

Ontario Invasive Plant Council

June 22nd, 2014

**Conference Call
10 am – 11:00 am**

Summary Notes

Board Members Attending:

Iola Price, Member at Large
Dan Kraus, Nature Conservancy of Canada
Dawn Sucee, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
David Coplestone, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources– Biodiversity Branch
Paula Berketo, Ministry of Transportation
Ken Towle, Vice-President & Conservation Ontario
Michael Irvine, OMNR – Forest Health and Silviculture

Kellie Sherman, OIPC staff
Rachel Gagnon, OIPC staff

Board Member Regrets

John Benham, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association/ Wellington County
Owen Williams, President & Member at Large
Sandy Smith, University of Toronto
John Urquhart, Ontario Nature
Mary Gordon, Hydro One
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
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Diana Mooij, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Karen Hartley, OMNR – Parks
Dr. Robert Simmons, Ontario Horticultural Association

Agenda items

- Review action items from the last meeting
- Executive Committee discussion
- New policy position
- Update- Constitution and bylaws
- Other items –

1. Review action items from the last meeting.

Rachel was to get details about the ISC meetings and whether they felt that there would be a conflict of interest if Kelly became OIPC president. They did not foresee any major problems.

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

ACTION: Rachel to contact the suggested executive committee candidates. Done

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

ACTION: Rachel to have and financial update ready for the next Board meeting. OIPC was just recently audited and Rachel will bring the financial report to the next meeting.

2. Executive committee discussion

We currently have two nominees for the President position, Kelly Withers from ISC and Iola Price. Ken has decided to put his name in for the Vice-President position. We do not have a nominee for the Secretary/Treasurer.

After today's meeting Rachel will send out the online ballot and the Board will nominate their executive committee.

The deadline for the vote will be August 6th.

ACTION: Rachel to send out the ballot after today's meeting.

Because we have lost a few months trying to find candidates for the positions this term will run short to be in line with the January –December 2 year terms. Therefore the candidates will be running for the term which started in January 2013 and runs until the end of December 2014

We also discussed working out membership renewals, and if they should all come due at the same time every year, regardless of when people initially signed up.

ACTION: Rachel to look into what other organizations do to renew their memberships.

Rachel to look into automating the reminder for renewals.

3. Policy position on a few items. Kellie

We have had requests for support on a few items and thought that perhaps it would be a good idea to develop a policy or protocol to use in these situations.

One request was for the OIPC to support the use of an invasive species as biofuel, and the other was to support a specific herbicide to use on Phragmites over water.

It was discussed that a hierarchy could be developed with a checklist of items that OIPC deems important. If someone asks us for a letter of support, and it fits within the criteria then it would be recommended that we send a letter of support, if it does not fit within the criteria then we would not send a letter of support. At our next board meeting we will try to develop this list.

Also the current protocol when someone sends a request for a letter of support is that the letter is brought forth to the BoD and it is discussed. This seems like the best way to handle these situations, and with a list of criteria it will be easier to determine whether or not we would support a project.

ACTION: All to work on this list at the next board meeting.

It would be interesting to have a position paper for use of invasive species as biofuel.

4. Update on the Constitution and bylaws,

Iola updated the bylaws since the last meeting. She has updated everything, and made the latest draft. Ian Attridge is looking over the bylaws now, Iola will contact him later this week to find out if he had any comments.

Action: Ken would like a copy, Rachel will send him the latest version today.

The bylaws will need to be finished by early August so that we can send them out to our membership before the AGM.

Action: Iola to check in with Ian, this week.

5. Staff updates

Kellie:

- The Aquatic invasive bmp is with the designer and will have one last review before it is finished.
- The OPWG website is up and running, and announcement to our members will be sent out in the next newsletter. www.opwg.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca
- We have a student from Trent doing a coop with us to do some research with GMI.
- Working with York region to develop as an invasive species strategic plan

Rachel:

- Working on the AGM, we are still looking for a keynote speaker if anyone has ideas. The registration forms will be posted today.
- Financial audit, it is our first audit since we became incorporated. Rachel will have a report at the next Board meeting.
- 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.

6. Other items:

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: NEW National Wetland Conservation Fund - 2014-2015 Ontario Call for Proposals

ACTION: Rachel will forward the email about this fund to the Board.

AGM:

Plans are coming along, we have most of our speakers booked, 2 field tours, an evening social etc. We are still looking for a keynote speakers.

Some suggestions: Steve Houdsell, Drew Monkman, Tom Whillans with Trent, Eric Sager with Trent, Tom Hutchison.

Rachel will look into these suggestions as potential keynotes for the conference.

Registration will open today or later this week.

Next meeting:

Thursday August 21st 10:00am.