

Wisconsin Invasive Species Council Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 16, 2016
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Meeting Notes

Chairman Schumacher called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Members present: Schumacher, Feldkirchner, Kuhn
Others present: Watermolen (staff)

Approval of Minutes (May 13, 2016 Executive Committee meeting)

Motion by Mr. Kuhn to approve the meeting minutes. Second by Chairman Schumacher. Motion carried. Minutes will be posted on the Council web site.

Update on Council Appointments

On Monday, August 15, Watermolen contacted the Department of Tourism's Deputy Secretary via email regarding a replacement for Patrick Reinsma. An appointment has not yet been made. Per Chairman Schumacher's request, He will follow up the week of August 22 if no response is received.

Update on DNR Invasive Species Staffing

The DNR invasive species coordinator position remains vacant. Permission to fill the position has not yet been granted. Mr. Feldkirchner explained that the agency is continuing to work on its Strategic Alignment which will determine the future "home" of the position.

Invasive species educator Amy Kretlow has accepted a project appointment in the DNR's southeast region as an AIS monitoring and rapid response specialist. A recruitment process for her replacement will be initiated. GLRI funding for the "Organisms in Trade" project is available for another year.

Fisheries staff specialist Kate Strom-Hjorns will be leaving the DNR for a position at the DATCP at the end of August. Another staff person in the fisheries management bureau will likely take over leadership of the department's bait team, but a decision as to who that will be has not yet been announced.

Review of Minutes and Tasks from June 9, 2016 Council Meeting

The Executive Committee reviewed draft minutes from the June 9, 2016 Council meeting and discussed the status of assigned tasks. Tasks from the meeting minutes and the status of each follow:

TASK from Meeting Minutes: Watermolen will provide Chairman Schumacher with a resolution certificate to be signed and mailed to Dr. Reinartz. **STATUS:** Completed. Certificate has been signed and mailed.

TASK from Meeting Minutes: Council members to email any additional comments to Mr. Watermolen by June 30, 2016. **STATUS:** Completed. Council member comments have been received.

Chairman Schumacher noted that Christa Wollenzien, DOT, currently serves in a leadership role for the IPAW. Given her staff support for the Council's Education Committee and her involvement with invasive species issues for the DOT, Chairman Schumacher indicated he thought Ms. Wollenzien could be an effective informal liaison between the Council and IPAW.

TASK: Chairman Schumacher will talk with Ms. Wollenzien prior to the September Council meeting to determine if she can serve as an informal liaison between the Council and IPAW.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Strategic Plan

Mr. Kuhn is representing the Council on the planning committee. He reported that Tim Campbell is close to having a final draft plan document. Mr. Kuhn reviewed an early draft and provided comments by last Friday's deadline. The group anticipates the document will be available for stakeholder review in September. Mr. Kuhn will share the draft plan with green industry stakeholders and the Council. Mr. Kuhn stated that he felt the plan would dovetail well with Council's strategic plan.

TASK: Watermolen to invite Tim Campbell to the Council's September 14 meeting to provide an overview of the draft plan.

Discussion of Door County Town Noxious Weed Ordinances

Schumacher described the recent adoption of noxious weed ordinances by several towns in Door County. Watermolen has been working with DNR staff to develop an additional resource page on the Council's website to provide examples of local ordinances already adopted by Wisconsin municipalities. Additional examples can be added over time. It was suggested that once the webpage is completed the Council could ask the Wisconsin Towns Association (and other local government associations) to provide links to it. A draft of the new webpage will be presented at the Council's September 14 meeting.

Discussion of Council and Agency 2015-2017 Goals

The Executive Committee briefly discussed the Council's 2015-2017 Biennial Goals document. Work is underway on a number of goals. Chairman Schumacher asked about the status of the review of the species assessment group (SAG) process. The review continues to be delayed due to staffing shortfalls at the DNR.

TASK: Watermolen to include the 2015-2017 Biennial Goals document with the agenda packet for the Council's September 14 meeting.

TASK: Watermolen to discuss initiating the SAG review with the DNR's Invasive Species Team to see if additional staff can be assigned to help move the process forward.

Mr. Kuhn expressed a willingness to get National Plant Board input regarding discussions about consistency of regulations across states.

Chairman Schumacher asked how things were progressing on bait fish regulation and BMP revisions. Watermolen indicated that Kate Storm-Hjorns recently provided an update on the DNR's bait fish team via email. Chairman Schumacher expressed concern that not enough progress has been made in updating the bait fish BMPs and that a rule revision process to address any short comings in current regulations will take too long. The topic will be included on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

Preparation of Agenda for September 14, 2016 Council Meeting

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

Approval of June 9, 2016 Council meeting minutes

Staffing Updates:

- Council membership appointments
- State agency invasive species staffing

Program Updates:

- DNR's annual report to Legislature, Governor, and Council
- AIS strategic planning process
- Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference
- Council questions and feedback on written updates
- Bait fish regulation and BMP review

Discussion Items/Presentations:

- Local noxious weed ordinances
- Giant hogweed response in southeast Wisconsin
- Insects recently discovered in furniture imports

TASK: Watermolen will prepare a draft meeting agenda and circulate it to the Executive Committee for review and finalization.

Invasive Species Funding in Next State Budget

The Executive Committee briefly discussed the need for sustainable funding for invasive species programs, particularly terrestrial invasive species. It is recognized that the current reliance on federal grant funding is not a sustainable model.

TASK: Watermolen will distribute to the Executive Committee and Council a process diagram and timeline for the State Budget process.

Agency/Program Updates on Invasive Species

The Executive Committee briefly discussed two informational memos prepared by Watermolen to update the Council on a potentially invasive fungal pathogen that could impact salamander populations and a recently discovered fish virus. The memos will be distribute to the Council next week.

Mr. Kuhn mentioned that DNR's Forestry program leadership has asked staff to work with DATCP to put together an update on emerald ash borer (EAB) for the Legislature.

Mr. Kuhn reported that a number of nonnative insects have been potentially arriving in rustic furniture being shipped into the state via internet and mail order trade. The DATCP is working with APHIS and U.S. Customs to respond to the threat of introductions. All known infected material has been confiscated and incinerated. It was suggested that these recent discoveries and responses, and the broader concern of invasive species being introduced through internet and mail order pathways, be shared with Wisconsin's federal elected officials. Chairman Schumacher asked that a discussion of this pathway be included on the Council's September 14 meeting agenda.

Other Business

The committee considered no additional business items.

Adjourn

Motion by Mr. Kuhn. Second by Chairman Schumacher. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.