

2009 WAA Legislative Summary

by Jeff Treu

Chapter NR 40 – Invasive Species —

Wisconsin's Invasive Species Identification, Classification and Control Rule, NR 40, became official 9/1/09. NR 40 is a WI DNR rule regarding specific invasive species. More information can be found at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/classification/>.

Urban Forestry BMPs for Invasive Species in Wisconsin —

These are voluntary best management practices designed to help prevent the introduction and spread of invasives. They are not species specific, but meant to be applicable to all UF invasives in general. They were developed by UF stakeholders across Wisconsin. For more information and to view the document: <http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives/>.

Assembly Bill 436 — For opening Stewardship funds to control invasives. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, 9/23/09.

SB-123 — Relating to regulating the transportation of aquatic plants and aquatic animals. Essentially, the law is strengthened to prevent spread of aquatic invasives. Passed and approved by the governor 10/28/09.

ANSI A300 Updates — Current A300 Project Notifications and Public Review periods:

New standard development projects:
Part 8 – Root and Root Zone Mgmt.
Part 9 – Tree Risk Assessment

Revision of existing standards:
Part 2 – Fertilization
Part 5 – Management
Part 6 – Transplanting

For public reviews, please see <http://www.tcia.org/standards/CurrentProjects.htm>.

ANSI Z133 — ASC Z133 (Arboriculture Safety Standard Committee) met 10/13/09. to begin the process of reviewing and discussing recommendations for the 2011 standard revision. Next meeting is scheduled for 4/21/10. For more information, call Janet Huber at ISA, (217) 355-9411, ext. 259, or e-mail jhuber@isa-arbor.com.

EAB — For the latest Wisconsin EAB information visit the WAA website's links and resources area and click on the link <http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/>; also see <http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov/pdf/quarantinelssuesWithEAB08062008.pdf>.

NR 47.950 — Urban Forestry Catastrophic Storm Grant passed by the Natural Resources Board. (Passed by legislature and since published 6/1/09.) If you'd like more info on the grant program, contact UF Grants Manager Candice Sovinski at (608) 267-3775.

Industry Practices — OSHA has published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. ISA is making an official statement to OSHA on these issues and recommend support of the Z133 standards to OSHA.

OSHA has published 29CFR 1910.1200 (9/30/09). The proposed rule includes minor revisions to the current HCS training requirement.

Assembly Bill 3 / Senate Bill 5 — An Act to create 94.643 of the statutes; relating to restrictions on the use and sale of fertilizer containing phosphorus and other turf fertilizer and providing a penalty. Approved by the governor on 4/14/09. Wisconsin Act 9.

Assembly Bill 138 — Relating to the appointment and term of service of the secretary of natural resources and board vacancies. Introduced and referred to Committee on Natural Resources on 3/9/09. For details, <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2009/data/AB138hst.html>. Passed by assembly and senate, vetoed by the governor on 11/13/09.

Assembly Bill 142 — Landscape Architect Bill requiring a license to engage in the practice of landscape architecture. Passed in assembly and referred to Committee on Labor. Public hearing held 10/29/09. Passed in senate 1/19/10.

Wisconsin State budget related to Urban Forestry — UF grant program restored at 99% of its current funding (\$524,600 annually). The budget passed the senate and assembly, and the governor approved the budget.

Assembly Bill 316 — Provides for increased penalties and a civil forfeiture option for plant pest violations (e.g., EAB quarantine) and also includes changes that would allow Wisconsin to join the Interstate Pest Control Compact. AB 316 signed into law on 10/7/09.

Added new link to Legislative page to Alliance for Community Trees "Hill Leaflet" — Several federal bills.

http://actrees.org/files/Newsletter/leaflet_09jun3.html?tag=news.

HR 2998 — The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009. Referred to House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, 7/23/09. It includes a tree planting program designed to support strategically planting shade trees to reduce ratepayers' energy demand (see page 367 of HR 2998).

AB-504 — Relating to a Milwaukee County sales and use tax for parks, recreation, and culture. Public hearing by Committee on Ways and Means in the assembly 11/12/09. In the assembly at time of this report. Bill History: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2009/data/AB504hst.html>.

AB649 and SB450 — Identical climate change bills recently introduced, were referred to committee. This legislation implements parts of the Governor's Global Warming Task Force report. Unfortunately, no elements of the urban forestry policy were included in the bills. This is an opportunity to advocate for urban forestry in Wisconsin by contacting your legislators with your input. See pages 168-170 at http://dnr.wi.gov/environmentprotect/gtfgw/documents/Final_Report.pdf for UF recommendations.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve on this WAA Board of Directors for the past seven years. I have always appreciated your support and look forward to working with you in the future.

Jeff Treu