

Ontario Invasive Plant Council

April 24, 2014
Conference Call
10 am – 11:15am

Summary Notes

Board Members Attending:

Owen Williams, President & Member at Large
David Coplestone, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources – Biodiversity Branch
Iola Price, Member at Large
John Benham, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association/ Wellington County
Diana Mooij, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Ken Towle, Vice-President & Conservation Ontario
Andrew Pitek, Forests Ontario
Karen Hartley, OMNR – Parks
Dawn Sucee, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Kellie Sherman, OIPC staff
Rachel Gagnon, OIPC staff

Board Member Regrets

Dr. Robert Simmons, Ontario Horticultural Association
Mary Gordon, Hydro One
Paula Berketo, Ministry of Transportation
Dan Kraus, Nature Conservancy of Canada
Jeanine West, Landscape Ontario
John Urquhart, Ontario Nature
Sandy Smith, University of Toronto
Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada
Hugh Berges, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Lindsay Barr, Royal Botanical Gardens
Jennifer Gibb, City of Toronto
Michael Irvine, OMNR – Forest Health and Silviculture

Agenda items

- Review action items from the last meeting
- Staff updates
- Introduction of new MNR – Biodiversity Branch representative
- Update on the OIPC's submission to the EBR on the proposed Invasive Species Act
- Other items

1. Review Action Items from the last meeting.

There were two stakeholder information sessions on the proposed Invasive Species Act.

Action: **Rachel** to send the invitation to the board and OIPC members. This was sent out after the call.

Comments were submitted by the OIPC to the invasive species act EBR.

ACTION: **ALL** to provide your comments for the EBR to Rachel by April 7th.

ACTION: **Rachel** to submit comments by April 14th. Done

Comments: In the situations where an EBR is posted, it may not be ideal for our governmental representatives to provide comments, but all have agreed that they are more than happy to provide clarification and provide advice to our submissions. However helping the OIPC to develop their position on an EBR that is posted by the government would seem like a conflict of interest.

An updated version of the OIPC Constitution and Bylaws was posted to the discussion forum on the OIPC website. If everyone could log on and go through these items, the document can be updated again. The program is quite easy to use.

ACTION: Rachel to enter Iola's comments into the discussion forum. They have been added.

IMPORTANT! **ACTION: ALL** to review the constitution and bylaws document on the OIPC discussion forum and provide comment.

2. Brief Staff updates

No updates during today's meeting due to lack of time.

3. Introduction of new MNR- Biodiversity Branch Representative.

Elizabeth Wright is on an acting assignment; David Copplestone has replaced her as the biodiversity branch representative. OIPC has worked closely with David on numerous projects over the years; he has also volunteered and helped out at our AGMs in the past.

4. Update on the OIPC's submission to the EBR on the proposed Invasive Species Act

The OIPC's submission is posted on the website.

ACTION: Rachel to send the submission to the group.

The proposed act has gone for a second reading; Jeremy Downe and Donna are the lead for the legislation and will be able to answer any questions. Dave will keep us updated on this topic.

Other items:

The next OIPC president.

Owen is looking to step down as President, Ken is unable to commit to taking over, and a call for nominations is needed.

It is important for those eligible to understand the work involved in being President, therefore Owen will draw up a summary.

ACTION: Owen to create a summary of the work/duties involved in being president.

We will host a conference call meeting on **May 6th at 10:00 am** for all eligible Board members, as an information session on the roles and responsibilities of the executive committee.

ACTION: Rachel to send out the meeting notice.

JOINT AGM with SERO

We were approached by SERO (Ontario Society of Ecological Restoration) to host a joint meeting. The meeting would be mid-september in the Peterborough/Kingston area.

Seems like a good fit as Invasive plant control and restoration go hand in hand.

All Board members seemed pleased with this idea.

ACTION: Rachel to work with SERO and work out more details for this joint meeting.

The draft Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health (COA) is available for the public on the EBR, closing date for comments is July 3rd. The OIPC will need to get comments in by the end of June. OIPC may be most interested in Annex 6 which speaks to aquatic invasive species.

NEXT MEETING

May 15 at 2pm – Conference Call

Call in: 1-800-669-6180

Access: 302035