

Ontario Invasive Plant Council

Thursday August 16, 2012

Conference call meeting

10:00am – 11:00

Summary Notes

Board Members Attending:

Dan Kraus, Nature Conservancy of Canada
Owen Williams, Chair & Member at Large
John Bowen, Hydro One
Elizabeth Wright, Ministry of Natural Resources
Mike Halferty, Ontario Forestry Association
Iola Price, Member at large
Karen Hartley, OMNR – Parks
Peter Scholtens, Landscape Ontario
Sandy Smith, University of Toronto
Ken Towle, Vice-Chair & Conservation Ontario
John Benham, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association / Wellington County
Rachel Gagnon, OIPC

Committee Chairs Regrets

Diana Shermet, CLOCA
Francine MacDonald, OMNR
Sophie Monfette, OFAH

Board Member Regrets

Michael Irvine, OMNR – Forest Health and silviculture
Dr. Robert Simmons, Ontario Horticultural Association
Hayley Anderson, OIPC
Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada
Tys Theysmeyer, Royal Botanical Gardens
Hugh Berges, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Jennifer Gibb, City of Toronto
Dawn Sucee, Secretary/Treasurer & Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada
Paula Berketo, Ministry of Transportation
Diana Mooij, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Agenda items

1. Review action items from last meeting

- **Item #1:** ACTION: Rachel to look into the process for becoming a charitable organization, and look into the legal responsibilities that we have to our paying members since there have been changes to the incorporation laws.
- **Item #2:** Rachel is still collecting bios for the website. ACTION Rachel to send an email to those who haven't sent theirs.
- **Item#3:** Report on the *Phragmites* webinar at the next Board meeting. To be discussed later in the meeting.
- **Item #4:** Anyone with suggestions, comments or ideas for the website please send them to Rachel.
- **Item #5:** Dawn was to send some quotes for website designer pricing.
- **Item #6:** Rachel to forward sustainability plan survey to Sandy, done
- **Item #7:** The false spirea factsheet has been posted online.
- **Item#8:** OFA newsletter, Rachel has drafted the writeup and will send it to Mike once she has reviewed it.

2. Committee Updates

No updates this month.

3. Staff Updates

Coordinator

- Comments were submitted on behalf of the OIPC on the Biodiversity Strategy EBR.
- Met with Rob Tonus who is working on fundraising side of our sustainability plan.
- OIPC quarterly report was sent to the Board.
- Working on the OIPC annual report 2011/2012.
- Many email requests through our *info@* email account.
- Interviewed with Guelph magazine about invasive plants.
- Received the survey results for the sustainability plan, very constructive ideas, and positive comments towards the OIPC.
- Participated in the Great Lakes *Phragmites* Collaborative webinar.
- Participated in a Road Rally in the Halton area, Georgetown.

Project Liaison

- No update this month.

4. Phragmites working group webinar update

The *Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative* came about after a *phragmites* symposium was held in the states and some people noticed a lack of communication between those working on *phragmites* across the great lakes area. This group was created to connect those working on this invasive plant.

Their vision is to create a regional, interactive, web based communication strategy dedicated to technology transfer and info sharing, and network building.

Goals include: engage community, reduce redundancy, link science and management, facilitate adaptive management, encourage systems approach to management

1st steps:

- develop a website www.greatlakesphragmites.net
- Webinar series
- Social media
- Create a steering committee.

OIPC has connected with this group and looks forward to helping out where it can.

5. AGM Planning Update:

Still looking for a speaker for the “restoration and management of multiple species session”. Since the meeting this spot on the agenda has been filled.

The registration form and agenda are now posted online, and tours are set. We have 15 people registered already! (not including the speakers).

6. Sustainability plan

The survey results for the sustainability plan have been compiled, very constructive ideas, and positive comments towards the OIPC. The sustainability plan will report on the items discussed in this survey.

7. Other items

- **Interview with OnNature magazine:** Ken Towle did an interview with Loraine Johnson from OnNature magazine. Loraine was discussing the negative side to a militaristic approach to dealing with invasive plants. Ken mentioned that the militaristic metaphors are entirely valid. For

example: we have an invasive front, we have to choose our battles...etc. Should be an interesting article

- **TIPS Conference:** Who will be attending the TIPS conference next week: Sandy, Mike, Ken, Owen, Rachel, Hayley and, Beth. OIPC is hosting an evening social on Tuesday, hope to see everyone there.
- **Sea buckthorn and other potential invaders:** There was recently an article in the London Free Press about an entrepreneurial farmer developing a Sea Buckthorn farm, it is extremely popular for its health benefits around the world. Some do consider it to be invasive in most parts of the world.
OIPC will find out as much as we can about this plant and its potential to become invasive here and figure out the right approach to take. Perhaps the creation of a letter to OMAFRA expressing our concerns with this plant.
There are a few affiliated groups showing concerns with this plant and they have contacted the CFIA and others.

Another potential invasive which is being planted on an experimental farm is Japanese Heartnut. This too can be quite invasive in some areas.

OIPC will create a sub-committee to find out more information about this and other new potential invaders and put together a ppt. Specifically those that are being promoted by the nursery and agricultural industries. i.e.: False spirea, Japanese heartnut, Sea buckthorn...etc

OIPC will develop a presentation discussing the issues with sales, the issues of new plants being brought in and how they can become invasive, and the challenges we face when something new is introduced. We will present this at the AGM

Volunteers for the working group include: Hayley, Owen, Ken, Peter, Mike, Iola, Dan and Rachel
ACTION: Rachel to set up the first meeting.

- **Interview with Ottawa Magazine:** Iola did an interview with Ottawa magazine on forests in Ontario and discussed some invasive plants and their impacts.
- **Radio Interview:** John Benham had an interview on the radio this week discussing invasive weeds.
- **New Species at risk program:** A new species at risk program for farmers has been created and in it is a section on destroying invasive plants. (this is an OMNR and federal government program)
- **Other programs to help deal with invasive plants:** there is also a cost share program created to help farmers control invasive plants.

NEXT MEETING

Sept 20th 10:00 am conference call.