

Ontario Invasive Plant Council

December 18th, 2014

**Conference call
10:00am-11:30am**

Summary Notes

Board Members Attending:

Iola Price, President & Member at Large
Dawn Sucee, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Jeanine West, Landscape Ontario
David Coplestone, OMNRF – Biodiversity Branch
Paula Berketo, Ministry of Transportation Improvement Association/ Wellington County
Owen Williams, Past President & Member at Large
Mhairi McFarlane, Nature Conservancy of Canada
Ken Towle, Vice-President & Conservation Ontario
Andrew Pitek, Forests Ontario
John Urquhart, Ontario Nature
Kellie Sherman, OIPC staff
Rachel Gagnon, OIPC staff

Board Member Regrets

Karen Hartley, OMNRF – Parks
Michael Irvine, OMNRF – Forest Health and Silviculture
Mary Gordon, Hydro One
Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada
Hugh Berges, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Jennifer Gibb, City of Toronto
Diana Mooij, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Suzanne Hanna, Ontario Horticultural Association
Dave d'Entremont, Royal Botanical Garden
Sandy Smith, University of Toronto
John Benham, Ontario Soil and Crop

Agenda items

1. **Approve minutes from last meeting:** Review and approve meeting minutes.
2. **Review Action Items:** Review all action items from last meeting. (Please see attached minutes for the action items)
3. **Staff Updates:** Updates from Kellie and Rachel on what they have been working on since the last meeting.
4. **Secretary/Treasurer position:** Discuss possibilities for the secretary treasurer position.
5. **Update on Invasive Species Act:** David will give a brief update on where the ISA is and what we can expect in the coming months.
6. **Biodiversity Summit:** a brief overview of the summit, and discussion on if/where OIPC can fit. If we are able to have a booth.
7. **Board attendance policy:** David has reviewed some attendance policies and will provide a draft version for the OIPC Board.
8. **Federal regulations reminder:** Reminder that the federal AIS regulations comments are due in January.

1. Approve minutes from last meeting:

Motion: lola moved to approve the minutes from the November 2014 Board meeting. Moved by lola Price and seconded. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

2. Review Action Items: *Review all action items from last meeting.*

Action: Rachel to send David the site plan of the website. Done

Action: Rachel and David to continue working on this. Rachel sent a newer site plan to David and Owen.

ACTION: Rachel to plan a meeting with David and Owen to discuss website

ACTION: Rachel to add the Secretary/Treasurer nominations as an item on next month's agenda. Done

Carolinian Canada event

ACTION: Owen will work on a list of action items for the event.

ACTION: Owen will look into the cost of putting something in AMO's newsletter

ACTION: Owen to find out who is on the AMO Board executive and forward that information to Rachel.

ACTION: Rachel to contact them to work out a deal for advertising in their newsletter.

Landscape Ontario is also interested in the event.

Owen had a meeting with the Carolinian Canada people and looked at the site for the meeting. A booth space will cost \$1000.00, this may include advertising. They're expecting approximately 4000 people cycling through.

ACTION: Owen and Jeanine to discuss how we can work together with Landscape Ontario.

OFAH-OIPC MOU

ACTION: Rachel to send the most recent version to the group. Done

ACTION: All to look at the MOU and provide comments to Rachel. Done

ACTION: Rachel to send the MOU with the schedules for the Board members to look over and provide comments.

Future plans for the website

ACTION: Owen to add this to the future plans for the website. Ongoing action item.

Envirothon

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

3. Staff Updates: *Updates from Kellie and Rachel on what they have been working on since the last meeting.*

Kellie:

- The Aquatic BMP is in the last round of edits before it goes to MNRF for final approval process.
- Continuing work on the Invasive Plant Strategy Framework and the draft version will be sent to the Research and Control Committee for comment.
- Have booked the date and location for the workshop to deliver the framework to municipality workers . It will be held on February 12th at the Newmarket library.
- Working on updating the *Phragmites* BMP.

