

Wisconsin Invasive Species Council Meeting

June 6, 2018
10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

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Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jim Hughes, Drew Feldkirchner, Tom Buechel, Ken Raffa, Lauren Leckwee, Julie Fox (via SKYPE), Greg Long

Also in attendance: Tara Bergeson (DNR staff to Council), Christa Schaefer (DOT), Bob Wakeman (DNR), Kelly Kearns (DNR), Jody Ellis (DNR), Bernie Williams (DNR)

Chairman Buechel called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

Introductions

Meeting participants did round robin introductions. Chairman Buechel welcomed new Council members – Mark Renz and Valerie Johnson and acknowledged Mr. Bressner and Mr. Long, who were reappointed to their positions on the Council. Mr. Renz will officially begin his term on July 1st.

Chairman Buechel recognized Dr. Ken Raff, who is retiring from UW-Madison and the Council, acknowledging his commitment to the Council and his contributions over the years. Mr. Raffa mentioned that it was a pleasure to serve on the Council. Mr. Long thanked Mr. Raffa for his work on the Council.

Status of Council member terms (one vacant seat remains)

Ms. Bergeson shared two names for consideration as Council representatives: Dr. Jake Vander Zanden (UW-Madison, Center for Limnology) and Mr. Mike Engleson (Executive Director, Wisconsin Lakes). These individuals were suggested by Mr. Bob Wakeman (DNR Lakes and Rivers Section).

Mr. Long asked Mr. Wakeman if the individuals suggested are involved in Great Lakes or inland water issues. Mr. Wakeman responded that they are more focused on inland waters.

Ms. Leckwee asked if the Council had a preference or need for Great Lakes v. inland waters knowledge. Ms. Leckwee noted that DOA's Coastal Program could suggest several potential candidates.

Ms. Spaul mentioned that she has worked with Dr. Vander Zanden. She asked if Katie Beilfuss had applied and whether a decision had been made. Ms. Bergeson replied that the Director of Gubernatorial appointments had communicated with the DNR and indicated that Ms. Beilfuss was not selected as a Council member. Ms. Spaul asked if others have applied to the Council in the past and not been selected. Ms. Bergeson and Mr. Long replied that, yes, that has happened in the past. Chairman Buechel called the Governor's office and

spoke with the Director of Appointments in person, which may have helped move the process forward with the appointments. As a Council, we can provide information about why a candidate would be a good fit for the Council.

Ms. Spaul noted that it is the Council members who have the expertise on invasive species. She asked if the Council can learn what the shortcomings were in the two water candidates?

Mr. Feldkirchner stated that we don't really know what the criteria are for selection.

Mr. Raffa noted that, moving forward, it comes down to what the Council wants for the vacant seat. Mr. Vander Zanden would bring some very specific tools and information about rapid response for aquatic invasive organisms. He will do this work regardless of whether he serves on this Council. Groups like [Wisconsin Lakes](#) (Mr. Mike Engleson) can help break down false distinctions between environmentalism and economics. The depth of water clarity is the single biggest predictor of land values. Groups like Wisconsin Lakes help bridge this gap. They help make invasive species management less esoteric and more hands-on with immediate actions that can be taken to help everyone. So, there are really two different things to consider with the candidate. Given the stage we are at right now, the bridging roles are important.

Mr. Buechel noted that he also values the bridging concept/need. He asked Ms. Leckwee if she can provide some additional ideas for Great Lakes representation.

The Council further discussed the vacant seats and specific expertise needs.

Ms. Leckwee noted that the Council could reach out to some candidates, and if they are interested, we could ask them to first submit something directly to the Council indicating their interest and areas of expertise.

Mr. Buechel noted that there is value in having diversity on the Council.

Action Item: Approve April 20, 2018 Council meeting minutes

Mr. Buechel opened discussion on the April 20, 2018 Council meeting minutes. Ms. Spaul noted that the minutes looked accurate to her. Mr. Feldkirchner noted that the Executive Committee has already reviewed the minutes.

Ms. Spaul motioned to approve the April 20, 2018 Council meeting minutes. Mr. Feldkirchner seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will post the April 20, 2018 meeting minutes to the Council website.

