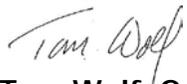


Executive Order

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Governor's Office

Subject:
Governor's Invasive Species Council

Number:
2017-07


By Direction of: Tom Wolf, Governor

Date: December 20, 2017

WHEREAS, invasive species are a global problem that pose significant environmental and economic threats to the commonwealth's natural resources; resource based industries, and agricultural economy, and may be detrimental to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, invasive species pose a significant threat to biodiversity, which is essential for the commonwealth's economic, environmental, and social well-being; and

WHEREAS, preventing new introductions of invasive species and controlling the spread of established populations into uninfested areas is both environmentally responsible and economically beneficial; and

WHEREAS, federal Executive Order 13112, as amended, acknowledges that nonnative invasive species fail to recognize jurisdictional boundaries, thus creating a need for enhanced coordination between local, state, regional, and federal entities; and

WHEREAS, creation of a management plan, to include effective communication to those impacted by the invasive species has been an effective tool in reducing and eliminating the existence of invasive species in the past; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the Governor and the commonwealth would benefit from the advice and counsel of an official representative body of natural resource managers, policymakers, and researchers engaged in cooperatively abating the introduction and spread of invasive species in Pennsylvania.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other laws, do hereby reestablish the Governor's Invasive Species Council (hereinafter referred to as the "Council") and do order and direct as follows:

- 1. Purpose.** The Council shall provide a forum through which multiple state agencies and non-governmental entities meet with a common purpose of identifying invasive species of concern that currently or could potentially threaten the commonwealth's natural and agricultural resources and the industries they support. The Council shall:
 - a. Advise the Governor on, and direct the development and implementation of a state invasive species management plan.
 - b. Provide guidance on prevention, control, and rapid response initiatives.
 - c. Facilitate coordination among federal, regional, state, and local efforts.
- 2. Council Responsibilities** The Council Shall:
 - a. Develop and implement a comprehensive invasive species management plan for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and revise the plan at regular five-year intervals or as needed.
 - b. Provide guidance on prevention and control of invasive species and rapid response to new infestations. The council shall utilize scientific methods and procedures to assist in developing such guidance. In providing guidance on whether control measures are necessary, the Council may consider the potential for wide-spread harm to public health, an ecological system, or negative economic impact derived from a species.
 - c. Facilitate coordination among federal, regional, state, and local initiatives and organizations engaged in the management of invasive species.
 - d. Convene at least quarterly and at the call of the Chairperson of the Council.
 - e. Adopt rules of procedures consistent with the provisions of this order.
- 3. Composition of the Council.** The members of the Council shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The membership of the council shall include agency heads of this commonwealth or their designees responsible for the conservation of agricultural and natural resources and the protection of public health, including:
 - a. Secretary of Agriculture, who will serve as Chairperson of the Council;
 - b. Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources;
 - c. Secretary of Environmental Protection;
 - d. Secretary of Health;
 - e. Secretary of Transportation;
 - f. Executive Director of the Fish and Boat Commission; and
 - g. Executive Director of the Game Commission.

The Council will be staffed by an employee of the Department of Agriculture. In addition, the Council will have up to 14 members of the public representing agriculture, natural resource organizations, educational institutions conducting invasive species research and outreach, conservation districts, municipal and county government associations, and the transportation sector. The members of the public will be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. A member of the public appointed to the Council under this subsection may have a designee act on the member's behalf, if the member first provides the Chairperson a copy of the member's written designation authorizing the designee to so act. The Governor will fill vacancies that may occur and may remove any member from the Council at his discretion.

- 4. Terms of Membership.** Council Members appointed by the Governor and not serving by virtue of their official position with the commonwealth, will serve for a term of four years and continue to serve thereafter until their successor is appointed. A member may be reappointed for an additional term of four years.
- 5. Compensation.** Members of the Council shall receive no compensation for their service, except that members may, upon request, be reimbursed for travel and other related expenses in accordance with commonwealth policy.
- 6. Cooperation by State Agencies.** All commonwealth agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction will cooperate with, and provide assistance and support as needed to the Council to carry out its responsibilities as set forth in this Executive Order.
- 7. Reports.** In addition to the recommendations described above, the Council shall submit to the Governor a biennial report on the Council's activities.
- 8. Effective Date.** This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.
- 9. Termination Date.** This Executive Order shall remain in effect unless amended or rescinded by the Governor.
- 10. Rescission.** Effective immediately, *Executive Order 2004-1* is hereby rescinded.