

Ontario Invasive Plant Council

Thursday July 19, 2012
Conference call meeting
10:00am – 11:00

Summary Notes

Board Members Attending:

Owen Williams, Chair & Member at Large
Dawn Sucee, Secretary/Treasurer & Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Nicki , plenty Canada
Ken Towle, Vice-Chair & Conservation Ontario
Dan Kraus, Nature Conservancy of Canada
Mike Halferty, Ontario Forestry Association
Paula Berketo, Ministry of Transportation
Sandy Smith, University of Toronto
Iola Price, Member at large
Diana Mooij, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
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
Peter Scholtens, Landscape Ontario
John Benham, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association / Wellington County
John Bowen, Hydro One
Dr. Robert Simmons, Ontario Horticultural Association
Karen Hartley, OMNR – Parks
Elizabeth Wright, Ministry of Natural Resources
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

Agenda items

1. Review action items from last meeting

- **Item #1:** Rachel to look into pricing for various memberships.
Rachel sent a draft of various membership pricings and donor amounts. Comments from Board members include:
 - We need to have charitable status in order to give out Tax receipts, is there a way to work around this?
ACTION: Rachel to look into the process for becoming a charitable organization, how long, how onerous etc.
 - What legal responsibilities do we have to our paying members; everything will probably have to be laid out in the bylaws.
ACTION: Rachel to look into this as well.
 - Is \$15.00 really worthwhile, perhaps rather than sending a paper membership card, an electronic version will be better, this will save on costs as well. (on the membership renewal form ask if they would like a paper or electronic version of the card)
 - Add to the list of benefits for the general membership that they will get a copy of the annual report.

- We should design a membership brochure, this will include information on what we need the membership dollars for, what we have created in the past and the various membership and donor types available.
- We should look into partnering with another organization in order to offer discounts (i.e. discounted entry to RBG or 10% at lee valley...etc)
- General membership will get discount to events put on by the OIPC such as the AGM, any workshops.
- **Item #2:** Anyone with suggestions for AGM speakers or tours send them to Rachel.
- **Item #3:** All to send Bios to Rachel. Rachel has posted the bios she has to the website but is still waiting on a few and will update the bios as she receives them. **ACTION: Anyone who hasn't sent Rachel their Bio please do so.**
- **Item#4:** Rachel to discuss with the *phragmites* working group where opportunities to collaborate and help out lie. A meeting is being held this afternoon. **ACTION: Rachel to report on the meeting at the next Board meeting.**
- **Item #5:** All, If there is a contact that you feel would like to be added to this compendium please let Hayley know or get them in touch with Hayley.
- **Item #6:** Iola to find out more about the person on the email and Bob may connect with this person, and evolve the broader discussion.

2. Committee Updates

Communications committee: no updates at this time.

HOC: No update at this time, they will have their first meeting with the new chair in September.

Fundraising committee: Rachel submitted 3 proposals to the MNR for:

- Japanese knotweed and garlic mustard bmps
- Research compendium for Ontario
- Workshop for giant hogweed control

3. Staff Updates

Coordinator

- We received a response from Environment Canada which was passed along to the Board.
- Worked and submitted 3 proposals to the MNR for various projects
- info@ontarioinvasiveplants.ca has been very busy and I have been responding to an average of 2 emails a day. Great to see this resource being used.
- Updated the bios sheet and posted it online.
- Working with Gord to make sure that the sustainability plan survey was sent out.
- Finalized and posted the OIPC AGM registration form.
- Submitted our initial return form for the incorporation process.
- Worked out the membership pricing form, received comments from some.
- I will be going on mat leave at the beginning of January.

Project Liaison

- TIPS Conference – reminder to register if you haven't yet! There are 102 registrants, working on promoting conference
- Presentation in Nestleton for Gardening Club
- Still working on Clean Equipment Protocol – we have submitted a draft, but it is still out for people to test (Ontario Parks, City of Hamilton, and a few others have agreed to test it out and

provide feedback) and we will get additional feedback in the fall; incorporating comments as I receive them.

- Invasive Plant Management Compendium and Survey Results documents (now 2 separate documents) were sent for editing – gathering photos for desktop publishing and still adding in additional folks doing control as they are sent to me
- Comments on list of species for Asa Kestrup at CWF - CWF is currently developing a National Status Report on Aquatic Invasive Species in Canada – compiled comments received and sent them in
- Social media – 150 followers on Twitter, 164 likes on Facebook – weekly reach on facebook is consistently over 1500 people (through “shares” of our photos etc.)

4. AGM Planning Update:

Still looking for a speaker for the “restoration and management of multiple species session”.
The registration form and agenda are now posted online, and tours are set.

5. Website updates

We received funding from trillium to update our website.

ACTION: All, if anyone has suggestions, comments or ideas for the website please send them to Rachel.

ACTION: Dawn to send Rachel some quotes and company suggestions for website updates which were done with BEAN’s website.

6. Sustainability plan

Gord sent around a survey for the Board members to fill out by July 27th.

Sandy did not receive the survey.

ACTION: Rachel to forward the survey to Sandy.

7. False spirea

We have been getting a number of calls about false spirea, but there is not a lot of control information online. Looking for information from those who have had experience with controlling this species.

OIPC will make a quick factsheet for the website similar to the wild chervil factsheet.

ACTION: Anyone with information on how to control False Spirea please forward to Hayley.

Suggestion: the National Capitol Commission may have information on how to control this plant.

8. Upcoming OFA efforts.

The Ontario Forestry Association is working on an agreement with York region (north region) to do some landowner workshops on emerald ash borer and other invasive species affecting the forest. This workshop will include tips and tricks on dealing with the species.

They are looking for speakers and ideas for the workshop.

Also the upcoming fall newsletter will be a themed issue, and invasive species is the theme. Looking for ideas and articles etc, such as the upcoming TIPS conference, Ontario Strategy, BMPs...

OIPC would like to write a short article on the information that we have which would be valuable to forest landowners.

Information for the newsletter should be submitted to Mike by early September.

ACTION: Rachel to work on a short write-up for the newsletter.

Also they are offering half price advertising for any consultant which does work with invasive species.

9. Other items

What are some additional funding sources or grants that people are using since the termination of the IASPP funding?

Some suggestions:

Federally:

Habitat stewardship program to improve habitat could involve invasive plant management.

The Invasive Species Centre

Provincially:

CFWIP

OFAH does have some research grants for students.

Shell

TD bank

NEXT MEETING

Aug 16th 10:00 am conference call.