

Ontario Invasive Plant Council

July 16th 2015

Conference call

10:00am-10:55am

Summary Notes

Board Members present:

Ken Towle, Vice-President & Conservation Ontario
Francine MacDonald, OMNRF – Natural Heritage Section
Michael Irvine, OMNRF – Crown Forests and Lands Policy Branch – Forest Guides and Silviculture
Mhairi McFarlane, Nature Conservancy of Canada
Dawn Sucee, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Jennifer Gibb, City of Toronto
Lindsay Barr, Royal Botanical Gardens
Suzanne Hanna, Ontario Horticultural Association
Paula Berketo, Ministry of Transportation Improvement Association/ Wellington County
Sandy Smith, University of Toronto
Rachel Gagnon – OIPC Staff
Kellie Sherman – OIPC Staff

Board Members not present

Iola Price, President & Director at Large (*pre-arranged*)
Jeanine West, Landscape Ontario
Kristen Obeid, OMAFRA (*pre-arranged*)
John Urquhart, OIPC Secretary/Treasurer & Director at Large (*pre-arranged*)
Karen Hartley, OMNRF – Conservation Policy Branch- Protected Areas (*pre-arranged*)
Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada
Diana Mooij, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Andrew Pitek, Forests Ontario
Mary Gordon, Hydro One
Prabir Roy – Parks Canada
Owen Williams, Past President & Director at Large
John Benham, Ontario Soil and Crop

Agenda items

Agenda items July 16

1. *Approval of agenda*
2. *Approval of minutes from last meeting*
3. *Business arising from previous minutes*
 - 3.1 Action items completed
 - 3.2 Action items deferred
4. *Budget status (included in agenda) and new format- is this a useful change for Board members?*
5. *Staff Report (included in agenda and open for comment and questions)*
 - 5.1 Rachel
 - 5.2 Kellie
6. *Committee Reports (included in agenda)*
 - 6.1 AGM Planning
 - 6.2 Communications
 - 6.3 Fundraising
 - 6.4 Horticultural Outreach Collaborative

- 6.5 Policy
- 6.6 Ontario Phragmites Working Group
- 6.7 Research and Control

- 7. Board member activities
- 8. Other Business
- 9. Other Items
- 10. Next OIPC Board meeting

Background Information/Update on Previous Board Issues/Items

Topic	Current status	Follow-up
MOU with OFAH – comments from board members - Rachel	Rachel has updated the insurance information	Vote to approve the signing of the MOU – the executive still have some issues with wording of the MOU
Website	Moving along with website	
Status of OIPC audit	Still waiting for past audits. The company has just begun the 2014-2015 audit.	Will provide reports once they are received.

1. Approval of agenda

Date is incorrect, and will be changed.
 Motion to approve the agenda with the date changed.
 Agenda approved.

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting.

Ken motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mhairi.
 Minutes approved.

3. Business arising from previous minutes –lola

3.3 Action items completed:

ACTION: **Rachel** to add Lindsay to the list. Complete

ACTION: **Kellie** will work with Janice to refine the strategies and have the OPWG review them. Complete. **Updated version will be sent to the Board with the minutes.**

ACTION: Rachel to send the transfer payment agreement to the Board. Complete.

ACTION: Rachel will deliver the signed agreement to the MNR. Complete.

ACTION: Rachel to send the background information to the Board and will also look to include any research they looked at on the effects of the pesticide on aquatic ecosystems. Complete, **Rachel will send the research report for spartina to the Board.**

Japanese knotweed article Action: Rachel will send it to the Board. Complete

ACTION: Rachel to connect Diana and Suzanne, so they can discuss HOC.

Jeanine would like to be added to the HOC. Complete

Dawn would like to be added to the AGM planning committee. Done

3.4 Action items deferred

4. Budget status

John visited OFAH to learn more about the accounting and finance department and how it all works.

5. Staff Report (June –July)

5.3 Rachel

- Provided MNRF with our Letter of Support for the Emergency Use Registration.
- Attended the OIPC Open House in Georgetown to showcase the EDRR project.
- Finished up the ISC proposals for Phragmites prioritization tool, webinars and workshops for municipalities.
- Wrote and provided an article and ad to Ontario Gardener Magazine. **Rachel to provide link to the Board once it has been published.**
- Posted job ad for Kellie's position. 53 people have applied so far. The closing date is today. **Rachel to share the list of sites the job was posted to.**
- Sent out Call for Abstracts for AGM.