Action Item: 2018-2020 Council Goals

Mr. Buechel noted that we will add a note to the goals stating that they are flexible and adjustable.

Ms. Bergeson will adjust the date of the goals (in the document footer) anytime that revisions are made.

1. Ms. Schaefer asked for some more clarification on the *Tactical Plan – item #4*, which states:

“Collaborate with Education Committee to establish Standard Operating Procedures that will help them plan and execute their goals. (Education Committee)

- Assess cost sharing grant procedures and identify additional potential sources of funding that will have a positive outcome for the environment and industry

- Assess outside invasive species organization structure and provide solutions for optimal productivity and success that will promote alternative solutions to benefit industry and the environment.

Mr. Buechel responded that the Council committees all would benefit from a shared understanding of how the committees operate (i.e. standard operating procedures). It would be good if the standard operating procedures for each committee were consistent.

Ms. Schaefer raised concern about having the time to develop standard operating procedures. Ms. Schaefer also asked for clarity on both bullet points listed under #4. Ms. Spaul added that bullet number two is also unclear to her. She suggested that we refine item #4 to state that the Education Committee will meet to refine their goals/objectives and tasks.

Mr. Renz stated that the Council needs to do a better job of empowering local groups to do good work. Is the Education Committee really the group to do this work? They may not really have the resources to do these things as currently stated in the Goals. We need to help those local groups with resources and guidance and this would be a good action item for the Council to work on.

Mr. Raffa asked what kind of groups Mr. Renz has in mind. Mr. Renz stated that his lab is starting to do more with local land and water conservation groups, but that it is about working with any group or organization that has a desire.

Mr. Raffa noted that it sounds like it's about educating people on what resources are available. Starting a grant proposal from the beginning is a lot of work. Much of it is reassembling information from elsewhere. If you have a starting template, you're a good part of the way there. That is a goal that fits with the Education Committee.

TASK: Mr. Renz will rework item #4 (Education Committee) under the *Tactical Plan* and share with some Committee members for feedback and then send back to Ms. Bergeson to share with the entire Council for review.

Mr. Long pointed out that there is overlap between the roles of the Education and Interagency Committees.

Ms. Schaefer mentioned that part of it is also about getting the resources we do have out to the public and groups. We currently have financial resources on the Council's webpage.

Mr. Feldkirchner stated that NHC has a media calendar for the year that identifies press releases, Facebook posts etc. for the year. All the Council member organizations/agencies could play a more active role in helping to promote issues with social media. DNR also has the Conservation Congress meetings – this is a potential avenue for sharing our information too. We should consider where and how we can take advantage of free marketing opportunities. Funding opportunities are something that we should be sharing.

Ms. Schaefer reminded the Council that the Council website is not on the DNR's web platform because having it on an external site allows for more opportunity and flexibility. It comes down to having the resources to update and maintain the website. The Council needs to weigh how much it is used and the time invested in updating/maintaining the site.

Ms. Spaul asked whether each of the Council's Committees should be highlighted in the Goals like the Education Committee is right now.

Mr. Raffa suggested that an item #5 could be added saying that each Committee will identify specific action items to focus on over the next two years.

Mr. Raffa motioned to approve the Goals with the amendments discussed – the exact wording of which remains to be finalized.

Mr. Long seconded the motion.

The motion passed, and the Council's 2018-2020 Goals were approved with suggested edits.

Planning for September Council meeting

Finalize September and December 2018 meeting dates

Mr. Renz mentioned the option of holding the Council meeting at UMISC.

Ms. Spaul noted that the suggested October date is better overall than September.

The Council agreed that the fall meeting will be held on October 10 with the location to be determined.

The Council agreed that the winter meeting will be held on January 9 with the location to be determined.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will follow-up with Mr. Renz about the possibility of a meet and greet with the Council members who will be at the UMISC meeting.

Lightning talks by state agency invasive species staff

Mr. Feldkirchner proposed having some agency staff come to the fall Council meeting to provide an overview on their work or updates on key issues.

Mr. Raffa mentioned that he likes the idea of lightning talks by agency staff. We also had talked about giving the new members a similar opportunity. The lightning talks could take place during lunch to keep it more informal. We would want the presenters to be available later to answer any questions.

