

## Ontario Invasive Plant Council

March 19<sup>th</sup> 2015

**Conference call**

**10:00am-11:00am**

### Summary Notes

#### **Board Members present:**

**Iola Price**, President & Member at Large

**Dave d'Entremont**, Royal Botanical Garden

**Owen Williams**, Past President & Member at Large

**Mhairi McFarlane**, Nature Conservancy of Canada

**Paula Berketo**, Ministry of Transportation Improvement Association/ Wellington County

**Ken Towle**, Vice-President & Conservation Ontario

**David Copplesone**, OMNRF – Biodiversity Branch

**Michael Irvine**, OMNRF – Forest Health and Silviculture

**John Urquhart**,

**Jeanine West**, Landscape Ontario

**Jennifer Gibb**, City of Toronto

**Sandy Smith**, University of Toronto

**Kellie Sherman**, OIPC staff

**Rachel Gagnon**, OIPC staff

#### **Board Members not present**

**Karen Hartley**, OMNRF – Parks

**Mary Gordon**, Hydro One

**Larry McDermott**, Plenty Canada

**Hugh Berges**, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs(*pre-arranged*)

**Diana Mooij**, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

**Andrew Pitek**, Forests Ontario

**Dawn Sucee**, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

**Suzanne Hanna**, Ontario Horticultural Association

**John Benham**, Ontario Soil and Crop

#### **Agenda items**

1. Approve minutes from last meeting.
2. Business arising from previous minutes –Iola
3. The Secretary/Treasurer Position has been filled - Iola
4. Board Attendance policy – David C
5. Budget status – Rachel
6. Board member activities – All
  - a. Update from the Invasive species Council of BC's AGM – Michael
7. Other items - All
  - a. April Face-to-Face (note cancellation due to no quorum)
  - b. Membership Fee Structure (you sent out the proposal with the agenda documents)
  - c. News of 2-year Trillium Grant success and implications for OIPC
  - d. Logo contest rules and closing date
  - e. Great Lakes Protection Act – comments due today

### Background Information/Update on Previous Board Issues/Items

Topic	Current status	Follow-up
<b>Trillium Grant application Invasive Species Centre + OIPC (EDRR)</b>	Received the funding for 2 years.	Planning call Friday
<b>Trillium Grant application Ontario Water Centre + OIPC (Phragmites)</b>	No update at this time	Wait for Trillium
<b>New Logo</b>	Rachel attached the logo contest rules to the email, please provide your comments to Rachel by April 10th.	Rachel will update the rules once she has received comments.
<b>MOU with OFAH – comments from board members - Rachel</b>	Rachel has been told we will have insurance information by the end of this week.	Waiting for insurance quote. lola to sign once we have that information.
<b>Website</b>	We have a company working on the redesign of the website.	Website update will be done near the end of March.
<b>Status of OIPC audit</b>	Still waiting. The OFAH has some final numbers to give to the auditors.	

#### 1. Approve minutes from last meeting:

Some items to be updated, Rachel to make the changes and send them to the Board for review.

## 2. ACTION items from last meeting: Business arising from previous minutes –Iola

### Completed Action items from February meeting

- **New OIPC logo contest**

ACTION: Rachel will work on the contest rules and will work towards holding another logo contest. Winning logo will receive a year's membership. Attached to the March agenda for review

- **Organizational memberships**

ACTION: Rachel to come up with a draft. Dawn and Suzanne will provide comments on the draft. Draft was sent, dawn and Suzanne provided comments. Attached with agenda for comment.

- **Business arising from previous minutes –Iola**

Engaging municipalities

ACTION: Rachel to send out the framework from that workshop, to the Board. Sent with the minutes

- **Secretary/Treasurer Position – Iola**

ACTION: Rachel will send out the vote tomorrow. Vote tallied, John is the new Secretary/treasurer

- **Board Attendance policy – David C**

ACTION: David will send the updated draft today. Attached for review

- **Ideas on making conference calls more efficient & Frequency and timing of Board meetings( results of poll attached for discussion)**

ACTION: Rachel to figure out the date for the AGM. October 13<sup>th</sup> 2015 at RBG

ACTION: Rachel send out meeting notices regularly Rachel attached the dates of the meetings for the next year, and also sent out an outlook calendar notice for the meeting this month. She will continue to do this for future meetings.

ACTION: Rachel to send out a doodle poll to determine how many people are attending the Carolinian Canada meeting in London on April 16<sup>th</sup> and whether they would be willing and bale to attend a face to face meeting the date before. Results attached

- **May Biodiversity Summit – OIPC role/ attendance - who to attend**

ACTION: Dawn will send the information about the summit to the Board.

- **Budget status**

ACTION: Rachel to send it out to the Board. Will be sent out prior to the next meeting.

- **Other items**

The OIPC is hosting the Aquatic Plant Workshops next week.

ACTION: David C will send the flyer to the Board. done

April 18<sup>th</sup> RBG is hosting a native plant sale through a variety of our growers within the region.

