

Ontario Invasive Plant Council

Thursday January 19, 2012

Conference Call

10:00 am-11:00am

Summary Notes

Board members Attending:

Owen Williams, Chair & Member at Large

Peter Scholtens, Landscape Ontario

Dawn Sucee, OFAH

Dr. Robert Simmons, Ontario Horticultural Association

John Benham, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association/ Wellington County

Lindsay Burtenshaw, Royal Botanical Gardens

Dan Kraus, Nature Conservancy of Canada

Errol Caldwell, ISRI, Member at Large

Mike Halferty, Ontario Forestry Association

Ken Towle, Vice-Chair & Conservation Ontario

Michael Irvine, OMNR – Forest Health

Jennifer Gibb, City of Toronto

Diana Mooij, CFIA

Rachel Gagnon, OIPC

Hayley Anderson, OIPC

Regrets

Chris Graham, Landscape Ontario

Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada

Tys Theysmeyer, Royal Botanical Gardens

Hugh Berges, OMAFRA

Karen Hartley, OMNR – Parks

John Bowen, Hydro One

Committee Chair Regrets

Communications Committee: **Francine**

MacDonald, OMNR

HOC: **Colleen Cirillo**, TRCA

Meeting Agenda

1. Staff Updates- Rachel, Hayley
2. Committee Updates- Committee Chairs
3. Review action items from last meeting -All
4. Incorporation Status- Rachel
5. Survey Update – Hayley
6. Update on Board representative letters - Rachel
7. Status of the Executive committee - Owen
8. Additional Items - How to control invasive weeds not on the Noxious weed list

Agenda Items

1. Staff Updates

Coordinator:

- Reviewing proposals for the sustainability plan.
- Sent out a call for the Members at Large nominations (Have received 2 nominations)

- Sent out a call for Research and Control Committee Chair nominations, today is the deadline. (Have received 3 nominations)
- Working on the Look Before You Leave Communications Plan.
- Finalizing the Communications Committee Plan and Strategy.
- Met in SSM for the TIPS conference.
- Presented at the 6th Niagara Forest Health Review, had interest from the Ontario Land Trust Association to work with OIPC.
- The Horticulture Outreach Committee had its initial meeting to develop a Nursery Recognition System which will be a voluntary program that Nurseries can sign onto in order to show their support to the OIPC and its goal of reducing the sale of invasive plants in Ontario.
- Prepared letters for Board representatives request, they will be send out next week. Also developed an excel spreadsheet of the contact information for each organization.

Project Liaison:

- Working on the Northern GMI; currently writing species profiles and gathering photos. **ACTION: Hayley will send the list to the Board members involved in the horticulture industry for their comments.** Dr. Robert Simmons mentioned his interest in bringing this guide with him to the OHA Directors meeting in March.
- The Dog-strangling vine BMP has been reviewed by MNR and significant changes have been made. **ACTION: Hayley to send updated version to the group for review.**
- The Giant Hogweed BMP is currently being desktop published.
- Working on the Buckthorn BMP draft.
- The management survey is closed and there were 104 responses. Currently compiling the information. The MNR has hired the consultant who will be working on the Delphi process and once that is completed another survey will be sent out, reviewed and a workshop will be held to finalize the process.
- Attending the National Invasive Species Council meeting in BC next week and setting up a booth space there.

2. Committee Updates

- **Communications Committee** – working on the Look Before You Leave Campaign, developing a post card.
- **Horticulture Outreach Collaborative** – had its initial meeting to develop a Nursery Recognition System which will be a voluntary program that Nurseries can sign onto, in order to show their support to the OIPC and its goal of reducing the sale of invasive plants in Ontario.
- **AGM Committee, Policy Committee, Research and Control Committee, and Fundraising Committee** – no update at this time.

3. Review Action Items from last meeting

- Item #1: Board report was sent to the Board members with last month's minutes.

- Item #2: Owen sent Rachel a link with a template for incorporation of non-profit organization.
- Item #3: Request volunteers to participate in the AGM planning committee. 1 volunteer so far. **ACTION: Rachel to send a request for volunteers in the January newsletter.**
- Item #4: Ask OIPC members how they control invasive plants which are not listed on the noxious weed list. **ACTION: Rachel to do this in the January Update**
- Item #5: Request for Chair nominations was sent out to the Research and Control Committee.
- Item #6: Develop and send out letters to the key sector organizations to confirm their Board representatives for the next term. Letters have been written and Rachel will confirm the contact information is correct with the Board members.
- Item #7: Suggestions were sent to Rachel of marketing companies that do sustainability plans.
- Item #8: Errol sent Rachel a link to Agricultural Adaptation Council website.

4. Incorporation:

Rachel will be focussing on incorporation next week and will send the Board an email update on her progress.

Ken gave a link to the “Peterborough and area fundraisers’ network” to Rachel, who will follow up with this organization.

ACTION: Rachel to send an update of the progress made with incorporation to the group before next month’s Board meeting.

5. Survey- Hayley

The management survey is closed, there were 104 responses and the information is currently being reviewed. The MNR has hired the consultant who will be working on the Delphi process and once the responses have been reviewed another survey will be sent out, reviewed and a workshop will be held to finalize the process.

6. Update on Board representative letters – Rachel

Rachel has written the letters that will be sent out to key sector organizations to confirm their Board representatives for the next term. An excel spreadsheet has been developed with the contact information for each organization and the information needs to be reviewed by each Board member to ensure contact information is correct.

ACTION: Rachel to send out the contact list to the group for review.

ACTION: Rachel to send letters out next week.

7. Status of the executive- Owen

Board Terms are coming to an end. Member at large(MAL) call for nominations are out and once the MAL are chosen the executive will be elected. Currently Owen is the Chair, Ken is the Vice-Chair and the Treasurer Secretary position is open.

ACTION: All provide your nomination for MAL.

8. Additional items:

Dealing with plants that are not on the noxious weed list.

What should the OIPC do to deal with the problem of invasive plants in Ontario that are not listed on the noxious weed list?

Perhaps OIPC should write a letter to OMAFRA listing the species that could be added to their noxious weed list, and why that it is important. Although just adding them to the OMAFRA list will not help to manage species that are not a threat to agriculture.

A list of top priority species should be created along with a summary of options and remaining challenges to taking quick action. Those species on the list that would fall under the noxious weed guidelines should be identified (by an asterisk).

This item is difficult one to deal with but the process should get started now so that change can be made in the future. As many of the species don't fall under any existing act, the end result may be the creation of a new act to deal with invasive species that are a problem in Ontario.

Another idea would be to create a document on how to deal with established invasive plants. This document would describe to a landowner the step by step process of controlling invasive plants. This may be something that comes out of the compendium results.

Action: **Rachel** to bring forth 2 tasks to the RCC: Create a list of the top priority species (asterisk those that could be additions to the Noxious Weed List) and create a summary of the options and remaining challenges to taking quick action.

NEXT MEETING

- **Thursday February 16th , 2012 at 2:00pm**