

Wisconsin Invasive Species Council Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, March 13, 2017
Via Conference Call

Meeting Notes

Chairman Schumacher called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m.

Members present: Paul Schumacher, Drew Feldkirchner, Brian Kuhn
Others present: Tara Bergeson (DNR staff), Dreux Watermolen (DNR staff)

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Kuhn to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2016 Executive Committee meeting.
Second by Mr. Feldkirchner. Motion carried. Minutes will be posted on the Council web site.

Update on Council Appointments

Jim Kerkman will not be re-applying for a position on the Council. He is also a member of the Council on Forestry and has provided an important Forestry perspective during his tenure. The Council would like to maintain the Forestry connection with a new appointee. Several ideas for candidates were discussed. Valerie Johnson (USDA) has expressed interest. The Council may consider, at their upcoming meeting, making a suggestion to the Governor's office regarding a new appointee.

TASK: Mr. Feldkirchner will check with DNR Forestry Director, Fred Souba, for his thoughts on a Council recommendation for an appointee with strong Forestry background.

TASK: Mr. Feldkirchner will contact the Council on Forestry for their suggestions for an appointee.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will send information about the Council to Valerie Johnson.

Travis Olson's replacement on the Council will be Lauren Leckwee. Ms. Leckwee works in the Coastal Management Program at DOA. Mr. Watermolen has been in touch with DOA to let them know that we would send an example appointment letter for them.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will follow-up with Ms. Leckwee on getting the appointment letter finalized.

Paul Schumacher's Council term will expire on July 01, 2017. Mr. Schumacher indicated the he would most likely not re-apply because of other time-consuming commitments.

The Committee indicated that it would be great to have Council representation from the aquatic/water field, and indicated that it would be prudent to seek broad feedback on potential candidates rather than identifying a specific individual to recommend for appointment.

TASK: Mr. Schumacher will contact river/lake/water organizations and encourage them to suggest individuals from their organizations to apply for Council appointment.

Mr. Feldkirchner asked about the timeline for appointments being made by the Governor's office. Mr. Watermolen indicated that the gubernatorial appointments are made at the discretion of the Governor's office, including the timing of those appointments. The incumbent has typically continued to serve until a new member is appointed. If the Council identifies potential candidates, Ms. Bergeson can pass along the link to the application website. The Council has, in the past, endorsed individuals for appointment. This could be done by sending a letter to the Governor's office with a list of individuals and asking that the Governor consider appointing them to the Council.

The Council could send letters to organizations that might have an interest in having representation on the Council indicating that there will be vacancies.

Mr. Schumacher indicated a desire to be attentive to the timing of getting candidates to apply and then appointments made. The Council will discuss it at their April meeting with the intent of keeping the process moving forward.

The Council will also need to select a new Chair to replace outgoing Chairman Schumacher. Mr. Schumacher suggested that Council member Tom Buechel would be a good candidate.

TASK: Mr. Kuhn will talk with Mr. Buechel to see if he has an interest in serving as Council Chair.

Mr. Kuhn expressed his appreciation to Paul for his dedication and work on the Council over the years.

Tom Bressner's term will expire on July 01 2017. Tom has indicated that he intends to re-apply for his position

Greg Long's term will expire on July 11, 2017. Mr. Schumacher mentioned that Mr. Long has served on the Council since its beginning.

TASK: Mr. Schumacher will check with Mr. Long about whether or not he intends to re-apply.

Mr. Schumacher asked Mr. Feldkirchner about changes with DNR forester duties. Are counties now sharing foresters? Mr. Feldkirchner responded that DNR's Forestry Program has done some restructuring, which includes moving staff around to meet the needs of the agency. The distribution of work varies by County.

DNR Invasive Species Staffing Updates

Mr. Schumacher stated that it would be helpful for the Council to know who is on the DNR's Invasive Species Team.

TASK: Tara will provide a list of the Department Invasive Species Team (DIST) to the Council.

TASK: Tara will ask Scott Loomans if he will be doing the bait fish work for the Fisheries Program.

Mandatory Public Records Training

The Governor directed each state agency to provide public records resources and regular training for all employees and members of all boards, councils, and commissions attached to the agency.

MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/office-open-government/office-open-government-resources>

Ms. Bergeson gave an update on the required public records training, which all Council members must complete by July 1 2017. Mr. Schumacher indicated that he would prefer Council members complete the training on their own by viewing the training materials provided. They should keep track of any questions they have so that Ms. Bergeson can follow-up and provide answers. If necessary, arrangements could be made to have legal counsel attend a Council meeting (in person or via phone) to answer questions. Mr. Schumacher would like Council members to complete the training before the April Council meeting. Bring any questions to the meeting.

