

Ontario Invasive Plant Council

Thursday Sept 20th, 2012

Conference call meeting

10:00am – 11:00

Summary Notes

Board Members Attending:

Diana Mooij, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Elizabeth Wright, Ministry of Natural Resources
Owen Williams, Chair & Member at Large
Ken Towle, Vice-Chair & Conservation Ontario
Iola Price, Member at large
Dawn Sucee, Secretary/Treasurer & Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
John Benham, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association / Wellington County
Jennifer Gibb, City of Toronto
Peter Scholtens, Landscape Ontario
Mike Halferty, Ontario Forestry Association
Dr. Robert Simmons, Ontario Horticultural Association
Hayley Anderson, OIPC

Committee Chairs Attending

Diana Shermet, CLOCA

Board Member Regrets

Michael Irvine, OMNR – Forest Health and Silviculture
Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada
Tys Theysmeyer, Royal Botanical Gardens
Hugh Berges, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada
Paula Berketo, Ministry of Transportation
Dan Kraus, Nature Conservancy of Canada
Karen Hartley, OMNR – Parks
Sandy Smith, University of Toronto

Agenda items

1. Review action items from last meeting

- **Item #1:** Rachel was to look into the process of becoming a charitable organization and the legal responsibilities that we have to our paying members with the impending changes to the incorporation act. Have looked into this a bit, and will be meeting with someone here at OFAH to further discuss the issues with the new legal responsibilities that we have to our paying members since the changes to the incorporation laws. **ACTION: Rachel to look into process further and update the Board on the meeting she has had with Sue at OFAH.**
ACTION: Rachel to have Owen involved via conference call to this meeting.
ACTION: Iola to send Rachel the cheat sheets to Rachel about the changes.
- **Item #2:** Rachel is still collecting bios for the website. **ACTION Rachel to send an email to those who haven't sent theirs.**
Item#3: OIPC will create a sub-committee to find out more information about this and other new potential invaders and put together a ppt. specifically those that are being promoted by the nursery and agricultural industries. OIPC will develop a presentation discussing the issues with sales, the issues of new plants being brought in and how they can become invasive, and the challenges we face when something new is introduced. We will present this at the AGM. **ACTION: Rachel to set up the first meeting for the group to work on sea buckthorn and other invaders.**

2. Committee Updates

HOC update

- Had a meeting, on Tuesday, reviewed the accomplishments of the committee to date. It was discussed that an FAQ section would be great on the websites regarding the GMI
- Discussed the importance of getting a space on next year's nursery grower's tour.
- We will have to review and possibly revise the southern GMI guide, adding some additional species.
- Dayna Laxton she has a summer student who does aquatic inventories, this year included terrestrial plants, a summary of the findings were given at the meeting. **ACTION: Rachel to pass this report along to the Board.**
- HOC is looking at acquiring booths space at the garden expo this year.
- Would like to contact universities and colleges to provide them with a canned presentation about invasive plants, which would be given to their horticultural programs.
- Expanding the GMI program: the HOC would like to contact Conservation Ontario to form a GMI working group. If an agreement could be worked out the CAs would act as local leaders for the GMI in their areas, much like TRCA does in the GTA. This may also be brought up at the next SCOCA meeting.

Communications Update

- OIPC communications committee is looking into the possibility of OIPC presenting at the Master Gardener National Conference (April)
- Producing colouring/activity book using the cartoons produce for May Day campaign.
- As a result of a Facebook vote, the 4 cartoons for the Ontario parks tabloids were selected (DSV, ALHB, Phrag, Worms)

3. Staff Updates

Coordinator

- Posted the false spirea factsheet online.
- Wrote up the and OIPC 1 pager for the OFA newsletter and sent it on to Mike Halferty
- Attended the TIPS Conference
 - Over 100 people in attendance, great presentations, Daniel Symberloff was very good, OIPC was mentioned often by presenters and others at the meeting and Rachel has since had people talk to me about the OIPC and how impressed they are with the work we have been doing.
- Fielding many requests and questions from the info@ email address.
- Working out our final details for the AGM, we need to set up a time for a Board meeting.
- Many registrations and memberships coming through, this is taking up a lot of my time.
- Met with Rob Tonus who is working on fundraising side of our sustainability plan. Also had another meeting about the sustainability plan.
- Working on the annual report which I will have done for the AGM.
- Spoke to a writer with Ontario Farmer about smart phone apps for invasive plants.

Project Liaison

- BMPs: we've received funding to do Garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed BMPs, and comments for Japanese knotweed one are due sept 28th. Garlic Mustard, it will be sent out to the group for comment very soon.
- Research compendium started the survey questions, and we will be sending out to the RCC committee

- Started working on the Giant hogweed workshops for trained landscape managers on proper removal of the plant. Similar to the workshop we did with CLOCA a few years ago. We are looking for host partner organizations to team up with and do these workshops. 1 in northern Ontario, 1 in southern Ontario.
- Updating website
- Clean equipment protocol to update and revise, we will be putting together a working group.

