

Ontario Invasive Plant Council

November 20th, 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
Jeanine West, Landscape Ontario
Sandy Smith, University of Toronto
David Coplestone, OMNRF – Biodiversity Branch
Kellie Sherman, OIPC staff
Rachel Gagnon, OIPC staff
Andrew Pitek, Forests Ontario
Mhairi McFarlane, Nature Conservancy of Canada
John Benham, Ontario Soil and Crop

Board Member Regrets

Karen Hartley, OMNRF – Parks
Dawn Sucee, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Michael Irvine, OMNRF – Forest Health and Silviculture
Mary Gordon, Hydro One
Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada
Hugh Berges, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Jennifer Gibb, City of Toronto
Diana Mooij, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Suzanne Hanna, Ontario Horticultural Association
John Urquhart, Ontario Nature
Paula Berketo, Ministry of Transportation Improvement Association/ Wellington County
Dave d’Entremont, Royal Botanical Garden

Agenda items

- Approval of last month’s minutes
- Review action items from last meeting
- Staff updates
- Invasive Species Act reintroduction - Iola
- Carolinian Canada partnership update – Owen
- OIPC and OFAH MOU- Iola
- Website refresh - Owen
- Proposals submitted to Ontario Trillium Foundation - Iola
- Jute Burlap Project - Iola
- Envirothon - Iola
- Other items.

1. Approval of last month's minutes

Motion: lola moved to approve the minutes from the October 28th Board meeting. Moved by Owen Williams and seconded. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

2. Review Action Items from the last meeting

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

Rachel still looking for a more detailed site plan.

Action: Rachel and David to continue working on this.

Action: All to provide comments on the Trillium proposal

Action: lola will look into the collaboration agreement used by the Canadian Wildlife Federation This was done. lola looked at a template collaboration agreement by the Canadian Wildlife Federation but as it is for the creation and sale of merchandise, it was not relevant to the Trillium proposals.

Two proposals were submitted: One related to *Phragmites* control with Ontario Water Centre and the 2nd with the Invasive Species Centre on Early Detection and Rapid Response. Comments went in and both proposals were submitted. Collaboration agreements were also submitted with both projects.

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

Rachel sent out the email for nominations last week. The deadline is November 27th.

OFAH acts as our banker and therefore the work is largely taken care of, the position will mostly be oversight on the budget.

ACTION: Rachel to add the Secretary/Treasurer nominations as an item on next month's agenda

ACTION: David C to look into policy items for Board member's meeting attendance.

David is drafting a policy n Board member attendance at meetings. David will have something ready to share with the group soon.

ACTION: Rachel to send the OIPC-OMNRF agreement to the Board

Agreement was sent out to the group, work is being done on the deliverables within the agreement and it is important on Board members to assist in reviewing documents when needed.

National Wetland Conservation Fund Update: the Lambton Shores *Phragmites* community group has decided to proceed without OIPC as the lead applicant. The OIPC will provide in-kind support where possible.

Concern raised: ensure that all time dedicated to this project is documented.

3. Staff Updates

Kellie:

- Close to completing the Invasive plant management strategy for York Region, and working on the framework which will be sent to the research and control committee for review. Will begin plans for the workshop in February.

- Completed second winter webinar on Dog-strangling Vine (30 participants) and it went well. A reminder that all past modules are posted on our website.
- *Phragmites* BMP is being updated. Draft will be sent to some members of the OPWG and the research and control committee and Michael and Francine soon and comments will be incorporated.
- OPWG conference call meeting on Tuesday November 25th at 1pm. Face to face meeting January 13 2015 at the University of Waterloo.

Rachel:

- Submitted the EBR comments to the proposed changes to the Noxious Weed list
- Hosted a webinar on Giant Hogweed through the Canadian Institute of Forestry. 650 people were listening in. Their biggest turnout since their webinar series began in April.
- Submitted our final comments on the EDRR proposal and agreement
- Sent out the OIPC e-newsletter about our winter webinar series.
- Followed up with the auditors and the final audit should be finished before the end of the year.
- Sent minister Mauro a thank you letter for having us at the Invasive Species Act re-introduction ceremony.
- MIPN Board call, many changes are happening with that group, they are seeking a new coordinator and the group is looking for a new location to host that person.
- Webinars have been posted to the OIPC website, along with the quizzes. I've been providing those who have taken the quizzes with a certificate of completion.

4. Carolinian Canada partnership update

The date for the event is April 18th 2015 at the Western Fairgrounds in London. There are quite a number of partners coming forward. This partnership is a good opportunity for OIPC to identify any additional items we would want to be a part of the event, i.e. showcase the Invasive Plant Strategy or the framework for municipalities.

This project will be a lot of work and so it may be wise to create a subcommittee to help with the workload. A subcommittee would also be a good way to reach out to our members in the London area.

Owen will be working out the logistics of the event. Mhairi can help out.

We should connect with Thames Talbot Land Trust as they have property in London and the surrounding areas and actively manage invasive species. Advertising could also go through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

ACTION: Owen will work on a list of action items for the event.

ACTION: Owen will look into the cost of putting something in AMO's newsletter

ACTION: Owen to find out who is on the AMO Board executive and forward that information to Rachel.

ACTION: Rachel to contact them to work out a deal for advertising in their newsletter.

Landscape Ontario is also interested in the event

ACTION: Owen and Jeanine to discuss how we can work together with LO.

Note: it is important to track the time and resources we are dedicating to this event.

5. OFAH and OIPC MOU

MOU has not been signed yet. Would like some items cleared up before signing.

ACTION: Rachel to send the most recent version to the group.

ACTION: All to look at the MOU and provide comments to Rachel

6. Website Refresh

Owen is using google analytics to understand where users are focusing their time and attention on the website. He will continue to work with Kellie and Rachel on tweaking the website. Will update at the next meeting on how things are coming along.

7. Proposals submitted to Ontario Trillium Foundation - Iola

Two proposals were submitted: One related to *Phragmites* control with Ontario Water Centre and the 2nd with the Invasive Species Centre on Early Detection and Rapid Response. Comments went in and both proposals were submitted. Collaboration agreements were also submitted with both projects.

8. Jute Burlap project

A Québec organization is working on controlling Eurasian watermilfoil in both Ontario and Quebec and would like to find an organization in Ontario to partner and expand this project. They have approached the OIPC. Perhaps we are not the ideal partner here, but what is the protocol for when an organization is looking to partner in projects? Would we help them find partnerships? Should we provide a location for people to advertise their projects in order to find others that could help?

OIPC could have a page that lists the project and the contact information and encourages the use of our forum to trade the details

ACTION: Owen to add this to the future plans for the website.

9. Envirothon

Ontario Forests hosts an annual competition in Ontario called the "Envirothon". Envirothon is a Canada – USA competition for high schools and in 2016 the international competition will be held in Peterborough at Trent University and Sir Sandford Fleming College. The 2016 theme is invasive species and is a good opportunity for the OIPC to work with them.

Andrew, Rachel, Jessica and Iola had a conference call to discuss how OIPC could be involved such as helping with resources, volunteering, judging final presentations etc. It is quite open and just wanted to see if the Board thought this was a good idea. All agreed.

ACTION: Andrew will keep us up to date on this item.

10. Other items

Agenda layout

In the future include more information on agenda items sent out prior to meeting.

Next meeting: December 18th 10am or 2pm

Time to be confirmed