- Working with the Trent student (Trent Centre Community Based Education program) who has been calling Nurseries that are participating in the Nursery Recognition Program. The student has been calling to get feedback from participating nurseries. Feedback has been positive so far.
- The Ontario *Phragmites* Working Group will have a face to face meeting in January.
- Delivered the Buckthorn BMP webinar, 30+ participants.

Rachel:

- Worked on an agreement with MNRF for end of the year projects.
- Wrote article for Forests Ontario Newsletter, regarding the re-introduction of the Invasive Species Act.
- Working on updates to our Giant Hogweed and DSV BMPs
- Working with Kellie to finish up the York invasive plant management plan
- Delivered the Garlic mustard webinar, 30+ people in attendance. With that comes sending out the certificates, updating website with webinar etc.
- Weeds Across Borders meeting wrap up
- Reviewed Aquatic BMP, working on the webinar and presentation for workshop .
- Working on the aquatic watch list workshop which will be delivered in the New Year to inform people on how to identify and report aquatic invasive plants that are either isolated populations in Ontario or not yet found in Ontario.
ACTION: Rachel to look into the FOCA program that is encouraging invasive species monitoring for cottagers
- Discussion on our logo, it seems that it is a pretty common look, and the leaf circle is even a clip art. OIPC will look to get a new logo, professionals may be too expensive, so we could do another 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.

4. Secretary/Treasurer position: *Discuss possibilities for the secretary treasurer position.*

Call for Nominations were sent out and we received no nominations.

OFAH currently has no objections for Dawn sitting on the executive committee as secretary/treasurer until someone is willing to take the position.

New Member at Large terms could begin in January, so this might be an opportunity for the nomination of more members at large (MAL). Depending on the MAL they could then step in and sit on executive committee.

Board members agree that we will move forward to nominate 1 member at large.

ACTION: Rachel to send out a nomination for the Member at Large (1)

5. Board attendance policy: *David has reviewed some attendance policies and has come up with the following draft:*

Draft for review by Board "If a director is absent from four consecutive board meetings, or more than six meetings in a calendar year without a satisfactory reason, the president 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 president will request the board member to

resign from the board and provide a replacement if possible. If no replacement is provided the Board will seek out a suitable replacement. “

ACTION: David to send it out for comment.

Another discussion is whether the Board should hold fewer meetings per year, that way we may get more attendance. Two of the six could be face to face meetings (one of those being the AGM) every year.

6. Update on Invasive Species Act: *David will give a brief update on where the Invasive Species Act (ISA) is and what we can expect in the coming months.*

The Invasive Species Act was re-introduced on Nov 5th and went for second reading on Dec 8th, it will stay there until February.

Once it goes back into second reading a small group of MPPs (a standing committee) will start to review the Act. They may decide to hold public hearings or expert witnesses or receive testimony, or they may not. If OIPC is interested in engaging in the process, OIPC may or may not be notified and therefore will need to keep an eye on the legislative assembly website.

7. Biodiversity Summit: *a brief overview of the summit and discussion on if/where OIPC can fit. If we are able to have a booth.*

Sarah Higginson (OMNRF) explains that the Biodiversity summit will take place in May in Niagara Falls. The summit will follow the 4 themes of the Biodiversity Strategy, the overall goals are to celebrate biodiversity and look to the future. Plans are still being worked on and they plan to launch the State of Ontario's Biodiversity Report at the summit.

They are Expecting approximately 300 delegates to the event. Exhibition booths cost \$1250.00 which also includes a half page add in the program and a full registration. There is flexible pricing for Non-profit organizations.

8. Federal regulations reminder: *Reminder that the federal AIS regulations comments are due in January.*

Reminder that the federal AIS regulations comments are due in January. If you have anything that you would like Rachel to submit please let her know.

ACTION: Anyone with comments they would like to submit to Rachel, please send them by early January.

9. Face to Face board meeting:

Would like to host a Face to Face meeting in April.

ACTION: Rachel to see if we still have a meeting room for free in Guelph.

April 16th perhaps that might work.

If we do not have the free room with Guelph, we will look at our Board members to have someone host a free room i.e. OFAH office, MNRF office, Ganaraska Conservation Authority.

Next meeting: January 15th 10am

Via conference call.