refined from work at initial meeting in order to focus efforts and maximize limited resources.
- NISC and ANSTF updates
- Emerging issue updates – Emerald ash borers, Everglades restoration IS challenges, proposed legislation concerning Salt cedar, vessel mediated introductions of IS, methodologies for assessing IS impacts
- Building support/recognition for IS internally and externally
- Recommendation to identify an IS POC at every MSC and District.
- Recommendation to identify IS Subject Matter Experts (areas of expertise for ISLT members).
- Identified 8 action items for further work

October 2007 Meeting in Albuquerque, NM

- HQUSACE Perspectives/Updates from Joe Wilson and Tim Toplisek.
- ERDC Aquatic Plant Control Research Program update. Included request for IS Statements of Need
- MSC/Field updates (included Chicago ship canal)
- Reviewed draft IS national policy guidance letter
- Reviewed initial results of review of all business line regulations that might require modification for IS related language.
- Parametrix presentation on Noxious Weed GIS mapping
- Initiated work on IS related cost tracking (similar to TES cost template)
- Decision to develop business/info cards and fact sheet on ISLT for upcoming conferences
- Discussed funding challenges for IS in ES BEST
- Discussed SAJ/SAD work to consolidate IS treatment contracts
- Identified opportunities for briefing key new people in the Corps on IS (such as Mike Ensich, new HQ Ops Chief)
- Revised Level One Inventory form for IS
- Examined IS Gateway updates
- Developed a team to look at IS training opportunities
- Field tour of invasive issues in route to dinner
- Identified 9 action items for further work

Presentations/Exhibits by ISLT Members in 2007:

Dr. Al Cofrancesco, Dr. Bob Gunkel, Lonnie Mettler

Attended National Invasive Weed Awareness Week and participated in Corps panel presentation

Everett Laney

Gave multiple briefings in SWD on zebra mussels

Dr. Michael Loesch

Briefing on Emerald Ash Borer at 2007 National Environmental Meeting
Briefed RLAT and SAT on Emerald Ash Borer and obtained educational materials for Corps use from APHIS.

March 2008 Meeting in Tulsa, OK

- HQUSACE Updates from Joe Wilson and Tim Toplisek.
- ERDC RD Update
- MSC Updates
- Elected Everett Laney as the new ISLT Chairman
- Reviewed latest version of national IS policy
- Received update on IS coordination with Regulatory Functions
- Presentation from Oklahoma Aquatic Nuisance Council
- Presentation on Emerald Ash Borer policy and educational materials
- Formed ISLT sub-committees for key action items
- Extensive discussion on USACE Performance Elements in the National Invasives Species Council's Management Plan for 2008-2012 – what information we have or need to develop (reflected in Action Items)
- Decision made to develop IS Cost Template (Jim Henderson, ERDC)
- Further refinement of OMBIL data
- MSC IS POC's asked to encourage their district IS POC's to attend interagency, regional IS meetings
- Recommendation to provide standard IS contract language to RE
- Identified 46 action items for further work (many were information needs to acquire and add to Gateway site)

September 2008 Meeting in Portland

- HQUSACE Updates from Joe Wilson and Tim Toplisek.
- ERDC RD Update from Linda Nelson
- MSC Updates
- Tim Toplisek continued coordination/approvals of Invasive Species policy at HQUSACE
- Additional \$500K in APCRP this year

- Provided Linda Nelson with field input on species listing for combined IS online tools
- SAJ MOU for the Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Mgmt Plan
- SAJ Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area agreement signed
- Discussion of Tulsa's
- Hazard Analysis system to id pathways and prevention protocol
- Briefing on PSU Study, Oregon Sea Grant
- Refined National Invasive Species policy
- Initiated effort to examine Title 36 authorities wrt IS.
- Briefing on draft IS Cost Template by Jim Henderson
- Discussion of dredges and biofouling
- Proposal for IS Center of Expertise at SAJ
- Briefing on 100th Meridian Initiative by Stephen Phillips, Columbia Basin
- Discussed draft Species Alert System on NRM Gateway. See <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/invasive/alerts/alerts.cfm?Option=Start>.
- Discussed preliminary results of Invasive Species surveys being conducted at conferences and online on the Gateway
- Discussed possibility of NEPA Categorical Exclusion for IS treatments
- Formed team to update IS information in OMBIL
- Demos of IS Expert systems by Linda Nelson

Presentations/Exhibits by ISLT Members in 2008:

Everett Laney

Developed and presented a web meeting on zebra and quagga mussels

Lonnie Mettler

Chaired an Invasives Species session at the 2008 Environmental and NRM Conference in San Antonio, TX.