Owen sent out an email regarding the Great Lakes Protection act. This is an opportunity for the OIPC to provide comments.

**ACTION:** All/Anyone review the Great Lakes Protection Act and send comments to Rachel.

Dawn will be reviewing and will be submitting comments, and has said she will forward them to Rachel.

Rachel will look at our previous comments as well.

**ACTION:** Rachel to forward Owen's email to the Board, along with the previous letter that OIPC sent.

### Open Action items from our February meeting

**ACTION: Owen and Jeanine to discuss how we can work together with Landscape Ontario.** Will chat for the next meeting

- **Envirothon**

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

**ACTION: David D will send Rachel an email about the RBG event.**

### 3. The Secretary/Treasurer Position has been filled – lola

Congratulations to John U.

### 4. Board Attendance policy – David C

The most recent version of the policy:

*“OIPC Board Absenteeism Policy*

*If a director is absent from four consecutive board meetings, or more than five meetings in a calendar year without a satisfactory reason, the board, or a board member authorized by the board will send the director a letter requesting an explanation for their absences. If no response is provided, or if the reason for poor attendance is unsatisfactory the board will request that the absentee member to resign from the board.*

*If the board member with these levels of absences is a Director at Large, the OIPC Directors (Board) will call for an election or, under Section 6.13 of the bylaws, appoint a replacement to sit as a Director until the next term is to begin. If the “absent” member is a Director with Perspective or a Non-Voting Advisor, the board may ask the individual to suggest a replacement from his or her organization, or the board will request that a senior manager from their organisation name a replacement, or the board could seek someone from another organisation that has the same or similar perspective in order to fill the vacancy.”*

Upon final review at the meeting there were a few comments; redundant sentence, change the words “send a letter” to “contact member”. Sometimes a phone call is a good tactic to get someone engaged, and a follow up letter can be sent to ensure there is a record of the conversation.

**ACTION:** Ken will send his comments to David

**ACTION:** David C will incorporate the changes and Rachel will send out the final version for review.

Any discussions within this policy will be held as in-camera conversations.

## 5. Budget status – Rachel

Rachel will update the budget as we have new grant money to add and will send it to the Board.

## 6. Board member activities – Open

### a. Update from the Invasive species Council of BC's AGM – Michael

Michael attended the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC) AGM and presented on Kudzu in Ontario. The meeting was informative and Michael highlighted some of the projects and items that BC is working on which are proving to be very effective and that OIPC could learn from and consider when growing and moving forward:

- They are very engage with the First Nations community and OIPC may want to work on strengthening our relationship with the First Nation community and our Board representative from that key sector.
- They also work very closely with the agricultural sector.
- They are effective at getting some non-traditional sponsors such as Kinder Morgan, TD bank, pacific coastal airlines etc. OIPC may want to think outside the box on who could sponsor us at upcoming events.
- They have a good relationship with Bob MacDonald from quirks and quarks, he attended the entire conference
- They've moved beyond species BMPs and are looking at more pathway/sector BMPs such as gravel pit operators, etc.

All that being said, OIPC is still ahead of BC on a few items for example:

- OIPC has great contacts and communication with the research community and this is something we should continue to do as it makes us stronger.
- We have better engagement with recreational groups such as hunters and groups like ducks unlimited.

OIPC does have First Nation representation however we may need to find new representation if they are unable to participate in meetings.

If the current representative is no longer interested we will need to find new representation.

What is the status of kudzu?

There is an agreement between CFIA, OMAFRA and OMNRF to work on removing the Leamington population this summer. CFIA has taken the lead on this project.

Currently the Kudzu has still not spread; it is contained within its boundaries on the site. Perhaps there is an opportunity for OIPC to do outreach to the public about the plant and have people looking out for it.

Working with other groups to do some monitoring such as Bird Studies Canada, CWS and Long Point Waterfowl.

**ACTION:** Mhairi will contact someone at Bird Studies Canada, Scott Pitre and CWS to see if they have any outreach programs related to Kudzu.

There may be an opportunity for OIPC to put forth a COA proposal to do some Kudzu surveillance.

The Research and control committee may be interested in finding out more about whether growth is affected by temperature and water conditions. Also it was mentioned that the plant only grows from vegetative means not seeds.

**ACTION: Sandy and lola to add this to the RCC agenda.**

OIPC should also consider working with military bases, as they often have invasive plants from moving equipment around. Perhaps there is an opportunity to introduce the Clean Equipment Protocol to the military bases.

**ACTION: David C to contact Crystal Brock from Borden to see if they are interested in information.**

## 7. Other items - All

### b. April Face-to-Face:

It was proposed that we do not have a face to face. **ACTION: Rachel will send the doodle poll out one last time. All to answer by the 25<sup>th</sup> of March.**

### c. Membership Fee Structure: **ACTION: Rachel to send it out again with new deadline for comments of April 10<sup>th</sup>.**

### d. News of 2-year Trillium Grant: we have been successful in our Trillium grant for a 2 year project. The first planning call will be on Friday March 20<sup>th</sup>.

