

Ontario Invasive Plant Council

January 16, 2014

Conference Call

2 pm – 3 pm

Summary Notes

Board Members Attending:

Owen Williams, President & Member at Large

Dan Kraus, Nature Conservancy of Canada

Iola Price, Member at Large

Ken Towle, Vice-President & Conservation Ontario

Paula Berketo, Ministry of Transportation

Diana Mooij, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Karen Hartley, OMNR – Parks

Elizabeth Wright, Ministry of Natural Resources

Michael Irvine, OMNR – Forest Health and Silviculture

Jeanine West, Landscape Ontario

Sandy Smith, University of Toronto

Kellie Sherman, OIPC staff

Rachel Gagnon, OIPC staff

Board Member Regrets

Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada

Hugh Berges, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Lindsay Barr, Royal Botanical Gardens

Dawn Sucee, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

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

Andrew Pitek, Ontario Forestry Association

John Urquhart, Ontario Nature

Jennifer Gibb, City of Toronto

Dr. Robert Simmons, Ontario Horticultural Association

Mary Gordon, Hydro One

Agenda items

Agenda items include:

- Review action items from last meeting(minutes attached) – Rachel or Owen
- Staff Updates, New staff intro – Rachel, Kellie
- Committee updates – Rachel or Owen
- Project updates - Rachel
- Additional items

1. Review action Items from the last meeting.

Liaison position was posted. Kellie Sherman was the successful candidate and officially started with the OIPC on January 6th.

Hayley reviewed job descriptions for Executive Director positions, and those are on file if/when we need to look at them.

Recap from our last meeting (December 2013): The meeting focused on discussions of OIPC finances and that both Hayley and Danielle were leaving OIPC to take on new positions elsewhere at

approximately the same time. Rachel has returned as Coordinator and Kellie has been hired on as Project Liaison, which enables the OIPC to keep the current projects moving forward.

The Constitution and Bylaws were looked over by a lawyer and Owen will go through the suggested changes and create a new draft which can be reviewed by the rest of the Board.

ACTION: Owen to update the changes to the Constitution and Bylaws

ACTION: Rachel and the executive will review the first changes and provide comment. The document will be updated again and forwarded to the rest of the Board for review.

Currently the two member-at-large terms are coming to an end and we will need to send out a call for nominations.

ACTION: Rachel to send a call for nominations for members-at-large tomorrow or Monday, ensuring that the requirements for those nominated are stated clearly in the email.

Once our new Members-at-large have been selected the executive committee will need to be selected. Owen is looking to step down as President.

During the discussion for nominees of members-at-large, there was some questions around if a government employee is voted in as a member-at-large, will they have voting rights? This needs to be clarified by looking through our constitution and bylaws before the call for nominations goes out.

The Board had also discussed creating an Executive Director position but decided that it was not something they needed to rush into and more discussion about that position will be needed in the future. Talk of the possibility of evolving the coordinator role as an ED will continue once we have looked over the constitution.

2. Update staff, committee

Rachel

- 2 BMPs (White Sweet Clover and European Black Alder) have been submitted to Canadian Wildlife Service. They will be posted on our website very soon.
- Working with the Canadian Invasive Species Council to help with planning the Weeds Across Borders (WAB) meeting in October 2014 (actual dates not confirmed at this time). The OIPC will be helping to develop field tours. This may be a great opportunity for the OIPC AGM to be held in conjunction with WAB.
- *Phragmites* sign: Rachel has been working with parks to finish up a *Phragmites* sign which will be posted along high traffic areas (outdoor recreational trails) in Ontario Parks. The sign is being finalized and will be printed and sent out soon.
- Updating projects, memberships and various other paperwork that was passed on when Hayley left.

FYI: There is also a TIPS conference happening in August in the Mississauga area. This conference will be focused on research of invasive plants.

Kellie

- Putting together comments which were received on the Wild Parsnip and Invasive Honeysuckle BMPs. Comments will be incorporated and the documents will be sent for desktop publishing. They are to be submitted Feb 15th

- Attended the *Phragmites* meeting in Waterloo. Will be writing up the minutes from that meeting, which will be available on the website once they have been approved by the group.
- Will be giving a master gardeners presentation tonight in Newmarket.
- Starting to work on the aquatic invasive species BMPs for MNR. This project requires gathering much information on control of 20 aquatic invasive plants.

ACTION: Rachel to update the website with committee minutes

Action: Rachel to check on future funding projects.

NEXT MEETING

March 20th 10am – Conference Call

Call in: 1-800-669-6180

Access: 302035

Board discussed the idea of holding a face to face meeting in April

ACTION: All. Anyone with ideas of a location for the April Board meeting please send them to Rachel.