4. Incorporation update and charitable status

We received our initial return form back, to make a few changes. The change was that we legally need to have a President, for legality sake, the chair position will be known as the President. This is something we will have to update in our constitution and bylaws.

A decision the Board can make once we review the TOR and bylaws is whether we would like the position to be referred to as the Chair and president, or just the president.

5. Funding and projects:

We had applied to the Helen McCrea Peacock foundation for funding towards the grow me instead project, we will not be receiving funding from them.

We have however received funding from the MNR to do a few projects this fiscal including, Japanese Knotweed and Garlic Mustard BMPs, a research compendium and, a workshop for herbicide professionals on proper control of giant Hogweed.

We are also in the process of submitting an application form to the ISC for funding of the Nursery Recognition Program phase 2 which will be expanding it across the province, phase 2 of the clean equipment protocol and the digital publishing of our management compendium.

A call for proposals is also out for ISC for the 2013-2014 fiscal and we will be (went out yesterday) and we will be convening the Fundraising committee to discuss the projects we will submit for this.

ACTION: Rachel to convene the Fundraising committee to discuss the projects we will submit.

6. Requests for support:

a. Request for support on Water chestnut proposal from Voyager PP – Hayley

Voyageur Provincial park is looking for additional funding for their water chestnut project and need to work with a Non-profit organization and are looking to OIPC to be the lead partner in the project.

Group discussion:

Maybe OIPC should develop a BMP for water chestnut. Karen has been involved with the work at Voyageur PP, it is the only location in Ontario to date, so it might be a consideration on whether we actually want to invest in a BMP at this time.

It would be useful to have the executive on a call with Jennifer to discuss some of the questions we may have about this.

This seems like a great opportunity for partnership. We should zero in on this when you have one location, this seems like an important project for the OIPC.

ACTION: Hayley to set up a conference call with the Executive Committee and Jennifer to get additional information about this project.

b. Request for OIPC support on the milfoil weevil program (information to follow) – Rachel

Executive summary was passed along to the group.

Through the board discussion the Board could not come to an agreement on whether to write a letter of support.

Comments from the group:

It seems there are some important facts that are missing, and we would need to know the entire story before providing a letter of support.

What are Parks Canada's concerns with this project?

Is there possibility of spread of the weevil, and what ecological impacts of that spread would be.

Also this technique has been used in smaller closed waterbodies. Trent River is a large open system, will these weevils work there.

Conclusion: the Board cannot come to a full agreement, as there are a number of unanswered questions, such as what Parks Canada's concerns are. OIPC will continue to strive to understand the pros and cons to this particular project.

OIPC would also like to know what Parks Canada's response is, as a Council we would like to stay in touch as this issue unfolds and help to resolve it where we can.

A Board member vote was taken; it was decided to write the letter stating that the board could not come to agreement about supporting this project and that we would be interested to know about its progress.

ACTION: Rachel to draft letter stating that we could not come to agreement, and that we would like to know what Parks Canada's stance is

c. Request for OIPC support on invasive species inventory project (information attached) - Rachel

Suggestion is to chat with this person to see who the additional partners are, and what the expectations would be. Some questions need to be answered.

Questions –

- Is there a permit required? And is this duplicating information that Parks Canada already has on the Trent Severn, what is Parks Canada involvement in this project?
- Where is the data collected going to go? Who will have access to the data? How are they coordinating with parties who are doing existing work in the area?

ACTION: Rachel to set up call with Nanda and the executive committee ASAP to be sure that the proposal gets put in on time

7. Update from weed inspector 1 pager project – Rachel

Rachel needs to go through write-up from Mike Cowbrough and pick out final points.

Weed Act – Legislative Review has been underway, suggestion was that OIPC should start pushing for Legislative reform to cover invasive plant species.

ACTION: Rachel to send Mike and John Benham the final version of the 1 pager, and follow up with group on status of the 1 pager

8. Other items

Sustainability Plan Update

The executive had a meeting with Rob Tonus to discuss the Sustainability Plan. He had wanted to begin talking to organizations about longer-term sponsorship and short-term sponsorship from the AGM. The sustainability plan will be profiled at the next Board meeting; will be out to the Board a few weeks prior to the AGM so that board members can comment on it.

ISC Meetings

Owen has been meeting with Bob Lambe from Invasive Species Centre to discuss operational priorities and what our responsibilities are. Owen will draft something up that we can use to differentiate between the 2 programs and provide clarity around our purpose/roles/operational differences. A signed memorandum of understanding would be a reasonable approach, to give us guidelines and our formal partnership.

ACTION: Owen to send the bullet points and longer write-up to the board once complete

Face to Face Board Meeting

Time suggested was to meet from 5:30pm to 8pm – we can look in to having dinner at the board meeting, if we can have a meal brought in.

ACTION: Rachel to look in to cost for providing dinner at the board meeting

John Bowen's Retirement

John Bowen has retired from Hydro One; we need to do something for him to acknowledge his support and active participation in the board.

ACTION: Owen to contact John's supervisor at Hydro One to see about getting in contact with him

NEXT MEETING

Face to face October 16th 5:30pm to 8pm