

Ontario Invasive Plant Council

Tuesday December 4, 2012

Conference call meeting

10:00am – 11:30

Summary Notes

Board Members Attending:

Owen Williams, Chair & Member at Large
Dawn Sucee, Secretary/Treasurer & Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Lindsay Burtenshaw, Royal Botanical Gardens
Peter Scholtens, Landscape Ontario
Paula Berketo, Ministry of Transportation
Dan Kraus, Nature Conservancy of Canada
Dr. Robert Simmons, Ontario Horticultural Association
Hugh Berges, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Sandy Smith, University of Toronto
Jennifer Gibb, City of Toronto
Iola Price, Member at large
Karen Hartley, OMNR – Parks
Hayley Anderson, OIPC
Rachel Gagnon, OIPC

Board Member Regrets

Michael Irvine, OMNR – Forest Health and Silviculture
Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada
Tys Theysmeyer, Royal Botanical Gardens
Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada
Diana Mooij, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Elizabeth Wright, Ministry of Natural Resources
Ken Towle, Vice-Chair & Conservation Ontario
John Benham, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association / Wellington County
Mike Halferty, Ontario Forestry Association

Agenda items

- Staff updates (RG, HA)
- Review action items from last meeting (RG)
- Sustainability plan (all)
- New projects and funding (ISC and CWS) (OW, RG, HA)
- Purple loosestrife article (open discussion)
- ISC and OIPC roles and responsibilities (OW)
- Time to meet with Minister (OW)
- New features on website (OW, RG, HA)
- Next face to face meeting date
- Additional Items

1. Staff Updates (RG, HA)

Rachel

- Finishing up last minute details and processing items from the AGM
- Sent letter of support to the CLOCA black creek environmental stewardship project
- OIPC Project Liaison Job Posting, got posting out, and set up interviews. Interviews are being held tomorrow.
- Worked with Hayley and Owen on website changes.
- OIPC monthly update went out in November
- Worked on photos for the LBYL campaign which is featuring 4 short ads in the parks tabloids
- Working on the Ontario Trillium Foundation grant report
- Drafted up the 1 pager for Owen about the OIPC and why we are important
- Working on ISC second phase applications for 5 projects
- Sent letter to Bob Florean about the milfoil solutions request for support, we were unable to support the project as there were too many unanswered questions.
- ISC agreements were signed for the 2012-2013 season.
- Working on finishing up the Bylaws and sending them out for incorporation purposes.

Hayley:

- Finishing up the BMPs for Japanese Knotweed and Garlic Mustard.
- Working on the content for the canned Giant Hogweed presentations for the 2 workshops we will be hosting in the New Year.
- Working on the Canadian Wildlife Services Project which is: reed canary grass BMP and
- Sent out the survey for the research compendium. Hayley can send out the link to anyone who would like to fill it out or have contacts that may be interested.
- Grant applications for voyageur provincial Park was sent out. The project will help with the removal of Water chestnut.
- Yesterday went to the biodiversity event release of the government action plan to implement the biodiversity strategy. Release and official website. ACTION: **Hayley will review the plan along with our changes and see if any were incorporated.**

2. Review action items from last meeting

Item #1: **Owen** was to call Rob about issues with the sustainability plan. done

Item #2: **All board members were** to review the draft sustainability plan and send comments to Rachel by **Friday Oct 26th 2012**. Done

Item #3: **Rachel** to forward comments to Gord. Done

Item #4: Rachel to plan a face to face meeting for the Board for November or early December, focussing on the sustainability plan. Done but will be rescheduled.

Item #5: Rachel to look into the process of becoming a charitable organization, what changes to the incorporation laws will have on our memberships.

Rachel will have a meeting with Sue at the OFAH and Owen, to discuss these items. And will update the Board once they have met. **Hayley will need to do this now.**

Item#6: Dayna Laxton has a summer students who is taking a terrestrial invasive plant inventory at nurseries and garden centres, a summary of the findings were given at the meeting. **ACTION: Hayley to pass this report along to the Board once it is complete.** Dayna is waiting on funding in order to complete the report.

tem #7: Rachel to send Mike and John Benham the final version of the weed inspector 1 pager for comment. **Not completed Rachel will try to get this done before going on mat leave.**

Item #7: Owen was to send bullet points and longer write-up of roles and responsibilities of the OIPC and the ISC once complete. Done.

Item #9: **Owen** was to contact John's supervisor at Hydro One to see about getting in contact with him. A new representative was Jon Marriott, **ACTION: Owen will contact John and welcome him to the next meeting**

Item #10: **Rachel** to talk to the Hotel staff about the technical problems. Done we received a discount and will have a free meeting room in Guelph for a future meeting.

3. Sustainability plan

The Board reviewed the sustainability plan before our last meeting in October and had a good discussion about the plan. Comments were sent back to the consultants and they have since updated the plan. The Board members received updated version of the sustainability plan yesterday.

Upon first glance at the plant, it looks like quite of few of our comments have been incorporated. They've made the strategic recommendations and that is what we were asking for and they have done a reasonable job of sifting through the possibilities and recommending some good next steps!

