

Wisconsin Invasive Species Council Meeting

April 20, 2018
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

[Join Skype Meeting](#)
Trouble Joining? [Try Skype Web App](#)
Join by Phone
Toll-free number: [+1 \(866\) 715-6499](#)
Toll number: [+1 \(719\) 325-2776](#)
[Find a local number](#)
Conference ID: 4493275897

Meeting Minutes

Council Members Present: Tom Buechel (Green Industry), Brian Kuhn (DATCP), Drew Feldkirchner (DNR), James Hughes (DOT), Lauren Leckwee (DOA), Ken Raffa (UW-Madison), Julie Fox (Tourism) via SKYPE, Greg Long (Needles and Leaves Nursery), Tom Bressner (Wisconsin Agri-Business Association), Hanna Spaul (TNC)

Others Present: Tara Bergeson (DNR, staff), Christa Schaefer (DOT)

Call to order & introductions

Chairman Buechel called the meeting order at 9:05 a.m.

Status of Council member terms

The Council learned that Ms. Valerie Johnson has been appointed to the Council. She fills the seat that was vacated by Mr. Kim Kerkman in July 2017. The Council will need to fill Mr. Ken Raffa's Council seat when he retires. His term expires in July 2018.

Action Item: Approve December 2017 Council meeting minutes

The December 13, 2017 Council meeting minutes were approved.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will post the minutes to the website.

Council Goal Setting

Chairman Buechel opened a discussion of goals for 2018-2020. We need to be sure that we are addressing the items that are included in the Statutory Provisions and are also listed on the Council's website.

Mr. Raffa noted that we have a good system in place for invasive species classification with the Species Assessment Groups and the NR 40 rule-making process.

Mr. Kuhn added that these items are part of the role assigned to the Council by statute, so we are fulfilling those duties. The Council is not necessarily changing the species classification system, but rather is looking at fine tuning and refining now through the ongoing Species Assessment Group process review.

Mr. Long echoed the sentiment that the system is in place and functioning. There is not really a need for a new system to classify invasive species.

The Council briefly discussed its role in reviewing and/or awarding cost-sharing funds for invasive species work. Within the DNR, much of the funding that goes toward terrestrial invasive species overlaps with other

habitat management work. There are not a lot of dedicated funds specifically focused on terrestrial invasive species.

Mr. Kuhn suggested that the Council consider including in its 2018-2020 goals an effort to continue to pursue terrestrial invasive species funding. He has recently provided some information to the DATCP Secretary's office that we do need to continue to pursue funding. There is also some interest, at the County level, in developing a budget initiative for terrestrial invasive species.

Mr. Raffa suggested that first strategic objective in draft Council goals might be a bit too narrow. There is some advantage in maintaining some flexibility.

Mr. Kuhn noted that seeking funding could fit within the strategic objective to "encourage partnerships for regional invasive species management." Support for CISMAs and counties could be one way to share any new funding and would help ensure statewide and regional partnerships.

Mr. Feldkirchner – the department has not determined a timeline for the next update to NR 40 at this point. The Species Assessment Group (SAG) process will inform that decision.

Mr. Kuhn suggested that the SAG review process should be finished by October 2018. The Council agreed that this is a reasonable timeframe.

Chairman Buechel asked that Council members think about which of the existing four committees they would like to participate on going forward (Research, Regulations, Inter-agency, Education).

Mr. Long noted that it would be helpful if it was clear what the specific duties of each committee are first.

Mr. Kuhn shared that he has been asked to provide concept statements for the next round of state budget initiatives. Within DATCP, the programs are beginning to share ideas with administration for discussion. Often, it's more effective if budget initiatives come from outside the state agencies. The last invasive species budget initiative came up through the DNR and didn't end up making it through. In contrast, the recent hemp initiative, which was pushed by outside entities was successful. Perhaps this is an opportunity for the Council to work with the Counties Association. The state agencies could support the Counties Association in that effort. A potential action item for the Council is to evaluate the potential for an invasive species state budget initiative.

Mr. Long asked Mr. Feldkirchner if there is a way to get an invasive species funding question to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. If something got started now, perhaps there could be something ready for the next spring hearings (2019). Mr. Feldkirchner and Ms. Bergeson can provide some information about how the Council might work with the Conservation Congress.

Mr. Kuhn mentioned that the tribes in Wisconsin are also interested in invasive species management and there may be some good opportunities for working more closely with them. They are well-connected with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Mr. Brock Woods (DNR) recently gave a talk aimed at trying to connect the tribes with monitoring and reporting of Phragmites. Mr. Kuhn has also been trying to connect the tribes with Mr. Mark Renz and the Wisconsin First Detectors Network (WFDN). They are working to provide benefits through programs/mechanisms that don't add more work, such as connecting with WFDN to train others (not just tribal staff) to do the work.

Mr. Feldkirchner asked to what extent the tribes are currently involved in the CISMAs.

Ms. Schaefer replied that they are engaged to some extent. Tribes have come to DOT asking for input on invasive species control on rights-of-way. Forestry works together a lot with tribes on certain topics.

Mr. Kuhn noted that he could potentially give a presentation about the Council for the WI Tribal Conservation Advisory Group, which meets monthly or bimonthly. This is a good topic for the Council's Interagency Committee.

Mr. Buechel asked the Council members to all review the draft goals document.

TASK: Tara will include action item on June Council meeting to approve the 2018-2020 Council goals.

Mr. Feldkirchner noted that the 2015-2017 biennial Council goals included the topics of pet sales and internet sales. He raised the question of whether the Council wants to continue pursuing these goals moving forward, and if so how?

Chairman Buechel suggested that those specific goals might be tied in to the overall larger plan as much as possible.

Mr. Feldkirchner stated that there will be some new Council members who would benefit from hearing about the activities of the state agencies related to invasive species. This provides a good opportunity for members of the department's Invasive Species Team to present their work to the Council.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will organize lightning presentations by Invasive Species Team members for a future Council meeting – probably September 2018.

Updates from Council Members

Mr. Feldkirchner: The Natural Heritage Conservation Program will be getting some additional staff (contract and LTEs) to help with invasive species work in the future.

Ms. Bergeson: Reminded Council members to let her know if their organizations can provide funds towards sponsorship of the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference, which will take place from October 15-18 in Rochester, MN. Mr. Bob Wakeman asked if the Council would be willing to review the updated Aquatic Plant Management Strategy and provide feedback. Ms. Bergeson will help facilitate getting the document to the Council.

Mr. Kuhn: On March 30, a statewide emerald ash borer quarantine went into effect. There are ongoing negotiations with the tribes. Still in negotiation with tribes. A federal quarantine is not in place yet, but is likely to be within a couple of months.

Joanne Cruz, State Plant Health Coordinator at APHIS is retiring. Christopher Deagan (former DATCP Plant Protection Section Chief) will be taking over that position at APHIS beginning on May 1.

Mr. Kuhn gave a presentation to the Council on Forestry related to quarantines. That Council had wanted to talk about the EAB quarantine. Mr. Kuhn provided an overview of the quarantine process and basis for quarantines. The DNR is discontinuing its gypsy moth suppression program. This has caused some confusion. The DNR suppression program has been very small the past few years and is relatively tiny (about 50 acres annually) in the big picture of gypsy moth control. In contrast, DATCP's Slow the Spread (STS) program treats about 200,000 acres across the state annually. Michael Falk (formerly in Mr. Ken Raffa's lab) is leading the gypsy moth trapping program and other gypsy moth program duties at DATCP.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Mr. Kuhn made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Long seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.