Worked with Mark Cornish to develop an invasive species module for the Planning Associates Environmental Restoration Session for 2008.

Participated in a Corps panel presentation at the National Invasive Weed Awareness Week in Washington DC

Jon Lane

Conducted Invasive Species Awareness surveys at various conferences and via NRM Gateway

Dr. Michael Loesch

Arranged for USFS personnel to brief LRD personnel on Emerald Ash Borer

April 2009 Meeting at New Orleans, LA

- HQUSACE Updates from Joe Wilson and Tim Toplisek.
- ERDC RD Update from Al Cofrancesco and Linda Nelson
- MSC Updates
- Tulsa shared Hazard Analyses for IS for posting on the Gateway
- Discussion of Title 36 authority wrt IS from OC
- Developed at team to refine IS training pages on Gateway
- Discussed refinement of ISLT and IS web pages on the Gateway
- Discussed development of an ISLT traveling exhibit and trifold brochure
- Team to work on EA template for IS rapid response
- Request for Al Cofrancesco to provide sample IS statements of need
- Briefing on Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units National Network
- Requested input for ANSPR research needs
- Field trip to Bonne Carre spillway (invasive fish removal underway)
- Follow-up discussion on IS Center of Expertise
- Firewood Quarantines in the Midwest to Control Emerald Ash Borer at Corps Projects by Joe Lundh
- Demo of current IS pages on the NRM Gateway
- Discussion of NEPA documentation for rapid response and categorical exclusions
- Update on IS cost template results
- Discussion of IS policy implementation
- Identified 16 action items for further work

September 2009 Meeting at Hopkinton-Everett Lake, New Hampshire

- HQUSACE Update from Tim Toplisek
- ERDC RD Update from Al Cofrancesco and Linda Nelson
- MSC Updates
- Discussion of NWD district survey on IS
- Discussion of NEPA Cat X for IS
- Discussion of rapid response and environmental assessment templates
- Presentation by on Hopkinton Lake Water Milfoil by Amy Smagula, Watershed Management Bureau, NH Dept. of Environmental Services
- Reviewed recommendations for IS language changes in appropriate ER's
- Update on Title 36 interpretations for IS enforcement/prevention
- Invasive species cost template results and refinement
- Proposal to do a field questionnaire on IS policy awareness – at meetings and online
- Discussion of Everglades Invasives Distribution Maps – see <http://evergladescisma.org>.
- Presentation of IS OMBIL data and discussion on refinement
- Presentation on Risk Assessment from prior Stewardship Advisory Team meeting

- Discussed need for IS list serve on Gateway
- Discussion of decontamination procedures ERDC developed for the military
- Decision to pursue stimulus funding for IS work
- Refinements of PgMP for ISLT
- Boat tour of invasives related work on Hopkinton-Everett Lake
- Identified 26 action items for further work

Presentations/Exhibits by ISLT Members in 2009:

Jon Lane

Prepared a poster on the Invasive Species Policy

Began surveying field personnel on IS policy awareness (at NRM Conference exhibit booth, on Gateway, at SAD Ranger Conference, and at NWD workshop).

Jon Lane, Linda Nelson, Al Cofrancesco

Gave IS presentations in Puerto Rico

Everett Laney, Roselle Henn

IS Presentation at joint Corps-The Nature Conservancy conference

Lonnie Mettler

Surveyed his districts on invasives and the national policy

March 2010 Meeting in Ft Lauderdale, FL

- HQUSACE Update from Tim Toplisek
- ERDC RD Update from Al Cofrancesco and Linda Nelson
- MSC Updates
- Cat X update
- Discussion of Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal
- Update on Great Lakes IS challenges
- Discussed standard language for IS in EA's
- Discussion on need to strengthen ties between Stewardship Advisory Team and Invasive Species Leadership Team (one person who attends both meetings)
- Latest data on IS cost template
- Finalized recommendations for HQ on changing IS language in various Corps policies and discussion of language for Real Estate, Regulatory and Contracting
- Initiated discussion on Sign Policy and signage for IS
- ISLT Communication assignments – Engineer Update, HQ briefings, trifold brochure, fact sheets, posters, and an Invasives Overview webinar for incorporation in the Ecosystem Restoration web meeting series