This plan looks more apt to leads us to what we want to do, evolve this version to something that has some actual decisions by the Board. And more detailed steps of what is appropriate.

The Board should have an opportunity to comment therefore:

ACTION: Owen will post the new plan on the Board forum online. All to comment.

As part of our website updates, each Board member will receive information on how to use the new web forum, along with a username and password.

The forum will allow Board members to comment and discuss the plan online.

Also a rescheduled meeting will be held in January to discuss the plan further.

4. New projects and funding

- Canadian Wildlife service's 2012-2013
 - Project: Literature review for existing control measures for selected invasive plant species affecting species at risk and development of a best management practices document for Reed Canary Grass. (*Phalari arundinacea*)
 - Funding requested \$22,000, we will receive the contract this week to sign.

- MNR SARS fund 2013-2014
 - New website page to focus on invasive plants and SAR. How SAR are impacted and how to mitigate the impacts when controlling invasive plants, for the 2013-2014 fiscal potentially do a multi-year proposal and include BMPs.

- Invasive Species Centre 2012-2013
 - Approved for \$1000, contract signed and delivered to ISC. Project: Finalization of the Invasive Plant Management Compendium. This will involve desktop publishing and posting online.
 - Approved for \$15,000, contract signed and delivered to ISC. Project; Grow Me Instead: Nursery recognition Project, Phase II. This project will involve inviting more nurseries to join the program; discussions with Conservation Ontario in order to help with growing this program are underway. Also a letter has been written and will be sent to various college and university heads, where horticultural programs are, in order to promote GMI and the NRP.
 - Approved for \$12,000, contract signed and delivered to ISC. Project: Clean Equipment BMP Phase II. This project will develop a training program that can be implemented throughout the province. Awaiting comments from the working group.

- MNR 2012-2013
 - Contract with MNR have all been signed and delivered. Contract details: projects include:
 - Delivery of a province wide survey (survey sent out last week through Ala Boyd) (\$5,000)
 - Compendium of invasive plant research (\$15,000) (need to review survey before proceeding with this item)
 - Lit review for Garlic Mustard (\$10,000) (draft was sent out and final comments have been submitted)
 - Lit review for Japanese Knotweed (10,000) (draft was sent out and final comments have been submitted)
 - Workshop and module for registered herbicide applicators (\$5,000) (workshop to be held in Burlington with Landscape Ontario, looking for a Sudbury partner to hold the northern workshop)
 - Final Report (\$4,000)

- ISC 2013-2014

Submitted 6 preliminary applications, have been approved to submit more detailed applications for 5 projects which are:

 - Invasive plant workshop for practitioners and landowners
 - Look before you leave, create a common look and theme
 - Create and post signage in high traffic outdoor recreation trails
 - Giant Hogweed training workshop
 - BMPs for wild parsnip and exotic bush honeysuckle

- 2013 – 2015 Eco Action
 - Water Chestnut Control and outreach in Voyageur Provincial Park
 - Waiting to hear from them
- 2013-2014 MOE Community Cleanup fund
 - Water chestnut control at voyageur provincial park waiting to hear from them

5. Purple loosestrife article

An article was written in the Ottawa paper about how the purple loosestrife problem was overblown and the plant was never really a threat to biodiversity. The article also mentions that the biocontrol may not have done anything to control the plant.

What should the OIPC do to respond?

OIPC will write a letter and send it to the Ottawa citizen as well as post it on our website. We will also add a section on our webpage which addresses biocontrol. The information will highlight the success of purple loosestrife biocontrol program and link to other websites and information regarding biocontrol.

ACTION: Hayley to work on a draft letter.

6. ISC and OIPC roles and responsibilities (OW)

Owen worked on a document which highlights the OIPC and ISC roles and responsibilities; it has been sent to Bob Lambe for comment and will be posted on the OIPC website's secure Board forum for comments.

ACTION: Owen to post on website's forum once complete.

ACTION: All to comment.

7. Time to meet with Minister (OW)

Owen has been in discussions over the last month about OIPC and whether MNR and OIPC can have formal agreements such as an MOU. MNR budget discussions are coming soon and MNR is not very apt to come into long term agreements at this time. Therefore for now OIPC will need to continue as it has in the past by submitting proposals for contract projects.

This is a good time to go back to our thought about having a meeting with the current minister and how we relate to MNR and how we are linked with their goals and objectives. It would be best if Owen and 1 other Board member went to that meeting.

ACTION: Owen to draft a short letter to request a meeting with the Minister which will have the 2 pager summary about the OIPC attached.

8. New features on website

A new feature has been added to the website which is a secure board page for forums and discussions. Another page will also be made for committee members.

Another feature added is access to renewing memberships easily online.

The look of the website has also been updated, much text has been removed and more pictures have been added to give it a more easy to use look and feel.

9. Additional items:

There might be an opportunity for OIPC to write the Chair of the Biodiversity Council and see if OIPC could have a representative on that committee.

ACTION: Dawn is a member of the council, and will look at what the process is to join the council.

Iola is doing a talk in Ottawa and would like some OIPC material to hand out.

ACTION: Iola to let Hayley know what she will need and Hayley will bring it to the next OIPC face to face meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Face to face in January Hayley to poll the Board members