

Ontario Invasive Plant Council

Thursday June 20, 2012
Conference call meeting
10:00am – 11:15am

Summary Notes

Board Members Attending:

Dawn Sucee, Secretary/Treasurer & Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Ken Towle, Vice-Chair & Conservation Ontario
Sandy Smith, University of Toronto
Michael Irvine, OMNR – Forest Health and silviculture
Peter Scholtens, Landscape Ontario
Owen Williams, Chair & Member at Large
John Benham, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association / Wellington County
John Bowen, Hydro One
Dr. Robert Simmons, Ontario Horticultural Association
Karen Hartley, OMNR – Parks
Iola Price, Member at large
Diana Mooij, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Elizabeth Wright, Ministry of Natural Resources
Rachel Gagnon, OIPC
Hayley Anderson, OIPC

Committee Chairs Attending

Colleen Cirillo, TRCA
Francine MacDonald, OMNR

Board Member Regrets

Dan Kraus, Nature Conservancy of Canada
Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada
Tys Theysmeyer, Royal Botanical Gardens
Hugh Berges, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Jennifer Gibb, City of Toronto
Mike Halferty, Ontario Forestry Association
Paula Berketo, Ministry of Transportation

Agenda items

1. Review action items from last meeting

- **Item #1:** Rachel to look into pricing for various memberships. **Action: Rachel to send a write-up to the group.**
- **Item #2:** Rachel to send an email to the weed inspector 1 pager subcommittee to get the first discussions started. Done and will send an updated version out to the group for further comment.
- **Item #3:** Rachel to send the MIPN Distribution list to the Board for comment. DONE comments were received and incorporated.
- **Item#4:** Anyone with AGM suggestions send to Rachel.
- **Item #5:** All to send Bios to Rachel.

2. Committee Updates

Communications committee: Chair elections were held and the group has elected two co-chairs Francine MacDonald and Sophie Bull.

HOC: A new chair has been elected for this committee: Diana Shermet.

The Grow Me Instead launch event was held at Evergreen Brickworks in Toronto on June 7th. 35 people were in attendance, Minister Michael Gravelle gave a presentation along with Tat Smith from the Invasive Species Centre and Ken Towle from OIPC. The event was successful and we have since

received a number of media interviews including 3 cbc interviews, OMNI Television and garden market magazine. Also a documentary filmmaker is going to be doing a video on the Grow Me Instead project. The Northern Ontario launch was held on June 12th in Thunder Bay and 10 people attended, including media. Minister Gravelle's office sent a representative and Bob Lambe from the Invasive Species Centre also gave a presentation. Since the events 3 more nurseries have been signed on to the nursery recognition program.

Fundraising committee: Letters have been sent to some corporations for donations. Also an application is being worked on for Suncor, it should be ready to send out next week. We are still waiting to hear about our application to the Helen McCrea Peacock Foundation.

3. Staff Updates

Coordinator

- Sent letter to Environment Canada about the termination of the IASPP, responses were received from Green Party and NDP, nothing from Environment Canada.
- Presented at the Sudbury Gardening Festival on Sat May 26. Received some great feedback.
- Attended the Fish and Wildlife Congress in Ottawa, for the Invasive Species session. Great talks regarding; mountain pine beetle, aquatic invasive species, Asian carp, invasive species related to fish and wildlife, national status report on aquatic invasive species, invasive species in Manitoba wetlands. Also the Minister of Environment was there and took time to visit the displays; OIPC's display was very well placed near the entrance.
- Attended the GMI Launch at Evergreen Brickworks.
- Sent a thank you letter to the Minister for his time at the meeting.
- Received our letters Patent, OIPC is now incorporated.
- Worked on the 1 pager for the weed inspectors.
- Interviewed with the star newspaper.
- Presented at the OFAH/OMNR's summer student training session Tuesday.

Project Liaison

- Presented at the landowner workshop with CLOCA.
- Presentation for the region of Durham natural heritage committee. Presentation was on creating management plans and gave a road rally update on what was found in the area.
- Presentation at the Brock/Georgina gardening club.
- Sent around an email from CWF on the status of aquatic invasive species in Canada.
 - MNR has received the same request and will be contributing directly comments directly to Asa.
- Look Before You Leave; Letter has been finalized will be sent to the Parks asking them to post our Look Before You Leave posters.
- Since March we have had over 3 million media impressions.

4. AGM Planning Update:

Have 6 confirmed speakers, and Tours include the eDNA barcoding tour and a tour of the Guelph arboretum and their invasive plant work.

ACTION: Anyone with suggestions send them to Rachel.

5. Incorporation Update

We are officially incorporated.

6. Board Member bios.

Rachel is still waiting on some Board member bios.

ACTION: All who have not done so please send Bio's to Rachel.

7. Phragmites working Group.

Last week Michael and Francine attended a meeting of the *Phragmites* working group in South Western Ontario, this group is led by Janice Gilbert. They have been working on *Phragmites* control for a number of years.

This group includes Municipalities and environmental groups and MNR and are devoted to *Phragmites* management.

Currently they are not connected to OIPC and this was brought up at their last meeting.

It was agreed that the OIPC should connect with this group in order to help them develop and collaborate with others across the province.

The OIPC will also help to host workshops which could include elements of the Clean Equipment Protocol.

ACTION: Rachel to discuss with this group where opportunities to collaborate and help out lie.

Is there an opportunity to discuss the problem with highway maintenance and the spread of *Phragmites*? Seed distribution and spread from equipment and road maintenance. There was a researcher from Québec who spoke about research on MTO and the spread of invasive species.

8. Sustainability Plan update.

We are continuing to work with the contractor to evolve a draft plan.

Part of this plan will include an online survey that we would like to Board members to fill out. This survey will help give direction to the OIPC, and where the Board members feel it should go.

The survey will be sent out next month sometime.

9. Other items

Invasive Plant Management Compendium: Hayley is adding additional folks to the management compendium.

ACTION: 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.

Tree of Heaven: was brought up on the canufnet forum along with a discussion about planting these trees in urban areas.

Iola to reaffirm with them that the OIPC shares a concern and that Tree of Heaven is a great potential risk.

ACTION: Iola to find out more about the person on the email and Bob may connect with this person, and evolve the broader discussion.

NEXT MEETING

July 19th 10:00 am conference call.