5.4 Kellie

- Hosted the Open House events for the EDRR Project with Taylor from ISC in Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay and Georgetown (June 15, 17 and 25). All three had fairly good turnouts – SSM: 27, Thunder Bay: 15, Georgetown: 25.
- Starting to plan EDRR training workshops for the end of September. These are to focus on training volunteers to report/monitor, training leaders to become trainers themselves, providing control information and providing information to licensed herbicide applicator professionals on the issue of invasive plants.
- Want to coordinate more with southern Ontario collaborators for EDRR project over the summer to establish a rough EDRR protocol and narrow in on priority species and areas for this project.
- 7 recommendations for phragmites provincial wide action plan have been sent to OPWG for comment.
- Finalizing TOR for OPWG.
- Beginning to work on projects associated with MNRF transfer payment agreement, this includes a meeting with Iola, Colin Dobell and Janice Gilbert on how we can work with the stoptheinvasion.ca campaign.
- Posted a new native/non-invasive garden photo contest on social media.

6. Committee Reports (included in agenda)

6.1 AGM Planning

The Save the Date notice and call for abstracts have been sent out. Deadline for abstracts is July 19th. Currently we have received 3 abstracts. We would like to send another reminder and extend the date for the deadline. **ACTION: Rachel will check with the AGM planning committee on whether they are ok if we extend the date.**

We would also like that the Board send out the Call for Abstracts to their contacts, and provide us with any ideas they may have of speakers, topics, or keynotes.

ACTION: All Board members to forward the Call for abstracts out to their contacts.

Some ideas discussed:

A presentation on the Invasive Species Act –Jeremy Downe

Status of the Kudzu site in Leamington – someone from CFIA- Kristina Pauk

6.2 Communications

The communications committee sent in their nominations for committee chair. The votes are in and Rachel is following up with the nominee.

6.3 Fundraising

No report at this time

6.4 Horticultural Outreach Collaborative

The HOC has ordered the seed packages, and is working on a photo contest.

6.5 Policy

No report at this time

6.6 Ontario *Phragmites* Working Group

Working on updating their 6 strategies for province wide management of *phragmites*.

6.7 Research and Control

No report at this time

7. Board member activities

Ken is working with the OFAH Hit Squad student to conduct roadside mapping of invasive plants. Once the municipality is complete they will look at two watersheds. The sightings have been marked on a map and the student enters the data into EDDMapS Ontario once they return to the office. They have been finding quite a bit of DSV and Phragmites.

Ken is also working on setting up a partnership to look at the feasibility of creating a hit squad to control Giant Hogweed in the area. They have had a number of sightings. They are currently mapping out the sites and entering the data into EDDMapS Ontario, which will enable them to know where to start controlling it next year. Dawn suggested they look into applying to the Land Stewardship and Habitat Restoration Program for funding.

Lindsay: Hydro one has recently cleared the hydro corridors. Lindsay and the RBG have been going out to those locations and mapping DSV, buckthorn, and honeysuckle. They will be meeting with Hydro One to discuss how to treat those locations. Mary Gordon is on the OIPC Board and may be a good person for Lindsay to approach on this project.

Sandy: the Hypena moth was released for field study trials of DSV biocontrol last year. Sandy and her team have not seen any overwintering success on the sites. Currently it is still unclear if they have flown away upon emergence or if they have stayed. They will continue to put more moths out this summer. This would be an excellent presentation idea for the AGM.

ACTION: Sandy to send an email to Bernd Blossey to request he speak at the AGM.

8. *Other Business*

8.1 Logo Contest

Two changes were suggested; they have been updated and are attached.

ACTION: Board members to provide any final changes by July 21st.

8.2 Status of MOU

John

1. All to provide any other changes to Rachel
2. Rachel to make the changes and send to John
3. John to look it over and make a final draft of the document
4. OFAH to review the final draft document and provide any changes they have.
5. Have Ian Attridge review the final document
6. Once Ian has looked it over both the OIPC and OFAH will look it over one last time.
7. Approve the MOU at the next Board meeting.

8.3 Status of hiring new project Liaison

As discussed during Rachel's update: the job was posted. 53 people have applied so far. The closing date is today

9. *Other Items*

A reminder that Rachel is leaving and her last day is July 31st.

10. Next OIPC Board meeting

- August 20th – 10 am via conference call
- September 17th – 10 am via conference call
- October- 14th - face to face with AGM at the RBG in Burlington
- November – 19th – via conference call
- December 17th – 10 am via conference call.