### e. Logo contest rules and closing date – no comments received to date. **ACTION: Rachel to send it out again with new deadline for comments of April 10.**

### f. Great Lakes Protection Act – comments due April 19. **ACTION: lola will draft something today.**

Biodiversity summit:

Dawn is attending.

OMNRF will be hosting a biocontrol workshop at the summit.

David d'Entremont, will be stepping down as Lindsay has completed her mat leave. Lindsay Barr will participate in meetings from now on.

Dave Copplestone's acting assignment will be coming to an end soon as well, and when that position is filled the new person will be the Board representative.

## Staff updates for Feb to March

### Rachel:

- Hosted and presented at our Aquatic Plant Watch List workshops in Burlington and Belleville. 2 workshops were held as per our contract with the MNRF. The presentations included id features of 10 aquatic invasive plants that threaten Ontario waters, water soldier and water chestnut control in Ontario, and proper reporting through EDDMapS Ontario. The feedback from the workshops were

positive and suggestions were made to host more. After all the presentations were completed the participants were able to look at and feel live specimens of the plants discussed.

- Going through the results of the aquatic invasive plant survey that was sent out last month. A survey was sent out to aquatic plant experts across Ontario, Canada and the US to have them rank the species we listed and provide their thoughts on what other plants we should include in our list.
- Worked on the Organizational membership information and Dawn and Suzanne looked it over. The Draft is attached.
- Sent a letter to the Society for Ecological Restoration of Ontario's Chair requesting a new representative to sit on our Board. We are waiting for their response.
- Working on 2 communications plans to fulfill our contract with MNRF. The communication's plans are being written for the Aquatic plant training module and the clean equipment and wild parsnip training modules. Rachel will forward these on to the OIPC's communications committee to implement.
- Working with the artist who developed our activity book to correct some problems, we will be printing and distributing it before the end of March.
- Attended a meeting with Sandy Smith and her PhD students who have been studying DSV and its growth inhibitors as well as looking at biocontrol.
- Have been working with the OMNRF to host a *Phragmites* workshop in late April. The workshop will help determine the priorities to *Phragmites* Management.
- Updating the DSV BMP, if anyone would like to provide comments please let me know.
- Drafted up the contest rules for the logo contest.

### **Kellie's Updates**

- Attended Seedy Saturday in Brampton on March 7<sup>th</sup> – approximately 800 visitors
- Janice and Nancy from OPWG attended the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) Conference in Toronto on February 23<sup>rd</sup> – very successful; engaged many politicians
- The OPWG has organized a technical working group to begin developing a Best Management Practices document for controlling *Phragmites* along roadsides and in ditches. This BMP is to be directed at municipalities and contractors who actively manage *phragmites* in these areas. The MNRF and MTO support this initiative and are seeking funding for this project that could support desktop publishing and printing. The MNRF and MTO will be a part of the final review process so the document can be “vetted” by the province.
- In addition to this, the same group is continuing to work with Heather from OGRA to draft a summary report and presentation including general information about *phragmites*, proper control methods and clean equipment information for the OGRA Guelph Roads School Training course in May. This training and education program targets the professional development needs of transportation and public works personnel from the front line to senior management – so this is a great opportunity to engage those working in these specific areas every day. Elaine (co-chair of the OPWG) and myself are assisting with writing a piece about the CEP, due by March 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Hosted two Aquatic Invasive Plant Watch List Workshops for Field Practitioners – both funded by the MNRF (February 24 in Burlington and February 25 in Belleville).
- Winter webinars are now complete and all are posted online; last one was the CEP on March 4<sup>th</sup> with expert panelist Joe Halloran.
- Hosting a one-day *phragmites* workshop at the end of April with the MNRF. The overall intent of this workshop is to bring together those involved with phragmites to get a clear picture of the

phragmites issue in Ontario, to share management experiences and to identify priorities for the future (i.e. education, management prioritization tool etc.). We are looking to cap the attendance at 100 and most of the attendees will be from the OPWG but we also want to invite some additional folks from other areas within the province (not just southwestern Ontario, but perhaps eastern and northern Ontario) who may be just starting to learn about *phragmites* and wanting to control it. If anyone has some names in mind, please let us know.

- At the last OPWG face-to-face meeting, we began updating the TOR. I am going to continue to work on this this week and hopefully will have a revised TOR by the end of the week for the Board to review.

**Draft list of Board meeting dates for 2015. Subject to change upon review**

- April 17<sup>th</sup> - London (not confirmed at this time)
- May 21 - 10 am via conference call
- June 18<sup>th</sup> - 10 am via conference call
- July 16<sup>th</sup> - 10 am via conference call
- August 20<sup>th</sup> – 10 am via conference call
- September 17<sup>th</sup> – 10 am via conference call
- October- 14th - face to face with AGM at the RBG in Burlington
- November – 19<sup>th</sup> – via conference call
- December 17<sup>th</sup> – 10 am via conference call.