

# Wisconsin Invasive Species Council Meeting

October 10, 2018  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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## Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Mark Renz, Tom Bressner, Hanna Spaul, Drew Feldkirchner, Greg Long, Brian Kuhn, Lauren Leckwee, Christa Schaeffer (for Jim Hughes), Tom Buechel

Also in attendance: Amanda Smith (DNR), Matt Wallrath (DNR), Jason Granberg (DNR), Brenton Butterfield (DNR), Mike Putnam (DNR), Kelly Kearns (DNR), Amy Kretlow (DNR – by phone)

Mr. Kuhn called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

### Introductions

#### Status of Council member terms (one vacant seat remains)

It appeared that there were no action items out of the last Council meeting in this respect, except that Mr. Buechel was going to contact the Governor's office.

### Staffing changes

The DNR submitted staffing changes as a handout. DATCP also reported on staffing changes. None for the other agencies.

DATCP – Staff are trying to catch up with the extra duties associated with the hemp program. There has not been additional staffing or funding provided for this large new program. Mr. Kuhn is acting in the role of Division Administrator. He is also recruiting a new Bureau Director for the Land and Water Program. No new staff have been hired, although Mr. Michael Falk was hired earlier this year to work on the gypsy moth program. There is still one vacant gypsy moth position, which may be used elsewhere.

#### Action Item: Approve June 6, 2018 Council meeting minutes

Mr. Renz moved to approve the minutes and Ms. Spaul seconded this motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

#### Action Item: Resolution for retired Council member Ken Raffa

The resolution for Mr. Raffa was approved.

### **Legislative Report Update**

A Word document version of the biennial report to the legislature was submitted as needed. Council members all received a copy.

DNR plans to make a more condensed and attractive color glossy version of the report. The Council agreed that there is no hurry on producing the legislative report, as the legislature will not be looking at any materials until January. Mr. Bressner will share it with the legislators when it is ready.

Mr. Buechel recommended that we put this report up on social media. He also recommended that the Council send it out in conjunction with times when hunters are focused on being outdoors. Ideally, the DNR's marketing team will help with this effort. The Council will try to keep this initiative from getting buried. It is important to have economic costs included in the report. Mr. Feldkirchner recommended featuring select pieces of the report in Facebook posts.

### **Committee Report: Council's Regulations Committee (Provided by Mr. Greg Long)**

#### **Species Assessment Group (SAG) Review update and review of Draft SAG Process Document**

Mr. Long stated that the last time the Council reviewed the Species Assessment process was in 2007. DNR staff and the sub-committee have been working on revising the process. The goal now is to get the Council's input on the proposed revised process.

Mr. Kuhn stated that this has been a strong attempt to get feedback from people involved in past SAGs. It is best to look at the major comments and overall themes within the feedback. In general, the Council's response to the revisions indicated that the Species Assessment process has been good, although there are tweaks that can be made to improve it. The process document will help with recruiting SAG members as it will give them an idea of the level of commitment they would be taking on.

Mr. Buechel expressed concern that the Council does not send out the SAG leaders' comments exclusively. He also reminded the Council that they still need to get the data for the SAG team members' interviews. (These interviews are still being finalized, but the interviews to date were sent to the Council's SAG Review Team)

Mr. Long stated that there is too much work involved for all SAG members to read all the literature reviews, although there is a need for SAG members to be specialists and to be aware of invasive species being addressed. Mr. Long advised that the Council try to limit the number of species to be assessed. Furthermore, he posed the question of whether the Council should target a maximum number of species.

Ms. Kearns read through the major comments from the SAG members' interviews, and the Council discussed several items in more detail. The Council generally agreed that most of the recommendations should be incorporated into the revised SAG process document.

**TASK:** The Council will help staff identify stakeholder groups and industries that should be included. They agreed that as much as possible, there should be a balance of representation of industry and other groups, and that all SAG members should have an equal voice.

Ms. Schaeffer suggested that we provide more than one form of input for those with differing communication styles.

