

Wisconsin Invasive Species Council Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 17, 2016
Via Conference Call

Meeting Notes

Chairman Schumacher called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

Members present: Schumacher, Feldkirchner, Kuhn

Others present: Watermolen (staff)

Approval of Minutes

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

Update on Council Appointments

The Secretary of Tourism has appointed Ms. Julie Fox as a replacement for Patrick Reinsma. Mr. Watermolen has communicated with Ms. Fox. She anticipates participating in the December Council meeting. Mr. Watermolen will share background information on the Council and conduct an orientation session for Ms. Fox prior to the December meeting.

The Council will need to appoint a member to replace Dr. Reinartz as committee chair for the Council's Research Committee.

Update on Invasive Species Staffing

The DNR invasive species coordinator position remains vacant. The DNR secretary's office has received two letters from Council members requesting the agency move forward with filling the current vacancy. The DNR's strategic alignment will determine the future "home" of the position. Agency administration has scheduled a department-wide town hall meeting to roll out the strategic alignment for November 30. Mr. Feldkirchner indicated more information should be available by the Council's next meeting.

Mr. Kuhn noted that the DATCP has filled two plant pest and disease specialist positions. Tim Boyle and Shanon Hankin will start their positions on Monday, November 28, 2016. Ms. Hankin will work out of the Madison Prairie Oak State Office Building where she will assist the phytosanitary certificate program and cover inspection field work in Green Lake, Waushara, Marquette, Juneau, Adams, Richland, Vernon, and Crawford Counties. Mr. Boyle will work out of his home headquarters and cover inspection field work in Clark, Jackson, Monroe, La Crosse, Trempealeau, Buffalo, and Pepin Counties.

Review Minutes and Tasks from September 14, 2016 Council Meeting

The Executive Committee reviewed draft minutes from the September 14, 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: Mr. Watermolen will send Council members reminders in March 2017 with information on applying for reappointment. **In process.** Chairman Schumacher requested that reminders of reappointment be sent in February rather than March. Mr. Watermolen indicated that he could send the reminders in February rather than March.

Task from meeting minutes: Mr. Watermolen will inquire with the Bureau of Fisheries Management to determine what the plans are for moving the current baitfish regulation discussions forward. **In process.** The Fisheries Management program is dealing with a large number of staff vacancies and has not yet assigned responsibility for bait regulations.

Task from meeting minutes: Council members to submit any additional suggestions regarding major gaps in content [for the DNR's legislative report] to Mr. Watermolen by September 21, 2016. **Completed.** No additional comments were received from Council members following the September Council meeting. Chairman Schumacher asked about the status of the report. The department is working to get accurate expenditure information for the report.

Task from meeting minutes: Council members to provide feedback/input on the draft AIS strategic management plan to Tim Campbell by September 28, 2016. **Completed.** Several Council members contributed comments on the AIS strategic plan. Mr. Campbell is working to incorporate those suggestions. Chairman Schumacher requested an update be presented at the next Council meeting.

Task from meeting minutes: Mr. Kuhn and Mr. Watermolen to develop a draft letter for Chairman Schumacher's signature based on National Plant Board resolution. **In process.** Committee directed the letter to be addressed to Wisconsin's congressional delegation and copied to relevant federal agency staff. Mr. Kuhn noted that the DATCP is considering hiring short-term employees to visit additional furniture stores to check for rustic furniture that may be infested or have been imported illegally.

Task from meeting minutes: Mr. Watermolen to provide Council members with information about the "Where Ecology Meets Economy" conference via email. **Completed.** Mr. Kuhn reported that NR 40 was the subject of considerable focused conversation at the meeting. Several DATCP staff members participated in the meeting.

Council Response to Garlic Mustard Biocontrol Petition

The Executive Committee briefly discussed a petition for the introduction, experimental release, and open-field release of a root-mining weevil for the biological control of garlic mustard that was developed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Minnesota has requested letters of support for the proposal. DATCP and DNR staff members are currently reviewing the petition and available information. The DATCP and USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine regulate the introduction and movement of biological control agents into and within Wisconsin. If organisms have not been approved for release previously, a risk assessment is required.

The Executive Committee felt the full Council would benefit from a briefing on the petition and any related issues at the December Council meeting prior to taking action. Chairman Schumacher asked that

the petition be sent to Council member Raffa for review and feedback prior to the December Council meeting.

Task: Mr. Watermolen will send the petition to Dr. Raffa for his review prior to the upcoming Council meeting.

Preparation of Agenda for December 14, 2016 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:

Approval of September 14, 2016 Council meeting minutes

Staffing and related updates:

- Council membership
- Agency invasive species staffing

Council committee reports:

- Research Committee - assignment of Chair to replace Dr. Reinartz, who no longer serves on the Council
- Education Committee Report - plans for 2017 Invader Crusader Awards and ISAM video competition

Program updates:

- Report out on Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC)
- Aquatic invasive species (AIS) strategic plan - input received and how plan has been modified, next steps and timeline
- Aquatic invasive species grant programs - current proposals for rule revisions and next steps/opportunities for Council input
- Outreach and education related to NR 40, including bait shop outreach “reboot”

Action items:

- Petition for biocontrol of garlic mustard

Discussion items/presentations:

- Local noxious weed ordinances/new web resource (deferred from September meeting)
- Exotic pet re-homing efforts - recent events, next steps and timelines
- Bait fish regulation - report on UMISC Attorney Generals’ workshop at UMISC

Invasive species updates:

- Red swamp crayfish control efforts (including any outreach to educators requesting permits for classroom use)
- Round goby response at Lake Winnebago

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

Chairman Schumacher requested that a written update on the spread (a map) and planned response to Starry Stonewort, including any opportunities for Council input on the response plan, be included with the Council meeting materials if possible.

Chairman Schumacher requested that the Council's 2017-2018 goals be distributed with the Council meeting materials as a reminder.

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 by Mr. Kuhn. Second by Feldkirchner. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

DRAFT