Ms. Spaul – finds it very beneficial to also have guest speakers regularly at Council meeting. She supports doing a concentration of lightning talks at the fall meeting and then sprinkling in more at meetings throughout the year. Ms. Leckwee likes this idea, too, and suggested bringing staff back to provide updates at reasonable intervals.

Ms. Spaul noted that it would be great if new staff members could be at Council meetings – even for a short time to introduce themselves and share their work.

Ms. Bergeson reminded Council members to share their ideas with her about topics they would like to hear presentations about.

Mr. Renz suggested that it might be valuable to invite the UW Sea Grant Director to a meeting to provide an update on what they are working on. They are taking some new directions.

Information Item: Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) (Bergeson)

Mr. Renz stated that the Council will be listed as co-host on conference emails and correspondence and will also be listed on placards throughout the conference. There is also exhibit space available for DATCP, DNR, and the Council. He encouraged the Council to have a physical presence at the conference. This is a joint conference between UMISC and the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA). Conference organizers are expecting over 800 meeting attendees and over 250 presentations. Registration is now open.

Informational Item: Wisconsin Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan (Bob Wakeman – DNR)

Mr. Wakeman provided an update about the status of the Wisconsin Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan. The plan was last updated in 2012 and a lot has changed since that time; hence the need to review and update the plan again now. Keeping this plan up to date makes the department eligible for USFWS AIS Plan Implementation Funding. The process for completing revisions to the plan included Core Team meetings through 2015, pathway-specific meetings in 2016, and plan drafting in 2017.

The Goals of the plan remain the same from 2012, and are 1) Prevent, 2) Contain, and 3) Control. New for the 2018 Plan is using a “Pathways approach” (see figure below).



Also new in the 2018 Plan are “Implementation tables” for improved ease of reading (see figure below).

TABLE 4 – RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

Goals 1 & 2 Pathways Approach:
Prevent new invasions and stop secondary spread in Wisconsin through recreational activities and service providers
SEE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE PROVIDERS PATHWAY ON PAGE 16

Subpathway	Strategy	Specific Actions	Lead Organization	Cooperating Organizations
Recreational Boating	Education/ Outreach	Continue to inspect more than 100,000 watercraft/year through the Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) program	UWEX/WDNR	WI AIS Partnership
		Implement a mobile CBCW data collection and entry system by 2020	UWEX/WDNR	WI AIS Partnership
		Create a registry and certification for CBCW inspectors by 2020	UWEX/WDNR	WI AIS Partnership
		Include the boater observation study as a component of CBCW statewide in 2019	UWEX/WDNR	WI AIS Partnership
		Develop new outreach materials to address boating pathways that may require additional actions to reduce risk (e.g., wakeboard boats, personal watercraft)	UWEX/WDNR	WI AIS Partnership
		Evaluate outreach efforts annually and modify when necessary	UWEX/WDNR	WI AIS Partnership
		Continue coordination of statewide outreach campaigns that target recreational boaters (e.g., Landing Blitz, Drain Campaign)	UWEX/WDNR	WI AIS Partnership
		Develop continuing education opportunities for CBCW volunteers that increase their capacity to educate boaters	UWEX	WI AIS Partnership
		Better target transient boaters and boaters from out of state	UWEX/WDNR	WI AIS Partnership
	Agency Collaboration	Develop a statewide set of core services for the Wisconsin AIS Prevention Network funded by WDNR contracts	WDNR	WI AIS Partnership
		Develop a watercraft decontamination strategy for Wisconsin boaters and communicate the strategy with partners	UWEX/WDNR	WI AIS Partnership
		Communicate across LE, CBCW, and AIS partners for more strategic outreach	UWEX/WDNR	WI AIS Partnership
	Research	Determine risk and appropriate actions to reduce AIS transport risk of less common recreational watercraft (e.g., wakeboard boats, personal watercraft)	UWEX/WISG	WI AIS Partnership
Continue with CBCW data collection techniques that allow for statistically valid evaluations of boater actions		UWEX	WI AIS Partnership	

(continued)

The public comment period will be in July, and comments can be submitted to Tim Campbell (tim.campbell@wisc.edu). The Core Team will meet in August to review and address comments and final review and approval will take place later in the fall.