Mr. Kuhn asked how NR 40 can maintain relevance and value with a very long list of species. He suggested that the list is meaningless if not enforced. The department is creating tools to work through this issue. Mr. Kuhn further stated that the Plant Board may not be the appropriate forum for a listing of the species regulated in different states. He posited that the Council needs to think about tools for this listing, perhaps involving quick searches. This is especially important as there are consistency issues between different states.

Mr. Renz then asked if the Council has any statistics on enforcement. He explained that the Council should document the summary of the number of inspections that resulted in disposal of NR 40 species and provide follow-up, when needed. Mr. Renz stated that Mr. Wallrath should talk to Shahla Warner of DATCP about this.

**TASK:** Matt Wallrath to work with DATCP staff to document statistics on results of DATCP inspectors finding NR 40 species.

Mr. Buechel commended the efforts. The SAG process has been pro-industry. There are 47 businesses which are unrelated to plants that are shipping into the state. Mr. Buechel explained that the Council needs to strengthen their enforcement with these issue, particularly concerning pests and diseases. There is a need for people to be compliant (for example, concerning movement of the spotted lantern fly).

Mr. Renz confirmed that the state has been enforcing NR 40, but that citizens do not know this. Therefore, he reasoned that the Council needs to conduct outreach regarding how the DNR and DATCP are meeting with and finding violations, as they are being resolved pre-enforcement. This information needs to be shared with the public and the nursery industry, especially with interstate shippers. Mr. Buechel stated that he knows of ways that the Council can share information with these audiences.

Mr. Kuhn followed up with an example to illustrate this. DATCP recently found out about a 12-state shipment of diseased plants, then had to contact nurseries that had already received shipments of the plants and have them bag up and destroy these plants in all the 12 states. There is a need to spread positive information that this type of enforcement is happening.

Mr. Buechel expressed that it is also important to spread information on social media and through press releases about landowners and local groups who are doing control work. There is a need to focus on prevention, and to explain the costs involved with it. The Council should commit to consistent education of companies which are out of state and those with online sales.

Mr. Kuhn commented on the team leader/facilitator piece of the SAG process. He stated that the Council must clarify that the staff leader is a non-voting member who must not control the direction of the decisions or insert personal opinions. Individual members can often dominate discussions and decisions, so there needs to be a balanced amount of input from all members. Mr. Kuhn expressed that the Council must provide multiple ways for SAG members to provide input to accommodate varied communication styles, and that everyone should go into the meetings with an open mind.

Mr. Long requested that the Council review the drafts and provide input to Ms. Bergeson.

Mr. Kuhn explained that the process dictates that the SAG recommendations must be sent to Research and Regulations committees prior to being sent to the full Council. He questioned if this is needed. Mr. Long answered that this might not be needed.

Mr. Bressner expressed that it is important for the Council to fully listen to any recommendations the SAGs provide, including the reasoning behind their recommendations. If there are proposed revisions

after public listening sessions, these ideas need to be sent back to the SAG. At the beginning of each SAG session, it is important to reiterate the roles of SAGs and of the Council, including their advisory role.

**TASK:** Ms. Bergeson should send the summary of the members' comments to the full Council as soon as the interviews are complete.

**TASK:** Council members will provide input to the process document by October 29, 2018. The SAG review team will meet in November (Ms. Bergeson will set up the meeting date) to finalize revisions based on input from the Council and the interviews. This should be ready to send to potential SAG members, so they know what they are committing to.

**TASK:** DNR staff will put out a call for anyone to suggest species to be assessed for Round 3. Landowners should be included, as well as other stakeholders. Staff must determine the amount of time it will take to do pre-assessment.

Ms. Spaul suggested sending invitations out to join SAGs soon, as there will be difficulty finding people to commit to participating if the Council waits too long.

Someone asked if the pre-screening process could be done without the SAG members. Ms. Spaul expressed that getting the members involved early on is essential. Mr. Buechel explained that the Council will face trouble in recruiting SAG members from the nursery industry.

DNR staff could help identify potential SAG members. Mr. Kuhn stated that staff should go ahead and start getting input on species for the pre-screening process. This will help get the process document done within the next month or so.

**TASK:** DNR staff are to identify staff SAG leaders, and to identify stakeholder groups and potential SAG members for each SAG. This will be sent to the Council for their input. Invitations to participate in SAGs will go out from the Council chair.

