

Ontario Invasive Plant Council

Wednesday April 25, 2012

Face to face meeting

Best Western Otonabee Inn, Peterborough ON

9:30 – 3:30

Summary Notes

Board Members Attending:

Dan Kraus, Nature Conservancy of Canada
Dawn Sucee, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Diana Mooij, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Elizabeth Wright, Ministry of Natural Resources
Hugh Berges, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Iola Price, Member at large
Jennifer Gibb, City of Toronto
John Benham, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association/ Wellington County
John Bowen, Hydro One
Karen Hartley, OMNR – Parks
Ken Towle, Vice-Chair & Conservation Ontario
Michael Irvine, OMNR – Forest Health
Mike Halferty, Ontario Forestry Association
Owen Williams, Chair & Member at Large

Paula Berketo, Ministry of Transportation
Dr. Robert Simmons, Ontario Horticultural Association
Hayley Anderson, OIPC
Rachel Gagnon, OIPC

Guest: **Bob Lambe**, Invasive Species Centre

Regrets

Peter Scholtens, Landscape Ontario
Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada
Tys Theysmeyer, Royal Botanical Gardens

Time	Length	Agenda item	Lead by
9:30	45min	Introductions	All
10:15	20 min	Review action items from our last meeting - Owen	Owen
10:35	25 min	Presentation from Bob Lambe on the Invasive Species Centre and discussion <i>(Bob will you require a projector or laptop?)</i>	Bob Lambe
11:00	15 min	Break	
11:15	30 min	Fundraising and the termination of Environment Canada's IASPP	Owen
11:45	15 min	Updates from Rachel and Hayley	Rachel and Hayley
12:00	30 min	Lunch	All
12:30	15 min	Executive election	
12:45	30 min	Invasive Species photo library	Owen
1:15	20 min	Letters of support for Brendan Larson, and the Ottawa Botanical Garden Society	Rachel
1:35	30 min	Working with municipalities	Owen
1:45	15 min	AGM Update	Rachel
2:00	15 min	Break	
2:15	20 min	Memberships: Organizational memberships,	Rachel

		1, 3, 5 year memberships	
2:35	25 min	Controlling invasive plants not on the noxious weed list	John Benham
3:00	30 min	Additional items to discuss	Owen
3:30	10 min	Adjourn	Elected Chair

1. **Introductions**

Round table introductions

2. **Review action items from last meeting**

Item #1 still looking for an academic representative to sit on the OIPC board.

ACTION: Rachel to find an academic representative.

3. **Presentation from Bob Lambe on the Invasive Species Centre**

Bob presented on the Invasive Species Centre (ISC, its history, current projects and tasks, and the future priorities for the organization.

Bob discussed some of the recent projects funded by the ISC including a project to develop metrics which will be used to assess ecosystem impacts. Also a legislative review on regulations used to address invasive species.

Once Bob's presentation was complete the floor was open for discussion:

What is the structure of the ISC?

There are 4 key components

- Secretariat – (executive director/office administrator/program manager/ marketing/ communications)
- Board of Directors- operations of the committee (includes: governmental reps, research chairs, first nations, municipalities etc.)
- Science and Technical Committee
- Advisory Council (not active at this time)

Where would the OIPC sit if it was on the Board? The best location would more than likely be within the Science and Technical committee.

Should we formalize the OIPC and ISC's relationship?

It would be a good idea to formalize this relationship; the OIPC is a major player in the world of Invasive species.

There is value in having formalized relationships, and perhaps as the ISC moves forward they will create formal MOUs between them and their partners.

4. **Fundraising and the termination of Environment Canada's IASPP**

Environment Canada's Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program's (IASPP) funding has been terminated; the OIPC has received funding from this program for a number of years.

Should the OIPC write a letter? All agree that a letter is important.

Some important factors to consider when writing the letter:

- How much money has been leveraged.
- A lot of valuable programs will no longer exist due to the loss of this funding source.
- Cuts are large and implications are huge, how many related programs will be lost.

OIPC should create a response and circulate it to the public as this is also a public issue.

- Get articles in national papers

- What will be at risk if nothing is done
- The national invasive species strategy is not currently being led by any organization.
- Use social media such as: Twitter, Facebook and monthly updates
- This issue should be brought up at meetings that our board members are attending and shared within their social/professional networks.

ACTION: Rachel to develop a letter and send it to the group for review.

ACTION: All to pass the letter on to their contacts once it has been finalized.

