

# Wisconsin Invasive Species Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

DNR Science Operations Center – Northwoods Conference Room  
2801 Progress Road, Madison Wisconsin

## MEETING MINUTES

**Members Present:** Tom Bressner (Wisconsin Agro-Business Association), James Hughes (DOT), Jim Kerkman (Council on Forestry), Brian Kuhn (DATCP), Greg Long (Needles & Leaves Nursery, via telephone), Travis Olson (DOA), Ken Raffa (University of Wisconsin), Jim Rienhartz (UW-Milwaukee, via telephone), Paul Schumacher (Wisconsin Lakes), and Jack Sullivan (DNR)

**Others Present:** Jason Granberg (presenter, DNR), Eric Verbeten (staff, DNR), Dreux Watermolen (staff, DNR), and Christa Wollenzien (staff, DOT)

**Members Absent:** Danielle Johnson (Tourism)

### **Call to Order and Introductions**

Chairman Schumacher called the meeting to order. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

### **Approval: November 5, 2014 Council Meeting Minutes**

Kerkman moved to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2014 Council meeting with one minor correction. Second by Sullivan. Motion passed.

### **Approval: November 20, 2014 Council Meeting Minutes**

Sullivan moved to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2014 Council meeting. Second by Kuhn. Motion passed.

**TASK:** Watermolen to ensure minutes are posted on the Council's website.

### **Update: Council Membership and Staffing**

Todd Matheson has taken a different position at the Wisconsin DOT and has stepped down from the Council. James Hughes will be appointed as the Secretary's designee to replace Matheson on the Council. Chairman Schumacher thanked Christa Wollenzien for stepping in for Matheson on the Council's Education Committee.

Pat Morton has retired from The Nature Conservancy. Her Council term ended last year and she did not apply for a reappointment. The Council previously endorsed Ms. Hannah Spaul as a replacement for Ms. Morton. Paul Schumacher has contacted governor's office to inquire on the status of the appointment.

There has been a change in staffing in the Governor's appointment office. It was noted that Ms. Spaul could be invited and is welcome to attend Council meetings as a guest while we wait on an appointment decision.

Jim Reinartz's Council appointment ends in July. Watermolen has notified him and provided the link to the Governor's online application form. Chairman Schumacher encouraged Dr. Reinartz to apply for a reappointment to the Council.

Sullivan and Watermolen provided updates on the invasive species coordinator position. The recruitment was placed on hold following first round interviews in response to staff reduction proposals included in the Governor's proposed budget. It is unclear when the position may be filled. In the meantime, Watermolen will do the best he is able to provide staff support for the Council.

### **Committee Report: Council's Education Committee**

Christa Wollenzien provided an update on the Education Committee's activities. The committee met on January 29 and March 26 and has been working actively in various subcommittees.

*Invader Crusader Awards* – An award committee consisting of Jerry Doll, Jim Kerkman, Greg Long, and Paul Schumacher considered 21 nominations, including a small number of nominations that were carried forward from 2013 and 2014. The review committee selected nine award winners in four categories: Volunteer Individual, Volunteer Group, Professional Individual, and Organization. Notification letters to award winners and nominators were sent this week. Plaques have been ordered. The awards ceremony will take place on June 4 (1:00-4:00 p.m.) at Olbrich Gardens in east Madison, following the next Council meeting. DNR Deputy Secretary Kurt Thiede will attend the event.

*Video Competition* – The Committee is coordinating the 2015 Invasive Species Awareness Month video competition. The competition was launched on May 1 and runs through May 30. It was promoted at the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers convention and other venues using a flyer developed by the DOT. The flyer includes an EAB origami activity as well. One video entry has been received to date.

*Education Summit* – The 2015 event is planned for October 27 at the Mackenzie Environmental Center in Poynette. The committee will be meeting in May to finalize a planning timeline and identify tasks.

### **Demonstration: New Invasive Species Council Website**

Watermolen presented the new Council website. The site is available at [InvasiveSpecies.wi.gov](http://InvasiveSpecies.wi.gov). Major sections of the site include information on the Council, Council committees, Invasive Species Awareness Month, and Council initiatives, as well as resources and links. The goal is to focus the content on information people would likely seek from the Council. It is not intended to be the "be all for everyone" or "everything invasives" website.

The Council discussed maintaining as complete an archive of meeting minutes as possible. Raffa suggested creating separate pages for historical minutes that could be linked from the main "minutes" page as a way of managing the presentation of the large amount of content.