- Discussion of new Everglades Restoration policy that includes IS (currently awaiting signature at HQUSACE)
- Presentation on updated ISLT, national policy poster
- Briefing on BioControl Program – USDA-ARS Laboratory – Dr. Ted Center
- Draft ISLT PgMP provided to team
- Approval to add IS training information to Gateway
- Discussion of sending SAJ representative to HQUSACE to assist Tim Toplisek with regulation updates
- Tour of USDA-ARS Biocontrol and Quarantine Lab
- Tour of Everglades invasive issues – overall, pythons, etc. Met with National Park Service Staff
- Identified 23 action items for further work
- Elected new ISLT Chair, Ondrea Hummel

August 2010 Meeting in Whitefish, MT

- HQUSACE Update from Tim Toplisek
- ERDC RD Update from Al Cofrancesco and Linda Nelson
- MSC Updates
- Coordinated with Lynda Nutt, Corps National Water Safety Coordinator, to incorporate invasive species language into the water safety brochure
- Continued work on ISLT Program Management Plan
- Discussed new NPDES permitting requirements and potential impact on herbicide treatments of invasives
- Worked on updating ER Gateway, NRM/Stewardship ISLT/IS Pages
- Invasive Species Data Call update by Jim Henderson
- Invasive Species Management Center of Expertise discussion
- Swan Lake Field Trip
- Group discussion on Key Implementation Actions for ISLT; the group agreed on 6 top items: Top 6 Items:
 - Brief Chief of Planning
 - Coordination incorporating IS messages into water safety with Lynda Nutt
 - Center of Expertise – define role and get started
 - Raise awareness of IS and ISLT within Corps (education & outreach)
 - Establish ISLT subcommittees tied to the goals of the PgMP
 - Two-way coordination/communication between ISLT members & their district/division counterparts
- NCER 2011 Coordination – Panel on invasive species
- Identified 33 action items for further work

Presentations/Exhibits by ISLT Members in 2010:

Jon Lane

Presented a briefing on the Invasive Species policy at the NRM Conference.

Updated a poster on the Invasive Species Policy

Continued survey of field personnel on IS policy awareness (at NRM Conference exhibit booth and on Gateway).

Jon Lane, Julie Marcy, Don Morgan, Linda Nelson, Tim Toplisek

Provided briefings and participated in a panel discussion on the Invasive Species Policy and provided an invasives species exhibit at the NRM Conference

Jon Lane and Tim Toplisek

Briefed HQUSACE and ASA(CW) on the Invasive Species policy and the need for an invasives Center of Expertise

April, 2011 Meeting in Fort Worth, TX

- HQUSACE Update from Tim Toplisek
- ERDC RD Update from Al Cofrancesco and Linda Nelson
- MSC Updates
- NPDES Permit Update
- Invasive Species Data Call update by Jim Henderson
- Invasive Species Management Center of Expertise discussion
- Great Lakes & MS River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) Update
- Zebra Mussels in TX presentation by Brian Van Zee
- Continued work on ISLT Program Management Plan
- NCER 2011 Coordination – Panel on invasive species
- eDNA invasive species detection/monitoring/surveillance presentation by Kurt Gust
- Knowledge Hub presentation by James Stintson; applicability to ISLT
- Identified 29 action items for further work

September, 2011 Meeting in Vicksburg, MS

- HQUSACE Update from Tim Toplisek
- ERDC RD Update from Al Cofrancesco and Linda Nelson
- MSC Updates
- Invasive Species Data Call update by Jim Henderson
- Invasive Species Management Center of Expertise discussion
- Continued work on ISLT Program Management Plan
- Presentation on Impacts of White-nose Syndrome on Bat Populations by Eric Britzke
- Presentation on SAVEWS, Jr – A New Technique for Automated SAV Detection by Bruce Sabol
- Arundo presentation by Deanie Kennedy
- TCD/Walnut Twig Beetle presentation by Jeremy Wells

- Tour of ERDC Labs - Risk Assessment and Toxicology, Fish Ecology and Biomanagement
- Compiled list of potential newsletters to put invasive species article in (i.e. Planning Ahead, Engineer Update)
- Coordination of training modules to include invasive species (i.e. SPD included a module in their Environmental Planning class)
- Working on invasive species tri-fold brochure and poster for conferences, meetings, etc.
- Continued work on updating ER's to include language on invasive species
- Identified 28 action items for further work

Presentations/Exhibits by ISLT Members in 2011:

- NCER 2011 – Held a session (Organized and led by ISLT Member Bill Zattau) on Incorporating Invasive Species Management in Ecosystem Restoration including the following presentations
 - Interagency Monitoring of Bighead and Silver Carp in the Upper Illinois River and Chicago Area Waterways by Matthew Shanks
 - The Great Lakes & Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) by Dave Wethington
 - Everglades Restoration, Swamped by Invasive Species by Jon Lane
 - Invasive Species Management in the Southwestern United States by Ondrea Hummel
-

