

Wisconsin Invasive Species Council Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, May 15, 2017
Via Conference Call

Meeting Notes

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

Chairman Schumacher called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The committee approved the minutes from the March 13, 2017 Executive Committee meeting. The minutes will be posted on the Council's website.

Update on Council Appointments

The Committee discussed the upcoming vacancy of Council Chair with Chairman Schumacher leaving the Council in June. Mr. Kuhn noted that he had discussed the chairmanship with Mr. Buechel, who expressed that he would consider accepting a nomination for the role.

Mr. Schumacher reported that he asked Mr. Long if he intended to re-apply, but hadn't heard back from Mr. Long at this point. Mr. Schumacher also contacted the Wisconsin Association of Lakes and the River Alliance to let them know that the Council will have vacancies. The River Alliance expressed interest as did the Lakes Association; however, the Lakes Association does not have anyone with the time to serve right now. Ms. Spaul contacted the Wisconsin Wetlands Association as well, and they have a staff person who is interested in applying.

TASK: Chairman Schumacher will send the names of the interested individuals to Ms. Bergeson.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will forward application information to the interested individuals.

Mr. Kuhn reported that Mr. Bressner re-applied for his Council seat.

Ms. Bergeson gave an update on Ms. Leckwee's (DOA) Council position. DOA has not yet provided an appointment letter. Tara will keep the Council updated on the status of this.

Mr. Kuhn wondered if the Governor's office knows the number of vacancies that the Council will have in July when several terms expire. If the Council sends a letter to the Governor's office, we should indicate the number of vacancies.

Mr. Feldkirchner stated that there might be an opportunity soon for him to meet with the new government liaison. If this happens, Drew can share the number of vacancies and applicants at that time.

TASK: If Mr. Feldkirchner is not able to meet with the Governor's office liaison, then Ms. Bergeson will notify the Governor's office of the number of vacancies on the Council (at the present time, we believe there will be three applicants for two positions).

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 (DIST).

TASK: Tara has the DIST list compiled and will send it to the Council.

The committee briefly discussed whether the department's new Fisheries Policy Analyst will cover work related to baitfish. Mr. Schumacher noted that the Best Management Practices (BMPs) related to baitfish need updating.

TASK: Mr. Feldkirchner will talk with Fisheries Bureau Director, Justine Hasz to get clarification on the role of the Policy Analyst (Scott Loomans).

Commercial Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (S.168)

The committee and Council have previously discussed S. 168 – the Commercial Vessel Incidental Discharge Act – which was introduced in the Senate on January 1, 2017. Ms. Bergeson indicated that she had received an update on the legislation, including draft amendment language from Elizabeth Kluesner, DNR Legislative Liaison.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will include the amendment in the Council's June 8, 2017 meeting packet.

Status of WISC members completing mandatory public records training

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will continue to work on getting a response on Mr. Long's questions regarding public records management for Council members.

Update on SAG Process Review

Mr. Kuhn reported that the SAG Review Team had a good meeting recently. The team discussed an initial timeline for completing the review process and agreed to develop a list of questions to use for interviewing past SAG members. Interviews will be conducted by SAG Review Team members. Ms. Bergeson is compiling notes and next steps that resulted from the meeting.

Chairman Schumacher asked about the level of consistency among the various SAGs. (for example, in some SAGs DNR staff voted while in other SAGs they did not.) There is some risk in having an advocate for species running a meeting in which that species is being discussed. Some SAGs used facilitators for this reason.

Mr. Kuhn replied that the Review Team has discussed consistency, but has not yet specifically addressed it yet. It is a topic that will be addressed during the review and development of the new SAG process.

Mr. Schumacher suggested that once the new process is defined and SAGs are ready to kick-off, it would be good to meet with the new SAG leaders and clearly explain the process so there is a common understanding.

The committee briefly discussed the timeline for the SAG process and rule-making process. The entire process will take at least three years to complete. The SAG process will take at least one year. Once that is complete, the rule-making process can begin and that takes at least two years.

Mr. Schumacher noted that there is an existing flow chart that shows how the process works.

TASK: Tara will locate the flow chart and share it with the SAG Review Team members.

