

Ontario Invasive Plant Council

June 19th, 2014

**Conference Call
10 am – 11:00 am**

Summary Notes

Board Members Attending:

Iola Price, Member at Large
David Coplestone, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources– Biodiversity Branch
John Benham, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association/ Wellington County
Owen Williams, President & Member at Large
Michael Irvine, OMNR – Forest Health and Silviculture
Sandy Smith, University of Toronto
John Urquhart, Ontario Nature
Kellie Sherman, OIPC staff
Rachel Gagnon, OIPC staff

Board Member Regrets

Mary Gordon, Hydro One
Paula Berketo, Ministry of Transportation
Dan Kraus, Nature Conservancy of Canada
Jeanine West, Landscape Ontario
Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada
Hugh Berges, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Lindsay Barr, Royal Botanical Gardens
Jennifer Gibb, City of Toronto
Andrew Pitek, Forests Ontario
Ken Towle, Vice-President & Conservation Ontario
Andrew Pitek, Forests Ontario
Diana Mooij, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Karen Hartley, OMNR – Parks
Dawn Sucee, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Dr. Robert Simmons, Ontario Horticultural Association

Agenda items

- Review action items from the last meeting
- Staff Updates
- Update on the status of the executive committee
- Discussion - Constitution and bylaws
- Other items – Financial update

1. Review action items from the last meeting.

ACTION: Dawn to discuss with employer about filling in the positions for the interim and get back to the Board. It was felt that it would be a conflict of interest for OFAH to be in that position.

ACTION: John will look into the possibility of filling one of the positions for the interim. At this time Ontario Nature does not have the time to free up for any of the positions.

ACTION: Rachel to send email to broader membership with details of executive committee positions. Done.

ACTION: Dave to provide Owen with Cam and Tracy's contact information and Owen to contact. Owen spoke to Cam no definitive response at this time. Tracy has not been contacted yet.

ACTION: If anyone has any other suggestions for potential executive committee members, please contact Owen. Owen Spoke to Carla Grant, but she is unable to commit the time needed for the position.

2. Executive committee update

Rachel spoke with Kelly Withers, who has expressed some interest in the President position, to find out if the ISC had considered the possibility that her being President could be perceived as a conflict of interest. ISC did speak about this and two thoughts were brought up;

- The agreement ISC has with MNR. They would have to disclose the information and it would need to be ruled on by the Deputy Minister. All would need to be cleared prior to her becoming President.
- When OIPC submits a proposals for funding to the ISC, Kelly does not make decisions on the projects that are funded so this would not be a problem.

The ISC are meeting today, **ACTION: Rachel will get details about their discussion.**

It is important that the Board discuss the candidates further in a face to face meeting in the next month. The next Board meeting will be dedicated to filling the executive committee and moving forward. This may be best done in a face to face meeting.

ACTION: Rachel to send out a meeting request to the Board to discuss the executive committee, suggesting a face to face meeting.

A few other candidate suggestions were made including: Caroline Mach, Ken Goldsmith, and Dave Pridham.

ACTION: Rachel to contact the suggested candidates.

3. Constitution and by laws

The current draft needs to be updated.

ACTION: Iola to incorporate all of the changes and remove all extra marks and comments on document.

4. Other

Financial update

Rachel gave a very brief update of our finances as of March 31 2014, but will need to have a more updated report for the next Board meeting, including an up to date layout of the incoming proposals and their degree of certainty.

ACTION: Rachel to have and financial update ready for the next Board meeting.

5. Staff updates

Kellie:

- Held 2 landowner workshops in partnership with the invading Species Awareness Program, York Region, and Lake Simcoe. One was in Aurora at Shepherds Bush and the other was on Georgina Island for the First Nation Community and the cottagers.
- Finishing the aquatic invasive plant bmp. It will be going for editing today and will be desktop publish very soon.
- Entering the content for the Ontario *Phragmites* Working Group website, it should be up and running in the next couple weeks. **ACTION: Kellie to send Owen the link.**
- Forgot to mention: Held an invasive plant event through BEAN. The “Pull, Plant and Pollinate” event was held in Peterborough. The OIPC lead a number of volunteers to pull goutweed from local garden and replant with some beautiful pollinator plants.

Rachel:

- Report for MNR, we sent out a survey last month to determine the scope of invasive species management plans in Ontario. The information is being analyzed and a final report is almost finished.
- ISC project. We are working with York region on a draft invasive species management strategy. Once the strategy for York is complete we will use it to create a template which other municipalities can use to create their own strategy.
- Leading the Weeds Across Borders tour committee. The event will be held on Oct 15-17 in Ottawa.
- Planning the OIPC AGM, Waiting on abstracts which are due July 16th. The event is Sept 15/16 in Peterborough Ontario.
- Spoke to a group in Pembroke on the Clean Equipment Protocol. Members of the Algonquin Forestry Authority and Ontario Parks we're in attendance. Received great feedback on the protocol, and interest in following it in the Park.
- Lead a talk and invasive plant walk for the ISAP summer students "Hit Squad".

Next meeting:

To discuss the executive committee. Rachel will send out a doddle poll to set up a date.