Fundraising ideas

Potential funding sources:

- Perhaps approach the OHA as we are creating the nursery recognition program, along with training opportunities for nursery and garden industry workers.
- Should we be selling our publications? This is not a good idea if we are receiving funding to create them. We could ask for people to cover the shipping costs of publications we are sending out.
- Engage industry; send letters to industry for funding.

ACTION: Hayley to send invoice to John Bowen for Dow Agro funding

5. Staff updates

Coordinator update:

- Submitted IASPP final report for 2011-2012 projects
- Radio interview with Angler and Hunter radio on the Grow Me Instead guide
- Presented at the AWARE Simcoe meeting in Midland Ontario.
- Worked on the Look Before You Leave campaigns 24 for 24 invasive species profiles. A press release was sent out.
- Radio interviews with 3 radio stations in: Kenora, Kirkland Lake and Ottawa. Will be broadcast on 13 stations across Ontario.

Liaison update:

- Working on finalizing the Buckthorn and DSV BMPs
- Attended the Peterborough garden show (OIPC booth)
- Finishing the clean equipment protocol changes
- Invasive Plant Management Compendium - Draft is complete and will be sent out to board for their comments
- Presentation at workshop for Couchiching Conservancy's Copeland Forest Stewardship Initiative
- Developing a minister's event to celebrate the launch of the Nursery recognition program and success of the Grow Me Instead Campaign

6. Executive elections

Prior to the meeting the Board members were asked to nominate 3 candidates to sit on the executive committee.

The nominees were:

- Chair: Owen Williams
- Vice-chair: ken Towle
- Treasurer: Dawn Succee

Due to the fact that there was only one nominee for each position a vote was only required to ensure no one was opposed to these three nominees.

All were in favour of these 3 nominees.

Result: the new executive committee for the 2012-2014 term is:

- **Chair:** Owen Williams
- **Vice-chair:** Ken Towle
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** Dawn Sucee

7. Photo Library

The photo library project was funded by the ISC.

Owen has gathered the photos from the OIPC, OFAH and OMNR and has catalogued them in a program making them easily searchable. These photos can be used for media, information material, publications etc.

At this time there are only a few people that can run the photo library but the long term plan is to have it online for anyone to use.

8. Letter of Support for the Ottawa Botanical Garden Society (OBGS)

The OBGS is building a large botanical garden in Ottawa. They are looking for letters of support. The OIPC should make sure that they are not bringing in any invasive plants, and if they are not actively dealing with invasive plants then there is no reason for us to send a letter of support

ACTION: Bob to find out a bit more about this group.

The Ontario Stewardship program has sent out a letter of support which discusses how the cutting of their program funding will affect Ontarians.

ACTION: Iola to forward this letter to the group.

There is also a petition that they are asking people to sign

ACTION: Hayley to send petition to the group.

6. Working with municipalities.

The OIPC will help municipalities figure out their key priorities for invasive species management.

Ken and Owen have been talking to a manager with a Conservation Authority to conduct one of these workshops in the Durham region.

7. AGM update

The OIPC AGM will be held in Guelph Ontario October 16th and 17th.

We have 1 speaker at this time, and are looking for suggestions. Also suggestions for tours in the area.

8. Memberships

Brief discussion, the OIPC would like to offer 1, 3, 5 and organizational memberships.

ACTION: Rachel to look into this further and suggest pricing to the group

9. Controlling invasive plants not on noxious weed list

How do groups deal with invasive plants not on the noxious weed list and what is the approval process at this time to get a letter of opinion from MNR?

- The initial idea of the letter of opinion came about during the cosmetic pesticide ban. With the cosmetic pesticide ban there were exceptions for forestry, human health, agriculture and golf courses. But controlling invasive plant for natural resources purposes had been overlooked. They gave provisions for natural resources but only if approved by MNR.
- The process is slow.

John's best way to deal with this is through the municipal weed control act.

Having a plant on the Municipality list means it can be treated like a noxious weed. It does not have to affect agriculture. Through this list the municipality can designate any plant anywhere in the county. It may be a good idea to provide a 1 pager explaining this to weed inspectors.

ACTION: Rachel to develop a draft.

10. Other items

The CFIA has created a new invasive plant guide which looks at new species for federal regulation. Most species in this guide are not found in Canada yet. This guide is made for people who work in the field.

NEXT MEETING

- **May 17th 10:00 am conference call.**