

BY-LAWS OF THE TEXAS INVASIVE SPECIES COORDINATING COMMITTEE

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of the Committee shall be the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee.

The official abbreviation shall be TISCC.

Invasive Species shall refer to and have the meaning as specified in Chapter 776, Government Code: “Invasive Species means a species that is not native to an ecosystem and whose introduction to the ecosystem causes or has been demonstrated to cause economic harm, environmental harm, or harm to human health. Humans, domestic and exotic livestock, and non-harmful exotic organisms are not Invasive Species”.

ARTICLE II – ACTIVITIES AND DUTIES

As mandated by Chapter 776, Government Code, the committee shall:

- A. Serve as a catalyst for cooperation between state agencies in the area of Invasive Species control.
- B. Facilitate governmental efforts, including efforts of local governments and special districts, to prevent and manage Invasive Species.
- C. Make recommendations to state agencies regarding research, technology transfer, and management actions related to Invasive Species control.
- D. Facilitate the exchange of information so that each member agency is informed of committee plans, recommendations, and proposals for research, education, and implementation of activities to:
 1. Prevent, detect, assess, monitor, contain, and control or eradicate Invasive Species.
 2. Reduce environmental and economic threats and threats to human health from Invasive Species.
- E. Provide a forum for developing coordinated interagency strategies and policies for Invasive Species control.
- F. Provide technical information and input to regional and national Invasive Species control coordination.
- G. Facilitate the review of committee technical decisions and work product by specialists and interested persons.
- H. Report as needed to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House of Representatives on committee plans, work product and accomplishments.

The TISCC shall adhere to and follow the Texas Open Meetings Act as specified in Chapter 551, Government Code.

Minutes, reports and other documents relating to TISCC meetings and activities shall be maintained and archived at the TSSWCB State Office in Temple, Texas.

Each TISCC member agency of the committee shall:

- A. Coordinate the agency's invasive species control activities with the committee and relevant coordinating bodies, including the National Invasive Species Council.
- B. Share with the committee the agency's technical expertise related to Invasive Species.
- C. Advise the committee of known Invasive Species threats to natural and agricultural resources.
- D. Cooperate, to the extent allowed by law, in initiatives to obtain appropriations and grants for Invasive Species control.

The committee is administratively attached to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and it shall provide administrative support to TISCC, as permitted by applicable laws and regulations.

ARTICLE III – THE VOTING MEMBERS

The member agencies of the committee are:

- A. The Department of Agriculture
- B. The Parks and Wildlife Department
- C. The State Soil and Water Conservation Board
- D. The Texas AgriLife Extension Service
- E. The Texas Forest Service
- F. The Texas Water Development Board
- G. Any other state agency added to the committee as provided by the By-Laws.

Voting will be by TISCC member representatives only.

On the request of a state agency that has an interest in controlling Invasive Species, the member agencies as listed in Chapter 776, Government Code by unanimous agreement may add the agency to the committee.

The committee is composed of one representative of each member agency. If an agency's representative is unable to attend a committee meeting or otherwise perform the representative's duties, the agency's alternative representative shall serve in the representative's place.

The administrative head of each member agency shall designate one individual to serve as the agency's representative on the committee and one individual to serve as alternate representative.

The administrative head of the member agency may change the designated representative or alternate representative at will.

When designating or changing the representative or alternate representative, the administrative head shall promptly notify the committee in writing of the name and position of the new representative or alternate representative.

ARTICLE IV – TISCC OFFICERS

The officers of the committee shall be a Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen who shall be elected by the member representatives. The member representatives shall make nominations for each office, and by written ballot, cast their vote for their choice from among the nominees. When the votes have been tabulated, the candidate receiving a majority of the votes shall be declared elected.

The committee shall elect one of its member representatives as Chairman of the committee and one member as Vice-Chairman and they shall preside over meetings and exercise those rights and privileges customarily provided presiding officers in Robert's Rules of Order.

A Chairman and a Vice-Chairman shall be elected at the first meeting following September 1st each year. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman may be re-elected. Officers shall assume their duties immediately upon election.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

All TISCC meetings shall be open meetings in compliance with existing applicable state laws.

The TISCC Committee shall meet at least annually and may meet as often as the committee determines appropriate to accomplish its purpose.

Member agencies may call upon the Committee Chairman to schedule a meeting at any time. When requested by a member agency to have a meeting, the Chairman shall contact the other members to determine a date suitable to the TISCC members.

A majority of TISCC members as described herein shall be present in order to conduct a meeting.

The concurrence of a majority of the TISCC members as described herein is required for the determination of any matter within the committee's duties.

Meetings of the Committee shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order unless inconsistent with any state law, policy or special rule adopted by the TISCC Committee.

ARTICLE VI – SUBCOMMITTEES AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The TISCC may create any Subcommittee or Advisory Committee it determines appropriate to accomplish the duties and functions of the TISCC.

Subcommittees shall be chaired by a member of the TISCC and its membership may consist of any combination of TISCC members, other state agencies and any other public or private entity with an interest in Invasive Species. The TISCC Chairman shall name the Chair of any Subcommittee.

Subcommittees shall adhere to and follow the Texas Open Meetings Act as specified in Chapter 551, Government Code.

Advisory Committees may be created by the TISCC to serve in an advisory capacity on any issue relating to Invasive Species. Membership on an advisory committee shall be determined by the TISCC and membership may include TISCC members, Invasive Species experts, other state agencies and other public and private entities with an interest in Invasive Species.

Any interested public or private entity with an interest in Invasive Species may petition the TISCC in writing to serve on a Subcommittee or Advisory Committee. Their membership on a Subcommittee or Advisory Committee shall be based on a vote of TISCC members. The TISCC reserves the right to remove or replace anyone on a Subcommittee or Advisory Committee.

The TISCC may name the Chairman of an Advisory Committee to organize and call the first meeting. Upon organization and their first meeting, the Advisory Committee may elect their own Chairman and they may serve in that capacity on an annual basis as long as they remain on the committee.

ARTICLE VI – AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of the voting members present at any meeting.

Amendments proposed for the By-Laws must be presented to the voting members at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled meeting date.

ARTICLE VII – ADOPTION

Upon adoption, these By-Laws shall be recorded in Committee Minutes and shall repeal all previous By-Laws and shall become effective immediately.