

Ontario Invasive Plant Council

October 28th, 2014

**Conference call
10:00am-11:30am**

Summary Notes

Board Members Attending:

Iola Price, President & Member at Large
Ken Towle, Vice-President & Conservation Ontario
Owen Williams, Past President & Member at Large
Dawn Sucee, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Michael Irvine, OMNRF – Forest Health and Silviculture
Jeanine West, Landscape Ontario
Sandy Smith, University of Toronto
David Copplestone, OMNRF – Biodiversity Branch
Karen Hartley, OMNRF – Parks
Kellie Sherman, OIPC staff
Rachel Gagnon, OIPC staff

Board Member Regrets

Mary Gordon, Hydro One
Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada
Hugh Berges, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Jennifer Gibb, City of Toronto
Andrew Pitek, Forests Ontario
Diana Mooij, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Mhairi Mcfarlane, Nature Conservancy of Canada
Suzanne Hanna, Ontario Horticultural Association
John Urquhart, Ontario Nature
Paula Berketo, Ministry of Transportation
John Benham, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association/ Wellington County
Dave d'Entremont, Royal Botanical Garden

Agenda items

- Review action items from last meeting
- Staff updates
- EDRR proposal – update
- EBR Comments for noxious weed list
- Approval of auditors for next year
- *Phragmites* proposal to Trillium Foundation
- *Phragmites* toolkit
- PWG on the website
- OIPC Board needs a Secretary treasurer to meet our bylaws requirement
- Policy committee items for consideration
- Updating the OIPC website
- IPPC comments
- OMNRF OIPC contract/agreement signed – brief outline of what it means for us.

1. Review Action Items from the last meeting

ACTION: Bylaws will be posted to the website. (Rachel) DONE

Action: Rachel to send David the site plan of the website.

Iola moved to approve the minutes from the AGM, seconded. All approved, 0 opposed.

Minutes have been approved.

2. Staff Updates

Rachel

- Worked on finalizing items after the OIPC AGM, including evaluation forms summary, updates to the website to include presentations, “thank you’s” to the speakers etc.
- Much of my time has been spent working on the EDRR project, which will be discussed further in today’s agenda.
- Working on the next invasive plant management webinars which will begin next month.
- Drafted the OIPC’s EBR comments for the Noxious Weed list changes.
- Weeds Across Borders – much time spent with the organization of this conference. I lead the field tours, and presented on the Canadian Council’s National Horticulture Action Plan, which I lead the development of. I have also summarized the evaluation forms. The WAB had approximately 80 people in attendance and the feedback was very positive.

Kellie:

- Currently working on the ISC funded project to develop an invasive plant management plan for York Region. York is currently reviewing the draft plan, and I am also working on the second part of the project which is a framework which other municipalities can use to develop their own plan. The final part of this project is a workshop which will be hosted sometime in the new year.
- Finishing up the aquatic BMP which is being reviewed by MNR, final revisions will be made and it should be on the site within the next month.

3. EDRR Proposal update

OIPC has been working with the ISC to finalize the EDRR proposal in order to submit it to the Ontario Trillium Foundation. It has recently gone through a number of revisions and the most recent version was sent to the Board late last night.

Board discussion:

Are we sure all those who have written a letter of support have seen the more recent versions of the proposal, we are aware of a few of the organizations that have signed a letter of support who have not seen the proposal in over a year. It is important that these people are made aware of what is in the proposal.

It needs to be more clear how any workshops will be conducted, and who they are for public? Teachers? Landowners? Etc. It may be difficult to work with schools if we are not willing to design the program within the current curriculum, this is something we need to think about. The teacher item may be out of the scope of the project.

Trillium does require a partnership agreement be submitted with the proposal; lola has a template from the Canadian Wildlife Federation that she feels would be of great use to us for our own agreement in this project.

*****ACTION: All to provide comments to Rachel by this Thursday at 10am.**

ACTION: lola will look into the collaboration agreement

4. EBR Comments for noxious weed list

Rachel worked on the OIPC's comments for the recent EBR posting on the proposed changes to the Noxious Weed List. Any final comments? One comment: replace the word ditches with drains.

5. Approval of auditors for next year

Now that we are incorporated we will need to approve our auditors for the AGM next year. All agreed to wait until the audit has been finalized. We will then vote to approve them for next year's AGM.

6. *Phragmites* Ontario Trillium Foundation

The *Phragmites* project is being submitted by Colin Dobell, and they would like OIPC to be a lead supporter. The project focuses on rapid response of *Phragmites* within the Georgian Bay area. The proposal was sent on to the Board and they agreed that we would like to see the project submitted with the OIPC name on it.

7. *Phragmites* toolkit

The *Phragmites* toolkit is on the Ontario *Phragmites* working group website. It is a working document and therefore changes can be made over time.

8. OPWG website

The *Phragmites* website url has changed to: www.opwg.ca if you happen to type in the older url, you will be redirected to this site.

One of the items we have on the website is the information on ongoing projects in the province. If there is a project to be featured it can be uploaded to the site by contacting Kellie.

9. OIPC Board needs a secretary

According to our bylaws we need a secretary and a treasurer or a secretary/treasurer. Currently we are in non-compliance with our bylaws.

ACTION: Rachel to send out an email asking for nominations, with a 2 week deadline.

10. Policy committee items for consideration

Discussion on the attendance of some Board members and lack of attending meetings.

David C. will begin to work on a protocol outlining the steps we will take when a director has not attending a number of meetings.

ACTION: David C. to look into it.

11. Updating the OIPC website

It can be difficult to find items on the website and some simple changes may be the answer. It could be that we have too many categories and we need to simplify it a little bit.

ACTION: OWEN will take a crack at simplifying the categories to make it easier to find everything.

12. IPPC comments

Not discussed

13. OMNRF –OIPC Contract /agreement signed – brief outline of the work involved:

We have officially signed our contract with MNR to work on the following items:

- a. Develop draft aquatic invasive plant watch list, list modules and support material and deliver 2 workshops
- b. Draft invasive plant management training modules for land managers
- c. Updates to existing BMPs documents
- d. Invasive Plant management webinars
- e. Final product and Report

ACTION: Rachel to send the agreement to the Board.

14. Other Items:

Collaborate with Carolinian Canada-

Next spring Carolinian Canada is hosting a native plants festival and they are looking for partners to put this event on. One of the key audiences is municipalities and so it might be a great opportunity for OIPC to provide information on invasive plant management and its importance regard the health of native plants.

ACTION: Owen will continue to discuss this idea with Carolinian Canada and keep the Board updated.

National Wetland Conservation Fund Opportunity

The Lambton Shores *Phragmites* working group has been doing a lot of work under the Phragmites management plan, created by Janice and Nancy, for the Lambton Shores municipality. The group is looking to apply to the National Wetland Conservation Fund to continue management of Phragmites in a provincially significant wetland where they've been working.

OIPC would be the lead applicant, the lead support would be the Lambton Shores working group who would also conduct all the control efforts for this project. The Board agreed to the OPWG submitting a proposal to this fund.

OPWG letter of support:

The letter has been passed around to the Board a number of times and we would like to get final approval of the letter. All agreed that this letter is ready to move forward.

Invasive species debate

Ken took part in the invasive species debate with Brendon Larson, at the Ontario Land Trust event. The debate went very well and it was very interesting.

Next meeting:

November 20th 10am via conference call.