The Council discussed providing contact information for Council members. It was agreed that providing email links was sufficient.

## **Update and Discussion: NR 40 Rule Revision**

Watermolen provided the Council with an update on the NR 40 rule revision process. The rule was enacted with an effective date of Friday, May 1. Council support for these changes was significant and valuable during presentation to Natural Resources Board which approved adoption unanimously and during discussions with legislative leaders. The Council's SAG process was an essential part of development and adoption.

Now it is time for implementation. The DNR will be distributing a news releases and other outreach items through various partner groups. The pending GLRI funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will focus largely on outreach to affected industries, but DNR is awaiting the final grant documents and positions. The DNR Law Enforcement staff liaison has begun spreading the word to LE staff statewide. Further education on when to use the stepped-enforcement process vs. rapid response framework will continue. Through Christa Wollenzien's efforts, the DOT has been getting the word out through internal trainings. The DOT has also assisted with rolling out the rule changes to landscape architects and others. The DNR's Department-wide Invasive Species Team will be meeting in the near future to outline outreach priorities. The DATCP has had discussions regarding tools like a "Top 10 species" fact sheet. Conversations with nursery inspectors and others are continuing as they figure out how to "digest" the updates.

As the final rule language was proofed, staff discovered a few minor errors in the rule text, mostly related to how species were split listed between restricted and prohibited. Corrections have been made in a "note" in the rule, but we will need to correct the rule language through a formal revision. A rule revision process will be initiated by the Bureau of Wildlife Management and the NR 40 corrections will be included along with other "housekeeping" matters. This will take place over the next year.

**TASK:** Watermolen to work with Chairman Schumacher to draft and send a letter to all SAG members announcing enactment of NR 40 and thanking them for their help along the way. The letter will include a PDF of the final NR 40 rule language and an updated list of regulated species.

**TASK:** Watermolen to email all Council members a PDF of the final NR 40 rule language.

## **Committee Report: Council's Research & Regulations Committees**

As discussed in previous meetings, it will be important to initiate a review of the NR 40 species assessment group (SAG) process. The process has been held up due to insufficient staff support at the DNR. The Council would like this effort to move forward so it can learn what worked well and what could be improved. This will help streamline things in the future and help get greater stakeholder input. Watermolen noted that DNR staffer Kelly Kearns is available to give a presentation on how other states have assessed species for regulation as part of their invasive species rule development processes.

## **Presentation: Prioritization Model for Invasive Plant Control**

Dr. Jason Granberg, Water Resource Management Specialist at the DNR, made a presentation to the Council. His presentation focused on efforts to identify priority areas for invasive species management. Following a model developed by the New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game, Dr. Granberg used geographic information system (GIS) technology to map natural features, various indicators of ecosystem integrity and ecosystem services, and potential invasive species pathways. From these analyses, he has

been able to create county maps that display potential high priority areas for focusing control efforts. Dr. Granberg noted how automatically downloaded invasive species records from various online databases could be intersected with the prioritization model to generate alerts when invasive species are found near important natural resource areas. He also noted how the model could be combined with habitat suitability models to support early detection/rapid response efforts. PowerPoint presentation slides from Dr. Granberg's presentation are available.

Sullivan asked how the model could be made actionable. Dr. Granberg explained that the model has been shared with several partners for use (e.g., Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission for use in its GLRI-funded Phragmites control project). Sullivan emphasized the importance of documenting the models use in order to build support for future funding. Sullivan also asked how the model could be used for efforts in State Natural Areas. He suggested it would be interesting to see how actual DNR work aligns with model (i.e. are efforts being focused on priority areas?).

### **Invasive Species and Issues Updates**

A written "Invasive Species and Issues Updates" document was distributed to the Council. See that written report for additional details and staff contact information.

*Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force & Great Lakes/Mississippi Panels* – The national Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force's November 2014 meeting included a Great Lakes Commission staff presentation regarding the Commission's Organisms in Trade Project and Web Crawler Tool. The next meeting of the Task Force will occur in May in Fort Lauderdale, FL. The spring 2015 meeting of the Task Force's Great Lakes Panel was held April 14-15 in Madison. The meeting was held jointly with the Mississippi River Basin Panel.

**TASK:** Watermolen will invite Bob Wakeman to provide an in-person update on the joint panels meeting at the next Council meeting.

**TASK:** Watermolen will re-distribute the GLIMRIS report to Council members

**TASK:** Watermolen will continue to track the "Defending Our Great Lakes" Act and update the Council on any Congressional action.

