

# Ontario Invasive Plant Council

Thursday February 16, 2012

Conference Call

3:00 pm-4:15pm

## Summary Notes

### Board members Attending:

**Owen Williams**, Chair & Member at Large  
**Dan Kraus**, Nature Conservancy of Canada  
**Ken Towle**, Vice-Chair & Conservation Ontario  
**Dawn Sucee**, OFAH  
**Hugh Berges**, OMAFRA  
**Dr. Robert Simmons**, Ontario Horticultural Association  
**Karen Hartley**, OMNR – Parks  
**Peter Scholtens**, Landscape Ontario  
**Diana Mooij**, CFIA  
**Rachel Gagnon**, OIPC

### Regrets

**John Benham**, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association/ Wellington County  
**Lindsay Burtenshaw**, Royal Botanical Gardens  
**Errol Caldwell**, ISRI, Member at Large  
**Mike Halferty**, Ontario Forestry Association  
**Michael Irvine**, OMNR – Forest Health  
**Jennifer Gibb**, City of Toronto  
**Chris Graham**, Landscape Ontario  
**Larry McDermott**, Plenty Canada  
**Tys Theysmeyer**, Royal Botanical Gardens  
**John Bowen**, Hydro One  
**Hayley Anderson**, OIPC

### Committee Chair Attending

HOC: **Colleen Cirillo**, TRCA

### Committee Chair Attending

Communications Committee: **Francine MacDonald**, OMNR

## Meeting Agenda

1. Review action items from the last meeting - Rachel
2. Staff Updates- Rachel
3. Committee Updates- Committee Chairs
4. Incorporation – Rachel
5. Broadening the OIPC mandate - Owen
6. Sustainability Plan Update – Rachel
7. Other items

## Agenda Items

### **1. Review action items from the last meeting**

**Item #1** Hayley to send the list of species for the Northern GMI to the board members involved in horticulture industry for their comments. Hayley added the board members to the email list and sent it out to the group.

**Item #2:** Hayley to send updated version of the Dog-strangling vine BMP to the Board for review. Hayley is waiting for comments from MOE on the chemical control section and once

this is done she will send it to the Board for final review. **Action: Hayley to send DSV final draft to the board for review.**

**Item #3:** Rachel sent request for AGM planning committee volunteers in the January newsletter. Have had a few volunteers and are working out the dates for our first meeting.

**Item #4:** Discussion on how OIPC members control invasive plants which are not listed on the noxious weed list. Donna spoke to John Benham about his concerns on the length of time to get a permit and the steps needed to take. **ACTION: Rachel to follow up with John Benham to see if he still has questions after talking to Donna.**

**Item #5:** Update on incorporation. The application has been filled out and we are waiting to see how the discussion about OIPC broadening our mandate goes before submitting the papers.

**Item #6:** Letters have been sent to the Key sector organizations. Rachel is looking for contacts for the MTO. **ACTION: Hugh and Peter to send Rachel their contacts for MTO.**

Also looking for an academia representative. Should ask Stephen Murphy (our former academic representative) about whom he would suggest. Also there are others from this key sector who have been active on committees.

**ACTION: Rachel to pursue a few contacts and try to find someone who would be willing to sit on the OIPC as the academic representative.**

**Item #7:** The membership is currently voting on their two member at large positions for the 2012-2014 term. The new members at large will be announced in March.

**Item #8:** Bring forth tasks for the RCC: create a list of top priority species and create a summary of the options and remaining challenges to taking quick action. Waiting for an RCC chair to be appointed.

## **2. Staff Updates**

Coordinator update:

- Mailed out the letters to request our key sector representative for the 2012-2014 term. Have already received a few responses.
- Helping with the planning of the National Invasive Species Forum.
- Working on the sustainability plan quotes.
- Request has been sent out for RCC chair nominations, no one has stepped up to the plate as of yet.
- Finished the incorporation application and waiting on the Board discussion about broadening our mandate.
- Sent out the January monthly update
- Worked on budget documents in order to figure out the funding we have to meet our deliverables.
- Sent Member at Large call for votes. Have received a number of votes already.
- Worked on the Look Before You Leave (LBYL) postcard and campaign, looking at articles and ad spaces.

