

Ontario Invasive Plant Council

Wednesday May 17, 2012

Conference call meeting

10:00am – 11:15am

Summary Notes

Board Members Attending:

Dawn Sucee, Secretary/Treasurer & Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

Elizabeth Wright, Ministry of Natural Resources
Hugh Berges, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture,

Food and Rural Affairs

Iola Price, Member at large

Jennifer Gibb, City of Toronto

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

John Bowen, Hydro One

Karen Hartley, OMNR – Parks

Ken Towle, Vice-Chair & Conservation Ontario

Mike Halferty, Ontario Forestry Association

Owen Williams, Chair & Member at Large

Paula Berketo, Ministry of Transportation

Peter Scholtens, Landscape Ontario

Rachel Gagnon, OIPC

Committee Chairs Attending

Colleen Cirillo, TRCA

Board Member Regrets

Dan Kraus, Nature Conservancy of Canada

Diana Mooij, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada

Michael Irvine, OMNR – Forest Health

Dr. Robert Simmons, Ontario Horticultural Association

Tys Theysmeyer, Royal Botanical Gardens

Hayley Anderson, OIPC

Agenda items

1. Review action items from last meeting

- **Item #1:** Rachel to find an academic representative. Still looking for a representative
- **Item #2:** Rachel to develop a response letter to Environment Canada. Letter was drafted and sent to the Board for comment. Letter will be sent on Tuesday.
- **Item #3:** Hayley sent the industry letter to John Bowen for Dow Agro funding. John hand delivered the letter today.
- **Item#4:** Bob was to find out more information about the Ottawa Botanical Garden Society: He was not on the call.
- **Item #5:** The Ontario Stewardship program has sent out a letter of support which discusses how the cutting of their program funding will affect Ontarians. Iola forwarded this to the group. A petition was also developed for people to sign; Hayley sent this to the group as well.
- **Item #6:** Rachel to look into pricing for various memberships. **ACTION: Rachel to send a write-up to the group.**
- **Item #7:** Noxious weed 1 pager for weed inspectors.

A sub-committee has been created to come up with the 1 pager which will include:

- The information that we know about the process of managing invasive species from a weed inspectors' perspective, find out where the gaps lie and what kind of questions we need to ask the government.

- Subcommittee will include: John Benham, Hugh Berges, Michael Irvine, Jennifer Gibb, Rachel Gagnon.

ACTION: **Rachel** to send an email to the sub-committee to get start the first discussions.

2. **Staff Updates**

- Radio interviews with a number of stations including 3 CBC French stations, angler and hunter radio which will air this Saturday
- Presented at the Muskoka Stewardship Conference meeting in Bracebridge.
- Taped a show for a nature series with Rogers TV. They are filming 16 shows and one of them was on invasive plants. I was able to showcase a lot of our material.
- Sent out a monthly update.
- Submitted a proposal to the Helen McCrea peacock foundation, for the expansion of the nursery recognition program.
- Working with Hayley on the Suncor proposal for a pilot project of the boot brush stations.
- Finished the response letter to Environment Canada's IASPP fund termination.
- Incorporation papers have been sent.
- Working with MIPN on the distribution of various species by County and would like to confirm with the rest of the group on some of these sightings.

ACTION: **Rachel** to send out the list, to the board of MIPNs species

Project Liaison

- BMP for DSV and Buckthorn are complete and on the website. This will be going through communications approval and will be posted on the EBR before the "draft" watermark can be removed.
- GMI: helping to organize the minister's event on June 7th.
- Working with the AGM planning committee to book speakers and tours.
- Invasive plant management compendium, draft has been sent to the board for review and waiting on comments.
- Clean equipment protocol draft was sent for review to the communications committee and Board, please provide comments by May 30th.
- Attended the OSUM conference
- Hosted a station at the garden hills elementary school literacy night.

3. **Committee Updates**

Grow Me Instead event is planned for June 7th at Brickworks in Toronto – 27 people registered so far and we have received confirmation that Minister will be there. Minister's office requested a similar event in Northern Ontario for the Northern Grow Me Instead Guide – Hailey Powell from ISAP works out of Thunder Bay and has started to plan the event, will be on June 12th at the EcoSuperior native plant garden in Thunder Bay.

Dayna Laxton has received funding for a student to go to nurseries to see if they are selling invasive plants that are mentioned in the guide. This student is through the Ontario Streams program and will not be confronting nurseries but will provide them with information material.

Information about the number of nurseries selling these plants will be recorded; this will be important information to compare in years to come.

Both HOC and communications committees are electing their new Chair for the 2012-2014 term.

4. Update from 24 for 24 campaign:

We have been contacted by various media to talk about the campaign and Rachel has done a number of radio interviews, both in French and English.

Look Before You Leave ads have been added to Ontario Park's tabloids along with Ontario parks e-newsletter.

The number of twitter followers and Facebook likes has grown every day since the campaign started and a number of groups have been "re-tweeting" the cartoons.

The campaign has had "virality" status on facebook

Tomorrow is our last cartoon!!

5. AGM planning committee update

3 sessions plus a plenary – sessions are:

- Restoration and Mgmt of Multiple Species
- BioControl
- Future of IS in Ontario

Have 6 confirmed speakers:

Brendon Larson -

Doug Kennedy – Importance of restoration in IS control

Richard Dickinson – Potential DSV Biocontrol on Carden Alvar

Andrea Smith - IS Legislative Review for Ontario

Laura Mousseau – Using social media to successfully engage the public

Steven Newmaster has confirmed to speak on the barcode of life as well as will give a tour.

Suggestions: Bringing back the elm trees project; University of Guelph.

RBG and the city of Hamilton have been doing quite a bit of work on invasive management. (perhaps a tour)

ACTION: Anyone with suggestions send to Rachel.

6. Fundraising update

We have submitted a proposal to the Helen McCrea peacock foundation. We will find out by September if we were successful in receiving the grant.

Also we have been working on a proposal for Suncor.

7. Board member bios:

Rachel would like to update our website with a photo of each board member along with a short bio. Please send this information to her. **Let Rachel Know if you are against having a photo on our site.**

ACTION: Rachel will send out a reminder with the meeting minutes.

8. Letter to EC.

Received comments from Board members and have made changes.

The letter will be sent on Tuesday, and will CC- Elizabeth May, Thomas Mulcaire, Bob Rae

9. Other items

Ottawa Botanical Garden Society: Iola has spoken to some people and there are concerns with the location of the garden as well as if there is a management plant for invasive species.

National Capital Commission's Aggressive Invasive Alien Species Workshop. Iola attended this workshop and will send out the draft outline of the event.

TIPS conference: are board members attending: it is still split as some are not sure if they will be attending at this time.

NEXT MEETING

- **June 21st 10:00 am conference call.**