**Decision Item** – Council made a motion to initiate the Species Assessment Group process and asked that DNR request input from stakeholders and others for species to assess.

## **Next Steps**

### **TASKS:**

Ms. Bergeson will send comments from the SAG member interviews to the Council next week. Council members will submit recommendations for revisions of the SAG process document to Ms. Bergeson by October 29, 2018.

Ms. Bergeson will set up a meeting of the SAG review subcommittee in November. The subcommittee will meet and finalize the process document in November, incorporating comments from the Council and the SAG leader and member interviews. The final draft will be sent to the Council by early December. The full Council must approve of the draft by email by the end of 2018.

The DNR will communicate to stakeholders and the public that the Council is initiating another round of NR 40. Anyone may recommend species to be considered for assessment. Staff will identify when and how to get input to the DNR. The comment period will be open for a minimum of 60 days.

The DNR will work to recruit people with expertise in these fields, who can make the time commitment to attend meetings. These individuals must contact the DNR if they are interested in participating. The Council will appoint SAG representatives based on the needs of each species group while seeking a balance of expertise, as well as representation of all necessary stakeholder groups.

DNR staff will develop a draft list of stakeholder groups for each SAG, including potential members.

### **Committee Report: Council's Education Committee (Christa Schaefer)**

Ms. Schaefer reported that the Education Committee's charter is still being drafted and will be available for the January meeting or for a December phone call. She explained that it would be beneficial to incorporate comments on using social media into this charter. Mr. Long is still combining comments for this. It is hard to figure out the Council's role in this versus the role of partners.

*Action item* – Education committee will finalize a draft team charter or Standard Operating Procedures before the January Council meeting.

### **Lightning talks by state agency invasive species staff**

DNR control grants and newly discovered terrestrial invasive plants in Wisconsin (Kelly Kearns – DNR NHC)

Controlling lesser celandine in Lake Geneva and other Southeast Wisconsin locations (Mike Putnam – DNR Forestry)

Wisconsin's changing climate and forecasting invasive species spread (Jason Granberg – DNR NHC)

Aquatic Invasive Species Updates, Featuring Starry Stonewort (Amy Kretlow – DNR Water Quality)

Dane County Yellow Floating Heart: A love-hate relationship (Amanda Smith – DNR Water Quality)

### **Updates from Council Members**

#### **Other Business**

DNR – This information was covered in handouts provided.

DATCP will be hosting the Central Plant Board meeting in April. APHIS and regional representatives and state plant board representatives will be discussing state invasive species regulations and how they merge with plant pest regulations.

DOT – Ms. Schaefer will be attending UMISC

A request from Kelly Kearns that the Council organize a meeting with Chris Ruditys, the new Executive Director of Wisconsin Nursery and Landscape Association

Ms. Schaefer explained the role of the new Executive Director of WNLA, Mr. Chris Ruditys. Mr. Buechel expressed concern that it will be hard to get WNLA members to agree to be on SAGs and that the new Executive Director is not going to be very invested in the process. He feels he has a conflict of interest and should not be the lead to communicate with him. They agreed that Mr. Long would be the lead contact.

Mr. Kuhn suggested that setting up a meeting with Mr. Ruditys is the Council's role, so that the Council may explain the process of NR 40 and how it effects the nursery industry. Mr. Long recommended that the Council meet with the board of the WNLA to discuss this so that the actual nursery industry members are involved. Mr. Kuhn suggested that a stand-alone meeting might be easier to engage. Perhaps bring DNR and DATCP staff as well. Mr. Long will reach out to Mr. Ruditys.

Mr. Bressner will send info about the process to his entire organization. He will ask his seed folks to come up with nominations for the SAGs. He suggested this could be the role for Mr. Ruditys, as well.

**TASK:** Mr. Long will contact Mr. Ruditys and the board of the WNLA to set up a meeting for Council, DNR and DATCP representatives.

No other business was discussed by the Council.

Mr. Long moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Kuhn seconded his motion. The motion was approved and Chairman Buechel adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:00 p.m.