Forestry Mill Tax letter for Wisconsin legislature

Chairman Schumacher noted that he will be sending a letter, as a private citizen, on the mill tax changes being considered by the legislature.

TASK: Mr. Schumacher will notify the Council of his intent and let them know that they are free to do the same as private citizens.

Review minutes and tasks from April 6, 2017 Council meeting

The Executive Committee reviewed draft minutes from the April 6, 2017 Council meeting and discussed the status of assigned tasks. Tasks from the meeting minutes and the status of each follow:

Task from April 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes: Chairman Schumacher will draft a letter recommending that the Governor appoint Ms. Johnson to the Council seat that Mr. Kerkman will vacate in July 2017.

Status | Ongoing. Ms. Bergeson will send information about Ms. Johnson to Chairman Schumacher to help with the letter drafting.

Task from April 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes: Ms. Bergeson will work with Ms. Schaefer and DNR invasive species staff to get a recognition plaque for Mr. Travis Olson for the June 8 Council meeting.

Status | Ongoing. Ms. Bergeson is working with DNR DIST members to get plaques for Olson, as well as for Mr. Dreux Watermolen and Mr. Dougal Walker.

Task from April 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes: Ms. Spaul will contact WWA to let them know there will be vacancies.

Status | Complete

Task from April 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes: Ms. Bergeson will include voting for a chair as an agenda item for the June 8, 2017 Council meeting.

Status | Complete

Task from April 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes: Ms. Bergeson will follow-up on the public records questions and report back to the Council.

Status | Ongoing. Ms. Bergeson requested responses from DOA public records experts. She is still waiting for their response.

Task from April 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes: Ms. Bergeson will ask Elizabeth Kluesner for an update on DNR's actions related to the ballast water legislation.

Status | Complete

Task from April 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes: Ms. Bergeson will ask Mary Bartkowiak for the Plant Identification Guide for DATCP Inspectors and send it to Chairman Schumacher.

Status | Complete

Task from April 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes: Council members should review the Organisms in Trade written update and consider whether there is anything else that we could be doing. This will be a topic for discuss at the June Council meeting.

Status | Complete

Task from April 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes: Ms. Bergeson will check with Mr. Bob Wakeman on the AIS Strategic plan schedule.

Status | On Hold pending further discussion with Council.

Task from April 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes: Ms. Bergeson will verify that space is reserved at the MacKenzie Center for the June 8 Council meeting and Invader Crusader Awards Ceremony.

Status | Complete

Task from April 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes: Mr. Kerkman will send sample mill tax letters to Ms. Bergeson.

Status | Complete.

Task from April 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes: Ms. Spaul will share related mill tax materials of interest with the Council.

Status | Complete

Preparation of agenda for June 8, 2017 Council meeting

The Executive Committee reviewed a list of possible agenda topics for the June 8, 2017 Council meeting and discussed a draft agenda for the meeting. Topics considered for the agenda include:

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Action Item: Approval of April 6, 2017 Council meeting minutes
4. Status of Council member vacancies
5. Action Item: Election of new Council Chair
6. Update: State agency invasive species staffing
7. Update: Status of required public records training (Tara Bergeson, DNR)
8. Committee report: Council's Research Committee (Greg Long)

- Update on Species Assessment Group (SAG) Review
9. Committee report: Council's Interagency Committee (Brian Kuhn)
 10. Committee report: Council's Education Committee (Christa Schafer, DOT)
 11. Organisms in Trade

From April WISC meeting. Chairman Schumacher asked Council members to review the OIT written update from the April meeting and consider whether there is anything else that we could be doing? This will be topic for discuss at the June Council meeting.
 12. State agency updates
 - DATCP update to include information on one-day weigh station blitz looking for gypsy moth eggs inside or outside of PODS, moving trucks, etc.

TASKS related to June 8 Invader Crusader Awards Ceremony (following Council meeting):

Ms. Bergeson will work with Education Committee Chair and Mr. Feldkirchner to identify an emcee for the Invader Crusader Awards.

Ms. Bergeson will send OIT written updates to the Council again for their review.

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 2:02 PM.