TASK: Tara will share the training materials with Council members.

Commercial Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (S.168)

The Committee discussed S. 168 – the Commercial Vessel Incidental Discharge Act – which was introduced in the Senate on January 1, 2017. Ms. Bergeson indicated that DNR’s Waste Water Program had submitted a letter outlining their concerns with the act. The Executive Committee felt that the entire Council would benefit from a briefing on this issue at their April meeting.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will check whether the Waste Water Program letter was new in 2017 or refers to what was sent during the last Congressional session.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will include this on the Council’s meeting agenda for April 2017.

Species Assessment Group Process

Mr. Kuhn indicated that Mr. Long has sent some background materials to a small group to begin the process of the SAG Review. The small group will be getting together to discuss how to move ahead with the SAG review process.

Mr. Watermolen noted that many of the former SAG members have retired or are now in different position, including most of the SAG Chairpersons, who were DNR staff. Given this, we need to evaluate how to get feedback on the past SAG process. At present, former SAG members have not been asked to provide feedback. Mr. Kuhn responded that this is why it will be a good idea to get the small group together and identify the best path forward. Some ideas for improvements in the process have already been identified by Council members and DNR staff. Mr. Long has already had some discussions with Ms. Bergeson and Ms. Kearns about how to proceed with the review process.

Ms. Kearns provided the following to the small group as a resource as the review process gets started: <http://www.mitppc.umn.edu/>

TASK: Mr. Kuhn will contact Mr. Long and suggest that he get in touch with Ms. Bergeson to get a first meeting scheduled.

Review minutes and tasks from December 14, 2016 Council meeting

The Executive Committee reviewed draft minutes from the December 14, 2016 Council meeting and discussed the status of assigned tasks. Tasks from the meeting minutes and the status of each follow:

Task from December 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes: Ms. Bergeson will reach out to the Wisconsin Wetlands Association Policy Coordinator to discuss opportunities to promote integration of wetland and nuisance weed ordinances. **Ongoing.** Ms. Bergeson has asked Mr. Schumacher for more detailed guidance on the goals and intended results of this conversation might be.

Task from December 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes: Ms. Bergeson and Ms. Williams will track the issue and provide updates as appropriate [Consideration of Petition Related to Biological Control of Garlic Mustard]. **Ongoing.**

Task from December 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes: Ms. Bergeson will remind the Council to review the biennial goals for the Council and, in particular, the NR 40 species assessment process. **Completed.** Ms. Bergeson reminded the Council of this via email prior to the April 2017 Council meeting.

Task from December 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes: Ms. Bergeson will poll the Council in early January to schedule the spring meeting. **Completed.**

Preparation of agenda for April 6, 2017 Council meeting

The Executive Committee reviewed a list of possible agenda topics for the December 14 Council meeting and discussed a draft agenda for the meeting. Topics to consider for the agenda include:

1. Approval of December 14, 2016 Council meeting minutes
2. Status of Council members (Does the Council want to endorse any candidates?)
3. Public records training
4. Update on Conference Call with Senator Baldwin's Office (regarding Minimally Processed Wood Products)

Send to executive committee right away

Attach with materials to entire Council before meeting on April 6.

Include this as an item for about a 15-minute agenda item as an update.

Brian may have a letter from APHIS to national Plant Board.

Brain will send DATCP press release and above to Tara to include in

5. Ballast Water Legislation – update and does the Council want to weigh in again in any way?
6. Council Committee Reports
 - a. Education Committee Report
 - i. Progress on 2017 ISAM, Invader Crusader Awards, video competition
 - b. Research & Regulations– update on SAG review process
 - c. Interagency

7. Organisms in Trade & Internet Sales (tabled from Dec 2016 Council meeting). Mary Bartkowiak may not be able to attend the April 6 Council meeting. If not, she can provide a written update on this topic.
8. Update on NR 40 education efforts by DNR staff
9. Palmer Amaranth Update (Brian Kuhn)
10. Emerald Ash Borer
Update on the parasitoid wasps. DNR is the lead on this topic and typically handles the biocontrol. APHIS is looking to ramp up biocontrol production side of things. There is probably one new species of parasitic insect that is being released now.
11. Presentation on Live Aquaria
12. Aquatic and Terrestrial grant funding for invasive species
Mr. Schumacher would like a general update at the April Council meeting.
13. Begin discussion on goals for next biennial period.
14. Council Questions and Feedback on Written Updates

Agency/Program Updates on Invasive Species

No additional agency/program updates were discussed.

Other Business Allowed by Law

The committee considered no additional business items.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Kuhn and seconded by Feldkirchner. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:18 PM.