

Wisconsin Invasive Species Council Meeting

Thursday, June 8, 2017

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

DNR MacKenzie Center – Badger Den Room
W7303 County Highway CS, Poyette, WI 53955

Meeting Notes

Council Members Present: Tom Buechel (Green Industry), Drew Feldkirchner (DNR), James Hughes (DOT), Jim Kerkman (Council on Forestry), Paul Schumacher (Wisconsin Lakes), Lauren Leckwee (DOA), Hannah Spaul (TNC); Greg Long (via phone)

Others Present: Tara Bergeson (DNR, staff), Mary Bartkowiak (DNR), Christa Schaefer (DOT), Amanda Perdsock (River Alliance), Bob Wakeman (DNR)

Call to Order and Introductions

Chairman Schumacher called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

Paul suggested that next year's ISAM ceremony be held in Sturgeon Bay.

Introductions – went around the room.

Approval of April 6, 2017 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Kerkman to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2017 Council meeting. Second by Ms. Spaul. The April 6, 2017 Council meeting minutes were approved.

Mr. Kerkman noted that Valerie Johnson should be listed as affiliated with Ruffed Grouse Society.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will make this change.

Mr. Schumacher asked if Tara had the DATCP Nursery Inspectors Guide. Tara said it had been sent with the meeting materials.

Ms. Spaul noted that Katie Beilfuss, WI Wetlands Association, is planning to submit an application for a Council seat.

Added an action item "Approval of service resolutions" to the agenda.

Chairman Schumacher read the Travis Olson resolution as an example of what the resolutions include.

Mr. Kerkman motioned to approve the three resolutions. Feldkirchner seconded the motion. Motion passed

Status of Council Member Terms

Chairman Schumacher recounted how he came to be Chair of the WISC. He expressed that he has really enjoyed his time as chair. He feels he could do so much more. However, his responsibilities at his church have taken up more time. It has made it hard to give this job its due.

Action Item: Election of new council chair. The Chair of the Council must be an appointed Council member – not a state agency representative. Chairman Schumacher indicated that he believes that Mr. Buechel would consider accepting a nomination for chair.

Mr. Buechel noted that he would be happy to accept the role if nominated and approved. One of the issues that Mr. Buechel believes is important in invasive species work is the “element of fun.” He stated that he enjoys working as a team and bringing fun to the process. It’s important to focus on the positive aspects of the work and accomplishments. Mr. Buechel would look forward to working with the Council if he were to be elected chair.

Chairman Schumacher asked if there were nominations from the floor.

Motion by Ms. Spaul to nominate Mr. Buechel. Motion seconded by Mr. Hughes. Motion passed.

Mr. Buechel thanked Mr. Schumacher for his service over the years. Mr. Feldkirchner also thanked Mr. Schumacher and expressed appreciation for his work to keep things moving forward. Mr. Schumacher noted that he is not walking away from invasive species and will continue to do work in Door County.

Mr. Kerkman asked if he could remain on the email list. Mr. Schumacher and Ms. Bergeson replied that he can remain on the Council mailing list.

Mr. Feldkirchner mentioned that perhaps a Gov Delivery list could be established for Council news in the future.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will include Mr. Kerkman on the WISC email list.

State Agency Invasive Species Staffing

Ms. Bergeson provided updates on recent staffing changes within the DNR.

Jenny Seifert left DNR

Jenny Sereno left DNR. Bob Wakeman noted that Jenny will be missed.

Scott Loomans job duties include responsibility for baitfish BMP work.

Jenny Filbert moved to another program. Dennis Weise has taken this position. DNR is now trying to fill

Mr. Weise’s position. Shelly Thompson has also left DNR as the Lakes Team Coordinator. Ms.

Thompson moved to Lake Tahoe to manage a water conservation district.

Mr. Feldkirchner reported that there are several positions coming up related to DNR’s Strategic Alignment and that the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation is hiring more crew staff to work on State Natural Areas.

Update: Required public records training reminder & plan (Tara Bergeson, DNR)

Ms. Bergeson reminded Council members that the public records training must be completed by July 1, 2017. New Council members must complete the training within two weeks of their appointment.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will follow-up on the public records questions and report back to the Council.

Council Research and Regulations Committee Report (Greg Long)

Mr. Long described the Species Assessment Group (SAG) process review that is underway. The Council agreed to do a Best Practices Analysis on the SAG process so that we are well situated for the next SAG review process.

Ms. Spaul asked for some clarification on what the review is covering.

Mr. Buechel indicated that the group is looking at inconsistencies among taxonomic groups in the last SAG process. The team is also working on documenting a revised process for the next SAG process. Clarity and transparency about the process and how it works are key goals. The team wants the process to clearly identify the roles of the SAGs, the Council, the Natural Resources Board, and the legislature.

TASK : Ms. Kearns and Mr. Watermolen will identify the past SAG members by reviewing the past SAG membership lists.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will locate the past SAG process flowchart.

Ms. Spaul asked how the DNR determines when to start the rule-making process, noting that individuals might be hesitant to commit to SAG teams if DNR is not committed to seeing the process through. She also asked if there are reasons that DNR wouldn't go through the process?

Mr. Schumacher replied that the most recent rule-making process was a consensus between the DNR and the Council. The decision to open the NR40 rule-making process was driven by 2 factors: 1) the number of species that needed consideration, and 2) recognition that some species had been missed during the first round of NR 40. This was largely due to a conscious decision to focus on species that were not controversial and obvious candidates for listing in the first rule-making process.

It is important to note that the SAG process is independent of the rule-making process. It takes place prior to initiating the rule-making process. The Council wants to make sure that the process is the best that it can be before jumping into it again.

