

Wisconsin Invasive Species Council Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, November 17, 2017
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
via SKYPE

Meeting Notes

Members present: Tom Buechel (Green Industry), Drew Feldkirchner (DNR), Brian Kuhn (DATCP)

Others present: Tara Bergeson (DNR staff)

Chairman Buechel called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Agenda Repair

No changes were made to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kuhn motioned to approve the Executive Committee meeting minutes from August 29, 2017. The motion was second by Mr. Feldkirchner. The minutes will be posted on the Council's website.

Update on Council Appointments

Chairman Buechel sent a letter to the Governor's office by mail. He has not heard anything in response. Mr. Feldkirchner has not heard anything from DNR Secretary's office. He will follow-up again within the department.

TASK: Mr. Buechel will follow-up with a phone call to the Governor's office. Ms. Bergeson will find the name of the appropriate person to contact in the Governor's office.

Invasive Species Staffing Updates

DNR: Mary Bartkowiak (funded by GLRI grant) has another six to twelve months of funding through an existing DNR grant for Organisms in Trade (OIT) work.

DATCP: Many seasonal LTEs have wrapped up their work for the year. Michael Falk, a research assistant in Dr. Ken Raffa's lab recently graduated and won an award at the Entomological Society of America conference. He has moved into an LTE position at DATCP where he will be working on pest identification from trapping samples.

Deb Bollig and Chrs Whitney (both with gypsy moth trapping program) will be retiring from DATCP soon. DATCP will be doing some reorganizing of positions & duties.

Update on Species Assessment Group (SAG) Process Review

Tara provided a brief update on status and timeline. The next step is to send an email invitation to 2012 SAG Team Leaders and identify dates for group discussions.

Review Minutes and Tasks from September 27, 2017 Council Meeting

The Committee reviewed tasks identified during the September 27, 2017 Council meeting.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will make the above corrections to the June 8 Council meeting minutes. **Status – Complete.**

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will send an electronic copy of the *Future Directions* document that Chairman Buechel shared during the meeting. Status – Complete.

TASK: Chairman Buechel will send a letter to the Governor’s office requesting action on the Council appointments. **Status – Complete.**

TASK: Mr. Bressner will share the Discovery Farms report with Ms. Bergeson and she will forward to the Council. **Status – Complete.**

TASK: Create a written onboarding process. Ms. Bergeson will start a draft document. **Status – In progress.**

TASK: Council members will share ideas for Education Committee members with Ms. Bergeson, who will forward them to Ms. Schaefer. **Status – In progress.**

TASK: Council members will review the Aug 28, 2014 Council minutes to understand the thinking behind the 2015-2017 Council goals. Ms. Bergeson will include a reminder with link to the minutes when she sends the agenda to council. **Status – Complete.**

Preparation of agenda for December 13, 2017 Council meeting

The Committee reviewed a list of possible agenda topics for the December 13, 2017 Council meeting. Topics considered for the agenda include:

Add agenda item: Council Goals for 2018. After current item #6.

The Committee discussion the idea that we can’t wait to discuss Council goals and future direction until we have new Council members because we don’t know how long we might be waiting for those new members. We have people with experience at the table now and need need to keep moving forward.

The group discussed some ideas about useful information items, presentations, and updates for future Council meetings. Some suggestions were the following:

- Explore ways to make connections with the Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs).
- Mr. Kuhn noted that attending a recent statewide Plant Industry Group meeting was very useful. He heard many good updates about activities taking place throughout the state. For example, staff have been visiting homes and talking with people about infested furniture. There was a lot good scientific information shared by entomologists on a variety of topics. The DATCP Board will have a similar opportunity to hear this information soon. It’s a good way to get information to them that they otherwise may not have an opportunity to hear about.

- The group discussed setting all the 2018 Council meeting dates at the beginning of 2018. Having the dates on calendars early will allow Council members to plan well in advance, make it easier to provide materials well in advance of meetings, and allow for some strategic thinking about holding Council meetings in locations to coordinate with other relevant groups' meetings. Council members will be asked to identify the best overall months of the year for their quarterly meetings. They will also be asked to identify potential meeting locations. Once meeting dates and locations are determined, it will help facilitate making connections with local groups. There is also the possibility of arranging for field trips as a part of future Council meetings.

Mr. Feldkirchner wondered whether it is an issue for Council members to pay their own way for travel if meetings are held around the state.

This could be included as part of the onboarding process where roles and expectations of Council members are identified.

The Council will discuss this at their upcoming meeting in December.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson and Mr. Kuhn will work together to find a meeting room at DATCP for the Council's December 2018 meeting.

Agency/Program Updates on Invasive Species

Ms. Bergeson continues to work on a process to allocate Pittman-Robertson funds for DNR invasive species projects. The team expects to request funding proposals from department staff early in 2018 and make funding decisions shortly thereafter so that projects can begin with the 2018 spring field season.

The department is also working on developing a decision-making tool that will help prioritize invasive species control and management activities on department-owned properties. The effort is a part of the agency's Strategic Alignment Implementation efforts. Ms. Bergeson will provide additional updates and outcomes at future Council meetings.

The annual Invasive Species Report to the Legislature was submitted by DNR's legislative liaison to the legislature November 8, 2017. Ms. Bergeson shared the report with the Council.

Chairman Buechel asked if it would be possible to have the new DNR Secretary or someone from the Secretary's office attend an upcoming Council meeting.

It would be good for this to happen at a meeting where the Council is briefed on the department's invasive species prioritization efforts. Perhaps, there could be a briefing with the Council's Executive Committee, DNR, and DATCP Secretaries.

TASK: Mr. Feldkirchner will make an inquiry about inviting DNR Secretary, Dan Meyer, to attend a future Council meeting.

DATCP – Sheila Harsdorf is DATCP's new Secretary. Keeley Moll is the new Deputy Secretary. She worked as Ben Brancel's legislative staff years ago when he was in the state legislature. She has also served as DATCP's legislative liaison. An Assistant Deputy Secretary has not yet been named.

TASK: Mr. Kuhn will see if the new DATCP Secretary or Deputy could stop by the December Council meeting, which will be held at DATCP on December 13.

Other Business Allowed by Law

The committee considered no additional business items.

Adjourn

Mr. Kuhn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Feldkirchner seconded the motion.

Mr. Buechel adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.