*AIS Strategic Plan* – Kuhn is representing the Council and DATCP on the plan advisory committee. The committee has had two meetings to date. See written Updates document for details. At the next meeting, the committee will get into more detail. The goal is to develop a draft plan by end of year. The River Alliance of Wisconsin, the AIS group from UW-Extension, and the DNR are all contributing to completion of the effort. Tim Campbell is serving as the group's facilitator. Bob Wakeman is playing a supporting role in the effort. Kuhn sent an email request to Council members asking them to submit comments through an online survey. UW-Extension staff will be compiling the input prior to the committee's next meeting.

**TASK:** Watermolen to invite Bob Wakeman and/or Tim Campbell to provide an in-person update at the next Council meeting.

*Mountain Pine Beetle* – The DATCP Board authorized the scope statement to open up a quarantine discussion to prevent mountain pine beetle from getting into Wisconsin. DATCP also has been working with Minnesota Department of Agriculture to develop protection measures. It could take as long as two years to get a quarantine in place. There is an option available for emergency rules, but those are shorter-

lived. NR 40 gives us some stop gap protection today. DATCP has received preliminary feedback from the forest industry which has generally been supportive. Kuhn also noted that the pine beetle has been getting some coverage in the media (e.g., WPR and National Geographic).

There was a question regarding the possibility of waste wood being transported into Wisconsin. Kuhn indicated that we had no documented cases of waste wood coming to Wisconsin from the West. He also noted that as part of the quarantine discussion, Wisconsin will be looking at writing in exemptions to allow for commerce, such as for kiln dried lumber, while keeping the beetle out.

*Invasive Species Chats* – Watermolen noted that the chat focused on aquatic invasive species (AIS) scheduled for June 4 has been rescheduled and will take place on June 23.

*Jumping Worm Comment Period* – The DNR has been working with an advisory group to develop best management practices to prevent the further introduction and spread of jumping worms. Draft BMPs are available online and are open for public comment. A feature article on jumping worms will appear in the June issue of the *Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine*.

*Feral Pigs* – About 80 free-ranging hogs were confiscated in Manitowoc County by local law enforcement. Wisconsin is treated as Tier 1 state by USDA for funding to eradicate feral pigs. The DATCP is in full support of efforts to prevent spread of feral pigs because of concerns for domestic swine health. Watermolen noted that the available hotline has been successful in reporting cases of feral hogs.

*Starry Stonewort* – Watermolen provided one update that was not included in the written document. He reported that last fall the DNR received a report of starry stonewort (a macroalga that is listed as a prohibited species) in a southern Wisconsin lake. The report has since been verified and the plant has survived the winter. The department is moving into rapid response mode.

Watermolen noted that as the Council had recommended, the DNR has developed a rapid response framework for aquatic invasive species and is now expanding that framework to address all invasive species, aquatic and terrestrial. Since the framework will provide guidance to staff and partners, a draft of it will be subject to public comment later in 2015.

**TASK:** Watermolen will send a link to the DNR's draft rapid response framework to Council members when the document is made available for public comment.

It was noted that Gene Roarke, who previously assisted the Council, has been nominated for the Wisconsin Conservation Congress' Lifetime Achievement Award.

### **Committee Report: Council's Interagency Committee**

The Interagency committee met on March 4 at the DATCP headquarters in Madison.

*Council Goals and GAP Analysis* – Results from the GAP analysis were compiled and presented at the committee meeting. Efforts by DOA, DATCP, and DNR align well with priorities identified by the Council. Feedback from Tourism and DOT had not yet been folded into the analysis. Output: need to put together an action plan based on gaps to located priority areas.

*Interagency Cooperation* – Kuhn noted that in between Council committee meetings, the agencies have been working together. The recent Plant Pest Summit that DATCP hosted is one successful interagency effort that involved the DNR, UW, various Native American tribes, and the Minnesota Forest

Entomology group. Kuhn also noted the jumping worm advisory group that the DNR has convened and how it is successfully pulling together affected stakeholders to develop BMPS.

*Baitfish Working Group and Other Ad-hoc Groups* – At the last committee meeting, key people and organizations were identified for participation. Potential leaders for ad-hoc groups were also identified. Insufficient staff support has hindered moving forward at this point.

**TASK:** Kuhn will send Watermolen the approved minutes from the January 10, 2014 meeting so they can be posted on the Council website

### **Public Comment**

There was no comment from the public.

### **Adjourn**

The Council meeting adjourned at 3:55.