

Wisconsin Invasive Species Council Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 19, 2016
Via Conference Call

Meeting Notes

Chairman Schumacher called the meeting to order at 3:05.

Members Present: Schumacher, Kuhn
Others Present: Watermolen (staff)

Approval of Minutes (September 29, 2015 Executive Committee Meeting)

Motion by Kuhn to approve the meeting minutes, with one minor correction. Second by Schumacher. Motion carried. Watermolen will post the minutes on the Council web site.

Update on DNR Invasive Species Staffing

The DNR invasive species coordinator position remains vacant. Permission to fill the position has not yet been granted.

Update on Council Appointments

Late last year, the governor appointed Hannah Spaul to serve as a public member of the Council. The Secretary of the Department of Tourism appointed Patrick Reinsma to represent that agency. Both new Council members attend the Council's December 1, 2015 meeting. Watermolen has provided basic orientation materials to the new Council members.

The Council endorsed the reappointment of Jim Kerkman at its December 1, 2015 meeting. Chairman Schumacher sent a letter to the Governor's office communicating the endorsement. In mid-December, the governor reappointed Mr. Kerkman to serve as a public member of the Council.

Dr. Jim Reinartz has applied for reappointment, but no action has been taken on his application at this time. The Council endorsed his reappointment at its December meeting. Chairman Schumacher sent a letter to the Governor's office communicating the endorsement.

The Department of Natural Resources has not yet named a replacement for Jack Sullivan, who retired earlier this year.

Review of Tasks from December 1, 2015 Council Meeting

The committee reviewed draft minutes from the December 1, 2015 Council meeting and discussed the status of assigned tasks. Tasks from the meeting minutes and the status of each follow.

Task from Minutes: Dreux Watermolen will prepare letters of endorsement for Jim Reinartz and Jim Kerkman for Chairman Schumacher's signature. **Completed.** Letters have been sent to the Governor's office.

Task from Minutes: Dreux Watermolen will prepare a resolution certificate acknowledging Jack Sullivan's service and contributions for Chairman Schumacher's signature. **Completed.** Certificate has been sent to Mr. Sullivan.

Task from Minutes: All council members will read through the 2015 interim report [DNR report to governor, legislature, and Council]. The next Council meeting will include an agenda item related to providing suggestions for information to include in the 2016 report. Recommendations will be shared with the DNR's Invasive Species Team, which is responsible for preparing the report. **Ongoing.**

Task from Minutes: Bob Wakeman will share a draft of the AIS strategic plan with the Council in early 2016 for discussion at a future Council meeting. **Ongoing.**

Task from Minutes: Each Council member who represents a state agency will evaluate sponsorship opportunities and levels and will coordinate sponsorships with Dreux Watermolen. **Ongoing.** Watermolen will follow up with agency representatives.

Task from Minutes: Bob Wakeman will attempt to find out which state's Attorney Generals will be in attendance through his participation on the Great Lakes and Mississippi Panels. **Ongoing.**

Task from Minutes: Dreux Watermolen will notify the Council when the invasive species response framework is available for public review and comment. **Ongoing.** Anticipate that the document will be available for review in February or March.

Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference Sponsorship

The Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference is scheduled for October 17- 19, 2016 in La Crosse, Wisconsin. More than 600 attendees are anticipated. For the past conference, several state agencies represented on the Council contributed sponsorships at a level that allowed the Council to be listed as a hosting organization and provided several complimentary conference registrations for Council members. There appears to be similar interest this year. As discussed at the December 1, 2015 Council meeting, Watermolen will coordinate sponsorships with Council members who represent state agencies. Chairman Schumacher asked to be copied on communications regarding conference sponsorship.

Task: Watermolen will contact Council members who represent state agencies and will coordinate sponsorships with the various agencies. Watermolen will share information with the Council as agency sponsorships are confirmed.

Council Response to Proposed U.S.F.W.S. Injurious Species Listing

Chytridiomycosis is a fungal disease that affects amphibians. The causative agent, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, has been found on every continent except Antarctica and has been implicated in declines in wild amphibian populations worldwide, affecting more than 500 species. This fungus has been found

to be one of the most common pathogens related to diseases in captive amphibians. A second species, *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*, was recently described. *B. salamandrivorans* appears to have originated in Asia and migrated, likely via imported amphibians, to Europe, where it is killing endangered salamanders. To date, *B. salamandrivorans* has been found only on these two continents. However, North America is the global center of salamander diversity and scientists have expressed concern that *B. salamandrivorans* could be introduced here through trade in exotic pets. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is amending regulations under the Lacey Act to add 201 species of salamanders to the list of injurious amphibians. The interim rule, effective January 28, 2016, prohibits importation and interstate transport of the listed salamanders. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services is inviting written comments on the interim rule on or before March 14, 2016. The Council could consider weighing in on the interim rule.

- Task:** Watermolen will inform DNR's Wildlife Health and other relevant programs of the rule revision and determine if the DNR anticipates submitting written comments on the rule revisions.

- Task:** Kuhn will inform DATCP's Animal Health program of the rule revision and determine if the DATCP anticipates submitting written comments on the rule revisions.

- Task:** Watermolen to distribute background information on *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* and the rule revisions to Council members in advance of the Council's spring meeting.

Plans for 2016 Council meetings

The Executive Committee discussed plans for future Council meetings. The committee recommends the Council meet on a quarterly basis in 2016.

- Task:** Watermolen to poll Council members for possible spring meeting dates and times.

Topics to consider for the Council's spring meeting agenda include:

- Invasive species staff and Council appointment updates
- Council suggestions for topics to include in 2016 Legislative Report
- Discussion of AIS Strategic Plan
- Update on UMISC sponsorship
- Discussion about *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* and Council's response to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service request for public comments
- Update on GLRI outreach project
- Invasive species and program updates
- Update on DNR response framework
- Update on jumping worms
- Check-in on Council goals and Invasive Species Strategic Plan implementation

The Council's June meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual Invader Crusader Awards ceremony. The meeting and ceremony are tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 7 at the McKenzie Environmental Center in Poynette.

Topics to consider for the Council's June meeting include:

- Invasive species staff and Council appointment updates
- Council suggestions for topics to include in 2016 Legislative Report

The Council should tentatively plan for September and December meetings.

Other Business

The committee considered no additional business items.

Adjourn

Motion by Schumacher. Second by Kuhn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:10.