Wisconsin Invasive Species Council Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, May 13, 2016 via Conference Call

Meeting Notes

Chairman Schumacher called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

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

Approval of Minutes (January 19, 2016 Executive Committee meeting)

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

Update on Council Appointments

The Governor has appointed Mr. Thomas Buechel to fill the public position previously filled by Dr. James Reinartz. Watermolen has sent Mr. Buechel background information and organizational documents.

The Executive Committee would like to present a draft resolution acknowledging former Council member Reinartz' service and contributions to the Council for consideration at its June meeting.

Task: Watermolen to prepare a draft resolution for consideration at the June 9 Council meeting.

The Executive Committee discussed the desire to have a designated Council liaison to the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin (IPAW).

Task: Schumacher to discuss IPAW liaison role with Council member Spaul. He will also ask former Council member Reinartz to suggest the scope and duties for such a role.

Drew Feldkirchner has been appointed director of the DNR's Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation. He will likely replace Jack Sullivan as the DNR Secretary's designee on the Council.

DNR Invasive Species Staffing

The DNR invasive species coordinator position remains vacant. Permission to fill the position has not yet been granted.

A replacement for Bill Horns has been hired in DNR's Fisheries Management bureau. Tim Lizotte has replaced Alan Crossley as the Wildlife Management bureau's representative on the department's Invasive Species Team.

Tasks from Recent Meetings

The committee reviewed draft minutes from the January 19, 2016 Executive Committee meeting, including follow-up from the December 1, 2015 Council meeting, and discussed the status of assigned tasks. Tasks from the meeting minutes and the status of each follow.

Review of Tasks from December 1, 2015 Council Meeting

- **Task from Minutes:** All council members will read through the 2015 interim report [DNR report to governor, legislature, and Council]. The next Council meeting will include an agenda item related to providing suggestions for information to include in the 2016 report. Recommendations will be shared with the DNR's Invasive Species Team, which is responsible for preparing the report. **Ongoing.**
- **Task from Minutes:** Bob Wakeman will share a draft of the AIS strategic plan with the Council in early 2016 for discussion at a future Council meeting. **Ongoing.**
- **Task from Minutes:** Each Council member who represents a state agency will evaluate sponsorship opportunities and levels and will coordinate sponsorships with Dreux Watermolen. **Completed.** Agencies were contacted. Several are sponsoring the conference. An update will be provided at the June Council meeting.
- **Task from Minutes:** Bob Wakeman will attempt to find out which state's Attorney Generals will be in attendance through his participation on the Great Lakes and Mississippi Panels. **Ongoing.**
- **Task from Minutes:** Dreux Watermolen will notify the Council when the invasive species response framework is available for public review and comment. **Completed.** Document was released for public comment. Council was notified on April 26, 2016. Comment period closed on May 9. An update will be provided at the June Council meeting.

<u>Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference Sponsorship</u>

Task: Watermolen will contact Council members who represent state agencies and will coordinate sponsorships with the various agencies. Watermolen will share information with the Council as agency sponsorships are confirmed. **Completed.** See similar Task above.

Council Response to Proposed U.S.F.W.S. Injurious Species Listing

- **Task:** Watermolen will inform DNR's Wildlife Health and other relevant programs of the rule revision and determine if the DNR anticipates submitting written comments on the rule revisions. **Completed.** DNR staff reviewed the proposed rule revision. The DNR did not submit comments on the proposed revision.
- **Task:** Kuhn will inform DATCP's Animal Health program of the rule revision and determine if the DATCP anticipates submitting written comments on the rule revisions. **Completed.**
- **Task:** Watermolen to distribute background information on Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans and the rule revisions to Council members in advance of the Council's spring meeting. **Completed.** Background memo will be included with Council's June meeting materials.

Plans for 2016 Council meetings

Task: Watermolen to poll Council members for possible spring meeting dates and times. **Completed.**

Task: Watermolen to ask Kate Strom-Hiorns to provide Chairman Schumacher with an update on the department's current bait fish activities.

Council and Agency Goals

Discussion on the Council's 2015-2017 goals document was deferred to a future meeting due to time constraints.

Preparation of Agenda for June 9, 2016 Council Meeting

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

Topics for the agenda include:

- Call to Order
- Introductions
- December 1, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes Approval
- Council Membership and Staffing Update
- Recognition of Jim Reinartz for past Council service
- DNR's 2016 report to Governor and Legislature Council input on potential content to include
- Report from Education Committee on Invader Crusader Awards and video competition
- AIS Strategic Plan Update and Council input
- DNR's invasive species response framework Overview of public comments received on framework and resulting changes to document
- Presentation from Door County Invasive Species Team on phragmites work/local ordinances
- Presentation on DNR's "Invasive Species Archive" and new Xenos model follow up on earlier presentation on site/species prioritization model
- Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) Update on agency sponsorships
- Update on NR 40 implementation Include only if there is time, otherwise provide a written update
- Update on changes to AIS lakes grants program Include only if there is time, otherwise provide a written update
- Revisit Council goals and draft work plan in light of staffing considerations

The Executive Committee recommends starting the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Task: Watermolen to draft agenda and circulate to Executive Committee for finalization

UMISC and Agency/Council Co-Sponsorship

The Executive Committee reviewed agency participation in the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC). Several agencies are sponsoring the conference. The combined sponsorships have allowed the Council to be listed as a hosting organization and may allow for some Council members to

attend using the agency's complimentary registrations. A report on agency sponsorships and registration options will be included on the Council's June meeting agenda.

DNR Discussions Regarding Bait Industry and Invasive Species

Discussion of work with the bait industry was deferred to a future meeting due to time constraints. Chairman Schumacher requested that a written update be included in the "Invasive Species and Program Updates" document for the June meeting.

Organisms in Trade Project

Discussion of the Organisms in Trade project was deferred to a future meeting due to time constraints. Chairman Schumacher requested that a written update be included in the "Invasive Species and Program Updates" document for the June meeting.

Recent New Invasive Species Reports

DATCP and DNR working closely together to identify NR 40 regulated species at nurseries and garden centers. DNR's invasive species educator has been accompanying DATCP inspectors on their visits to these businesses. This has allowed the agencies to use a coordinated education-first approach to enforcement. DATCP inspectors are providing DNR with a weekly list of regulated species discoveries statewide. DNR staff use the list to provide appropriate follow up (educational outreach, reminder letters, notices of noncompliance, etc.). Kuhn shared a recent example of the discovery of a regulated barberry cultivar at a sales outlet.

DATCP has worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to update the National Plant Board website with a list of NR 40 regulated species (available at http://nationalplantboard.org/laws-and-regulations/).

Palmer Amaranth Surveys

The Weed Science Society of America recently ranked Palmer amaranth as the "most troublesome" weed in the country. Palmer amaranth was first discovered in Wisconsin in 2011 and the Council has previously been updated on this weed. UW-Extension has developed a number of resources to help with identification, including guides for the most common weed seedlings and the WeedID smartphone app. UW researchers documented herbicide resistance in 2015. Surveys are now underway to track its spread. Mark Renz is working closely with DATCP on survey efforts including late season weed scouting and inclusion of the species in Wisconsin First Detector Network reporting.

Other Business

The committee considered no additional business items.

Adjourn

Motion by Kuhn. Second by Schumacher. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:10.