Form 1100-001
(R 9/07)

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. 8.B.4

SUBJECT: Update on Emerald Ash Borer in Wisconsin

FOR: SEPTEMBER, 2008 **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Jane Cummings Carlson

SUMMARY:

The emerald ash borer (EAB) was confirmed for the first time in Wisconsin on Aug 1, 2008. The departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection had been anticipating this event and together had recently updated the Response Plan for the first finds of this invasive pest in the state. Among the first actions taken were the declaration of the quarantined area and an intensive public information effort. This was followed with the organization of an ICS to manage the actions to be taken with the infested area. Initial review of the area and planning for an intensive survey to determine the extent of the infestation are in process. It is expected that the survey to delimit the infestation will take several months. This information will be used with other factors by the ICS group to determine the most appropriate managment of this infestation.

RECOMMENDATION:

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

No	☑	Fiscal Estimate Required	Yes	☐	Attached
No	☑	Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required	Yes	☐	Attached
No	☐	Background Memo	Yes	☑	Attached

APPROVED:

Bureau Director, — Date 8-28-08

Administrator, — Date

Secretary, Matt Frank — Date 9/4/08

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/8

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

State of Wisconsin

DATE: September 4, 2008

TO: Natural Resources Board Members

FROM: Matthew J. Frank

SUBJECT: Update on Emerald Ash Borer in Wisconsin

Background of Discovery

On, Tuesday, July 29, 2008, Julie Peltier, DNR forester for Ozaukee County, and Mark Guthmiller, DNR forest health specialist, responded to a landowner's request to inspect dying trees in his woodlands. They observed approximately 25 dead and dying ash trees and upon further investigation, found three life stages (larvae, pupae and adults) of what they suspected to be the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Mark Guthmiller followed the notification procedures and a small group of DNR, DACTP, UW and USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) personnel met on July 30 to complete the confirmation and notification procedures. Larval and adult samples were confirmed positive EAB finds by Dr. Phil Pellitteri (UW Madison), Dr. James Zablotny, APHIS and the Smithsonian entomology laboratory. Confirmations were complete on Friday, August 1, 2008. Subsequently, three adult beetles were found on August 1 stuck to a purple EAB trap located in Fireman's Park in the village of Newburg just west of the private property and these were confirmed on August 6.

Immediate Actions

Notification to the landowner occurred on Sunday, August 3 and to key partners on Monday, August 4. A press release and press conference were executed on Monday, August 4. The DATCP and APHIS declared a quarantine of all ash products and hardwood firewood covering Ozaukee, Washington, Sheboygan and Fond du Lac counties on August 7. An informational meeting was held August 11 with local governments affected by the find and quarantine to provide information on the find and resources available for dealing with impacts on communities and counties. A pubic open house was held on August 19 to address questions by the public and more than 350 people attended.

Current Situation and Limiting the Spread of EAB

EAB adults have just completed their emergence from infested material and will not emerge again until spring of 2009. The potential for natural spread of the infestation is now greatly decreased. We now have time to gather information needed to make the best management decision. There is no need to rush to remove and destroy infested material as no new beetles will emerge this year. It is important to prevent movement of infested wood however, since adult beetles could emerge from the wood next spring and develop new infestations. To reduce the movement of wood out of the infested area, DNR and DATCP use two tools; quarantine and education. The quarantine on ash products and hardwood firewood is the regulatory tool used by DATCP to prevent movement of infested material (firewood, logs with bark, etc,). Quarantine is especially effective with industries and businesses. We recognize that much firewood is moved by the public, however, and movement by the public is not easy to regulate. To address this potential source of transport, an education effort on the risks of moving firewood by the public will be emphasized.

Surveys to Determine the Extent of the Infested Area.

- An initial aerial survey of the four townships surrounding the known EAB infestations was done on August 6 to identify declining ash that might be infested. Ground based surveys to identify

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declining ash are on going.

- Large, purple EAB traps were set in early summer throughout the area of the find, in southeastern counties and many other areas of the state determined to be at higher risk of introduction. These traps are now being taken down and the insects removed and identified. We expect results from this survey later this fall.
- Ash trees throughout the southeastern part of the state and at high risk sites such as some state campgrounds were girdled last spring to make them more attractive to the EAB. This fall, these trees will be taken down and peeled to determine if they are infested with EAB. Results from this survey are expected in October and November.
- A survey of the extent of the known infestation is currently being planned for this fall and early winter. Techniques that could be used include visually surveying trees and cutting down and peeling trees suspected of being infested with the approval of the owner.

Management of the Known Infestation

Decisions on management of the known infestation must wait until the extent of the infestation is determined as this information is central to what options are possible. Other factors that will influence the decision on management options to name a few include the age of the infestation and what resources are available. The Response Plan describes the many factors to be considered and options for management of the first finds of EAB in the state and can be viewed and printed out at http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov/pdf/2008WIEABResponsePlan.pdf

Coordination of DATCP and DNR Activities

DATCP and DNR have been coordinating survey, planning and communication efforts related to EAB for three years. The EAB response plan was truly a joint agency effort, as are the current response activities. The state EAB program structure with advisory, operations, communications and science groups staffed with personnel from both agencies ensures regular communications on action items and plans. The incident command system (ICS) is also staffed with personnel from both agencies. Coordinated activities include:

- DNR and DATCP staff who work with the public including customer service, parks staff, wardens and forestry staff were notified and given instructions on how to direct questions and reports of possible additional populations of EAB.
- DATCP and DNR web pages were updated with quarantine and other information.
- Informational materials related to DNR's firewood rule and the impact of this find and the quarantine on our rule has been updated on the web and on the toll-free firewood number. This information was also distributed directly to managers of DNR parks, forests and other state lands.
- A presentation has been developed for DNR forest health and urban forestry staff to use for presentations to internal and external customers.
- DNR will provide forest resource data and aerial surveys for pertinent areas.

Resources for More information

- Wisconsin multi-agency emerald ash borer website at http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov .
- EAB Response plan under topics of interest at the above website (http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov/pdf/2008WIEABResponsePlan.pdf)
- Guide to quarantined items under the EAB quarantine under topics of interest at the above website (http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov/pdf/EasyGuideEABRegulations.pdf)
- Firewood regulations for DNR managed properties at http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/firewood/ or through the WI EAB website under topics of interest, Firewood.

- National map of where EAB has been found and quarantined areas http://www.dnr.wi.gov/Forestry/FH/pdf/EABdistribution.pdf under topics of interest at the WI EAB website.