March, 2012 Meeting in Chicago, IL

- HQUSACE Update from Tim Toplisek
- ERDC RD Update from Al Cofrancesco and Linda Nelson
- MSC Updates
- Invasive Species Data Call update by Jim Henderson
- Invasive Species Management Center of Expertise discussion
- Discussed ISLT 5-year schedule and milestones
- Presentations on Chicago District projects:
 - Asian Carp management in the CAWS by Felicia Kirksey
 - GLMRIS by Dave Wethington
 - Monitoring (electrofishing, telemetry, DIDSON) by Matt Shanks
 - EDNA/Ecals - eDNA Calibration Study by Kelly Baerwaldt
 - Invasive Species Technology by Johnna Potthoff
 - NGO Perspectives (Alliance for the Great Lakes) by Joel Brammeier
 - Sea lamprey control in the Great Lakes by Mike Siefkes
 - The economics of Great Lakes invasive species by Mark Kramer
- Field trips to Electrical Barrier (Romeoville, IL) and Orland Track Section 206 Project (vegetation management)
- Working with Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts on invasive species badge.
- Recommending language into Pest Management chapter of ER 540 and ER 1105-2-550 Appendix F for more invasives language.
- SPD working on QMS checklists regarding ESA and invasives.

- Discussion of signage on boat ramps. Worked with sign committee regarding general language. Sharing information regarding specific species information.
- Discussion of the need to determine the process for doing invasives risk assessments prior to 2016 deadline.
- Identified 33 action items for further work
- Elected new ISLT Chair, Mark Cornish

September, 2012 Meeting in Sausalito, CA (Conference Call)

- HQUSACE Update from Tim Toplisek
- ERDC RD Update from Al Cofrancesco and Linda Nelson
- MSC Updates
- Gateway Invasive Species Workshop development by Jon Lane
- Discussion of a new direction – Gen Walsh’s vision of the ISLT and establishment of an Invasive Species Sub Community of Practice
- CERP Guidance Memorandum 062.00 discussion from Jon Lane
- FY12-13 Invasive Species Expenditures calculations from Jim Henderson
- Western Responses to Invasive Species: Successes and Other Outcomes from Lars Anderson, USDA (retired)
- Tsunami Debris & Invasive Species (telecon) Dr. Peg Brady, NOAA
- San Francisco Estuary Partnership discussion with Dr. Karen McDowell, Environmental Planner
- Tour of the Bay Model with Chris Gallagher
Briefing of USDA invasive species management activities including a discussion of biocontrol agents for salt cedar and a tour of USDA Albany lab from Lincoln Smith, USDA
- Tour of the Muir Woods Beach restoration project and control efforts for Cape-ivy, purple starthistle, Monterey cypress from Naomi LeBeau
- Identified 30 action items

Presentations/Exhibits by ISLT Members in 2012:

- Met with the National Invasive Species Council
- Mark Cornish Facilitated Session of the November Environmental Advisory Board (Chicago)
- Met with the Chief of Operations and the Environmental Sub Community of Practice to establish the HQ vision for the ISLT
- Revised the ISLT PgMP to reflect new HQ vision
- Added new ISLT members from the SubCoP and Military Missions

March, 2013 Meeting in Washington D.C. (Conference Call)

- HQUSACE Update from Tim Toplisek
- ERDC R&D Update from Al Cofrancesco and Linda Nelson
- MSC Updates
- ISM Sub CoP Under E-Cop with Christine Godfrey
- ISM Sub CoP- Support For Civil Works-Planning with John Furry

- ISM Sub CoP- Support for Military Programs with David Koran
- ISM Sub CoP- Support For Civil Works Engineering with James Dalton/representative
- ISM Sub CoP- Support for Civil Works Operations with Tim Toplisek
- Incorporating ISM Sub CoP Needs into ISLT, ER/EP, etc.
- OMBIL/EDDMaps/SimSuite mapping initiative by Jon Lane
- Method for Capturing Benefits of IS Management from Jim Henderson
- National Invasive Species Council/Revised from Stas Burgiel
- USDA Invasive Species Program from Hilda Diaz-Soltero

Presentations/Exhibits by ISLT Members in 2013:

- IPR with the Chief of Operations and the Environmental Sub Community of Practice
- Linda Nelson participated in the March Environmental Advisory Board Meeting (Phoenix)
- Provided formal comments on the draft Pest Management chapter of ER 540
- DLL for the ISLT was completed