Committee report: Council's Research Committee (Greg Long)

Past SAG Team Leaders participated in a facilitated discussion last winter. Notes from that meeting are currently being reviewed and summarized. Phone interviews with Past SAG Team Members will take place later this summer. Summaries of both will be available at the October 10 Council meeting.

Committee report: Council's Education Committee (Christa Schaefer)

Ms. Schaefer noted that the focus of the Education Committee has been on preparing for the Invader Crusader Awards Ceremony and ISAM activities. She encouraged Council members to stay for the ICA ceremony at 1:00 PM today. There was only one video challenge submission this year. This may have been related to staff turnover in technical support.

Updates from Council Members

MR. Raffa stated that his work on oak wilt is complete and a manuscript has been accepted by the Journal of Entomology. Results were sent to DNR's Becky Gray and Kyoko Scanlon. Mr. Raffa will share galley proofs with Ms. Gray and Ms. Scanlon as well. The manuscript includes a degree day model that can be applied across region and year. Mr. Raffa has passed the baton on this work to some collaborators in Ontario. There is still some more work to be done. The critical period is at the back end of the time interval where the insect vectors spill over a bit outside the boundary limits. It comes down to how much risk you are willing to tolerate, not just for the vectors, but the fungus too. Carrying rates tend to go down at the end of the year. Beyond the no-cut window, many beetles are not carrying the fungus.

Ms. Schaefer stated that DOT initiated another contract on controlling invasive species on rights-of-way.

Mr. Hughes noted that DOT is trying to reduce chlorides in the state. They have a 1.2 million dollar grant for this work. When waters reach 150-250 ml chloride, it kills fish. It takes 40-70 years to clear out the chlorides. The state will be going to more liquid salt applications rather than granular. Rock salt doesn't work until it's in liquid form while liquids work in the first couple of hours. This can reduce salt use by over 50% in Wisconsin. Only New York state currently uses more salt than WI. Wisconsin is the only state that hires counties to do all the road salt treatments.

Mr. Renz state that the Wisconsin First Detectors Network is up and running. They are trying to get citizens to report invasive species. Last year, there were over 8000 reports. He encouraged Council members to sign up for the newsletter and check out the website.

Mr. Feldkirchner noted that the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation (NHC) has hired a new Species Management Team Leader who will supervise many staff, including our invasive species staff. NHC will be hiring LTE(s) to work on invasive species with Ms. Bergeson and Ms. Kearns.

DNR's Bureau of Fisheries Management is hiring someone who will work on bait fish issues. They should be on board by the middle of June. The topic is still a priority for the agency.

DNR's Forestry program is hiring a Forest Invasive Pest Coordinator. The position will be housed in Rhinelander.

Mr. Buechel asked where the money goes when you choose to donate when you buy a DNR license. Mr. Feldkirchner responded that it probably goes to the new Cherish Wisconsin Fund.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will send the Cherish Wisconsin video to the Council.

Chairman Buechel gave an update on his green industry commerce project, which is work at the national level. He is working on a process that will eliminate the purchase of invasive species on the front end. They hope to advance it to pests and diseases, too. It is a systems approach that was modeled after the Systems

Approach to Nursery Certification (SANC) program. The goal is to ensure that new plants coming into inventory are checked for invasiveness. Grower/vendor lists are checked. There is no regulation with e-commerce right now. This will bring accountability to e-commerce. This is a pro-active approach for the Green Industry. Let Mr. Buechel know if you see something that doesn't look right on Nature's Nursery website.

Mr. Wakeman asked how they keep up to date on what is invasive in each state. Mr. Buechel responded that this is part of his job. He starts with building an information base on what is regulated in each of the states.

Mr. Long asked if they anticipate any changes within USDA related to this. Mr. Buechel noted that it is more of a self-policing effort right now. Some vendors know the laws right now and choose not to follow. There is education and awareness work to be done.

Mary Bartkowiak noted that there are nurseries that sell both terrestrial and aquatic plants (invasive species show up in both). This is an important pathway.

Mr. Buechel indicated that the work could extend to aquatic invasive species, too.

No other business was discussed by the Council.

Mr. Feldkirchner motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Raffa seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Buechel adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.