## **3. Committee Update**

**Horticulture Outreach Collaborative (HOC) –update:** The Grow Me Instead (GMI) received funding to expand the program to do a voluntary nursery recognition system, which enables nurseries to volunteer to display the GMI information and in response the OIPC will recognize the participating nurseries on a the GMI webpage.

A database of nursery contacts has been created and an email was sent out to ask if nurseries would like to participate in the program. Four nurseries in the GTA have signed

on. Bob Simmons has some contacts in the East and would like to forward this information to his contacts.

**ACTION: Colleen to send Bob the email and information.**

Landscape Ontario is working on an initiative on invasive plant control where nurseries take training on the invasive plants and become certified. This may be a great opportunity for OIPC to partner and help promote the program.

AGM planning committee: The AGM planning committee will be having its first meeting very soon.

Communications Committee: working on finalizing their communications plan, the Look Before You Leave(LBYL) campaign strategy is in development, and working on postcards to hand out as well as getting articles and ads in various magazines.

Policy committee- no update

Fundraising committee- no update

Research and Control Committee (RCC) – no update

#### **4. Incorporation: / 5. Broadening the OIPC mandate.**

The Incorporation papers have been filled out and are ready to be submitted but it would be better to have the discussion about broadening our mandate and decide whether this is a possibility before submitting the papers. Once we have become incorporated, if we decide to broaden our mandate it will be more work then deciding to do this and then filling the papers now.

The discussion on broadening our mandate was brought up about a year ago and it was decided that this was not a good idea for the time being.

Revisiting this topic we realize now that environment Canada, one of our main funders, recommends that the provincial invasive plant councils become invasive species councils.

There are 2 remaining plant councils (Ontario and Alberta) BC has just finalized their change to become a species Council. Alberta is currently in the process.

By broadening our mandate this may allow for more funding sources, as well as we can focus on pathways rather than just plant species.

Discussion:

What about other groups that are already doing invasive species work such as OFAH/OMNRs ISAP doing work with aquatics?

We would not want to compete with programs that are already doing work on these species and have been for a very long time. We would like to complement the programs out there already out there as well as be able to focus on any gaps. What can we bring to the table to make the whole effort stronger? MNR insects and diseases doesn't seem to get much of a profile, perhaps we could help with that. It may be a good idea to have a guest or two at our next meeting who work on programs targeting invasive species, to ensure that we can work together without duplicating efforts.

What about getting overwhelmed with work, there is already such a great amount of work to be done with plants?

We would keep a plant focus but aid committees to be formed to deal with mammals etc, help to implement the strategies already out there. Focus on the plants but deal with the broader issues, and bring together the folks who have a passion for the other species.

If we decide to become an invasive species council for incorporation purposes then would we work on insects? Yes, working on species rather than just plants would be a nice fit for

issues where insects were brought in to deal with plants, i.e. the aphids that are affecting the soy beans and the introduction of the lady bug.

Should we hold off right now on incorporation until we have explored this subject further, with the rest of the Board and with the Membership?

Yes.

As there was quorum at the meeting it was voted that we would hold off on incorporation until we discuss broadening the mandate with the Board and membership.

Suggestion is to prepare a document with the pros and cons to broadening the mandate and have something out to the broader membership before the new members are elected.

**ACTION: Rachel to draft up a document with the pros and cons to broadening our mandate.**

### **5. Sustainability plan**

Sustainability plan: we've talked and received proposals from 3 consultants and have decided to refine what it is we are looking for in the sustainability plan, and bring our new ideas to each of the companies for a new proposal.

### **6. Other items**

Dawn Sucee (OFAH representative) has volunteered to be treasurer for the Council. Quorum was on the call and a vote was held to have Dawn Sucee step into the position as treasurer until the new terms begin at the end of March, when the Board will be looking to appoint the executive committee for the 2012-2014 term.

The isc has offered to support the creation of a photo library with photos from the MNR/OFAH's ISAP and the OIPC. The intent is to make an online photo gallery. Owen volunteered to organize the library and the photos will be searchable for publications, journalists, university students, etc

### **NEXT MEETING**

- **Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup> , 2012 at 2:00pm**