Ms. Spaul noted that she didn't remember predictive models being used last time.

Ms. Bergeson noted that part of the SAG review discussion will include new tools that might be available.

Mr. Feldkirchner stated that the department will start by demonstrating the need to open the rule-making process. Can we do that before SAG groups complete their work or not? Not sure.

Ms. Spaul noted that it was good and purposeful that the Council identified a need to review the SAG groups.

Ms. Spaul asked how the department determines that the time is right to move forward.

Mr. Feldkirchner stated that it is the role of SAGs and Council to determine this.

Mr. Schumacher noted that before the last round, the Council consulted experts (e.g. Bob Wakeman) prior to last round to see what is on the horizon.

Mr. Wakeman added that more risk assessments are available now for aquatic species. Much more advanced today than last time we did this.

Mr. Buechel stated that he believes it is the role of the Council to determine the timeline/recommend the timeline to the DNR.

Mr. Wakeman pointed out that the statute does define the Council's duties related to this

Mr. Schumacher looks forward to seeing a new Best Practices Process.

Council Education Committee Report

Ms. Schafer provided the Council with a report on behalf of the Education Committee. The Education Committee last met on May 25. They discussed details for today's Invader Crusader Awards ceremony and other Invasive Species Awareness Month events.

After today Mr. Dougal Walker will no longer be working with the Council or the Education Committee on ISAM events. He has provided background for website updates and organizing this event.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will post DNR's upcoming live chats on the Council's website.

Invader Crusader Awards Statistics. There were eight awards out of 32 nominees. Fourteen nominations were carry overs from previous years.

Christa encouraged the Council members to stay for the awards ceremony this afternoon.

Christa listed the award winners:

- Jeff Epping, Director of Horticulture at Madison's Olbrich Gardens;
- Christa Schaefer, President of the Invasive Plants of Wisconsin (IPAW) board and DOT Landscape Architect;
- Jared Urban, Coordinator of the Department of Natural Resource's State Natural Areas volunteer program;
- Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area & Town of Barnes Aquatic Invasive Species Committee;
- Mark Acherman, Teacher in Darlington Schools;
- Robert and Dorothy Moe
- Pam Nelson
- Daniel Pawlak

Video Contest Summary

There were 25 videos submitted. The contest has been growing. Thirteen videos were rollovers from previous years. The committee has already discussed some improvements for next year.

The video contest winner is called Group 11 from Oregon, WI. Video was titled, "Breaking News: Invasive Brazilian Water Weed."

Christa thanked Mr. Kerkman and Mr. Schumacher for their involvement on the Education Committee and for judging ICA nominees. She asked the Council to consider participating on the Education Committee.

Christa said that she took note of the recommendation by Mr. Schumacher to consider holding the event in Sturgeon Bay next year.

State Agency Updates

DOT: Ms. Schaefer and Mr. Hughes described a DOT pollinator project. Every time an outdoor advertising company takes down a tree to put up a sign, DOT collects \$ if the tree is over 2 inches in diameter. They will have about \$13 million to put back into planting/revegetating along highway rights-of-way.

Ms. Spaul asked if DOT is actively involved in burning.

Ms. Schaefer replied that they have been involved in the past, but not recently. Gary Birch used to work on burning. They tried to get some done this spring, but couldn't get contracts in place before the burn season was over. Counties manage all the roadsides for DOT. DOT doesn't have the people/knowledge. They do work with Prairie Enthusiasts to get roadside permits. So, some groups are able to do some of this management work on DOT's behalf. In addition to invasive species concerns, DOT is also concerned about pollinators and roadsides.

Ms. Spaul offered to help though Fire Council if DOT needs help getting contractors.

Ms. Schaefer noted that the hurdles are more internal to DOT.

DNR: Mr. Feldkirchner described some of the department's Strategic Alignment implementation work. The department is working to prioritize habitats and invasive species work so that resources are put toward activities that will have the most impact. For example, there is a large area of lesser celandine infestation in the Lake Geneva area that involves over 200 landowners. Department staff are working to put together a letter and fact sheet to send to landowners.

Organisms in Trade

Mr. Schumacher asked if aquarium and aquatic retail outlets are included – like the new shop in Sturgeon Bay.

Ms. Bartkowiak replied that there is a list of about 150 pet and aquarium shops in the state. Mary's predecessor made visits to about 95 of them. Mary will follow-up with the rest as she can. Mary has been accompanying DATCP Nursery Inspectors to learn what they do and how they do it. They mostly look for pests, but are also adding invasive species. Mary is trying to help bridge gaps. Having genus and species listed on plant tags/labels would help. In seeds, there is some creative labeling going on. Sometimes, department staff grow some of these seeds or plants to accurately identify them. Another challenge is that sometimes pots of shrubs look like they have been around for several years, but have brand new tags on them. It is not always clear whether this is because tags broke and needed new ones, or some other reasons.

Mr. Schumacher asked if we are connecting with people who provide plants or animals to stock people's home ponds.

Ms. Bartkowiak said yes, if it's in the ranges of the Nursery Inspectors. Will be revisiting as many nurseries and aquatic centers as possible. Some out-of-state dealers will also be reached.

Mr. Schumacher noted that Organisms In Trade is an area of the Council's goals that is of great interest, and he challenged the Council to remain engaged in this topic.

Council Questions and Feedback on Written Updates

Chairman Schumacher asked if Council members had any questions or comments on the written updates that were provided for this meeting. None.

Mr. Schumacher thanked the group again for their hard work over the years.

Adjourn

Mr. Kerkman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Spaul seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chairman Schumacher adjourned the meeting at 12:08 PM.