

Wisconsin Invasive Species Council Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 29, 2015
Via Conference Call

Meeting Notes

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

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

Approval of Minutes (May 26, 2015 Executive Committee meeting)

Motion by Kuhn to approve the meeting minutes with one modification. 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. The position is funded with general purpose revenues (GPR). The DNR is required to lapse GPR funds under the state budget adopted in July. The agency is considering how to manage the required lapse. In the meantime, hiring of the position is on hold pending the outcome of the lapse discussions.

The DNR is currently recruiting two limited-term employee positions (LTEs) to conduct work under a GLRI grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Their work will focus on invasive organisms in trade.

Shahla Werner has replaced Christopher Deegan as DATCP's Plant Protection Section Chief. Shahla will be serving as DATCP's representative on the Urban Forestry Council and will also likely attend Invasive Species Council meetings.

Update on Annual Invasive Species Program Report

The DNR is required by *Wisconsin Statutes* to submit a biennial report to the legislature, governor, and Council detailing Wisconsin's invasive species programs, the state's progress in controlling invasive species, current expenditures, and future needs. The report is due by October 1 in even numbered years, with an interim report required in odd numbered years. This current report has been drafted and is undergoing administrative review. It will be shared with the Council when it is submitted.

Update on Council Appointments

Pat Morton retired from The Nature Conservancy last year and has relocated. A replacement for Ms. Morton has not been named. The Council endorsed the appointment of Hannah Spaul, but no action has been taken on her application at this time. Chairman Schumacher has been in touch with the Governor's office about the need for an appointment. Watermolen will follow up with DNR's legislative liaison.

Dr. Jim Reinartz has applied for reappointment, but no action has been taken on his application at this time. The Council could consider endorsing his reappointment at its upcoming meeting. Watermolen will follow up with DNR's legislative liaison.

The Department of Tourism has not yet named a replacement for Danielle Johnson, who left that agency earlier this year. Chairman Schumacher has been in touch with the Tourism Secretary's office and requested that an appointment be made. Watermolen will follow up to determine the status of the appointment.

The Department of Natural Resources has not yet named a replacement for Jack Sullivan, who retired earlier this year. Chairman Schumacher has been in touch with the DNR Secretary's office and requested that an appointment be made.

Update on NR 40 Education Efforts

Numerous staff presentations have been made to or are planned for various priority industry groups. Kelly Kearns (DNR) and Liz Meils (DATCP) have conducted some outreach mailings to nurseries. Plant wholesalers will be targeted in the near future. Kearns has also been working with Christa Wollenzien (DOT) to do outreach to road right-of-way managers and landscapers.

Watermolen is a liaison to two Conservation Congress committees: the Environmental and Land Use committees, which both have invasive species management as part of their mission statements. He recently met with both committees to review ch. NR 40 provisions and provide species updates.

The DNR is recruiting two LTE positions to work on a newly-funded GLRI "organisms in trade" project. The positions should be filled in early November and will allow us to do some extensive outreach, particularly with the plant industry.

The DATCP is working on a pollinator conservation plan with a 35-member stakeholder group. Some members have made connections between invasive species concerns and pollinator concerns.

Wisconsin is one of eight pilot states under the National Plant Board for a systems approach to nursery certification. This approach engages nurseries more in the detection and management of plant pests, including invasive species, through a HASAPS approach and critical control points. McCay Nursery is a pilot nursery.

The DNR had an exhibit focused on jumping worms at the Wisconsin State Fair. Staff spoke with hundreds of fair visitors and distributed thousands of informational items.

Watermolen participated in a "Bioblitz" at Schlitz Audubon Center in the Milwaukee area. Several invasive species were detected during the day-long survey effort. Managers were made aware of the occurrences.

Review of Minutes (June 4, 2015 Council meeting) and Status of Tasks

The committee reviewed the draft minutes from the June 4, 2015 Council meeting and discussed the status of assigned tasks. Tasks from the meeting minutes and the status of each follow.

TASK: Dreux Watermolen will speak with DNR communications office on media outreach to promote receiving proclamation.
STATUS: Completed.

TASK: Dreux Watermolen will provide Chairman Schumacher with contact information for the Governor's proclamation office.
STATUS: Completed.

Committee members offered some suggestions for alternative locations for future Invader Crusader awards ceremonies: Hilltop under tent, Governor's conference room, McKenzie Environmental Center.

Agenda for November Council Meeting

The Executive Committee discussed an agenda for the Council's upcoming meeting.

Topics for the agenda to include:

- Call to Order
- Introductions
- June 4, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes Approval
- Council Membership and Staffing Update
- Annual Report to Legislature, Governor, and Council
- Invasive Species and Issues Updates
- Update on AIS Strategic Planning Process
- Council Participation in UMISC (Watermolen to invite Dr. Mark Renz)
- First Detectors Network Update (Watermolen to invite Dr. Mark Renz)
- Informational Presentation: DATCP Pilot Project Work with McCay Nursery (Brian Kuhn)
- Informational Presentation: Rapid Response Framework
- GLRI in Wisconsin, What's Been Funded? What's Been Applied For?
- Discussion: EAB Quarantine Areas and Firewood Movement
- Jumping Worms Reasonable Precautions Update

TASK: Watermolen to prepare and circulate draft agenda to Executive Committee.

TASK: Watermolen to invite meeting presenters.

Adjourn

Motion by Schumacher. Second by Kuhn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:45.