

Wisconsin Invasive Species Council Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday March 6, 2019
9:00 a.m. –11:00 a.m.

Via SKYPE
Toll-free number: [+1 \(866\) 715-6499](tel:+18667156499)
Conference ID: 4493275897

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

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

Agenda Repair

No changes were made to the agenda.

Approval of minutes from December 5, 2018 Executive Committee meeting

Mr. Kuhn motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Feldkirchner seconded. Minutes approved.

Status of Council appointments

Ms. Bergeson reported that Professor Vander Zanden replied to the Council's letter inviting him to consider applying for a seat on the Council. He declined at the present time due to too many other commitments. We have not heard anything from Mike Engelson.

Jen Hauxwell and Jim Kitchell were suggested as potential Council members by DNR invasive species staff. Suggestion that Ms. Bergeson draft an email for Council members letting them know the status here and that we have two additional suggestions in Hauxwell and Kitchell. Mr. Buechel will contact all the candidates by phone before the April Council meeting.

TASK: Mr. Buechel will contact Mike Engelson before the April Council meeting.

TASK: Tara will contact Mr. Vander Zanden to thank him for getting back to us.

Mr. Buechel suggested continuing to pursue the other candidates in addition to Mr. Engelson. We don't know if any are interested/available and would get confirmed.

Valerie Johnson is not working full-time in the Forestry area any longer. The Council *does* want the Forestry representation.

Mr. Buechel mentioned that we could improve the onboarding process for new Council members. Ms. Bergeson does send an initial packet to new Council members.

Mr. Feldkirchner did reach out to her with more information about how/when the Council meets and invited a conversation and asked if she is still interested in serving.

TASK: Mr. Feldkirchner volunteered to reach out to DNR Forestry leadership asking for several recommendations for candidates.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will explore what the process is for terminating a Council member before their term expires.

Update on SAG Process

SAG Team Coordinators are finalizing rosters and Council members have the opportunity to provide feedback on the rosters.

Discussion about differences among SAG teams in size of roster. Mr. Renz had commented that it would be good to have them as similar as possible.

Species list....

Mr. Buechel noted that there was very short notice for the first SAG meeting. We want the process to be as transparent as possible. The SAG meetings are an opportunity for Council visibility and we want to be sure they can attend if possible.

Mr. Kuhn noted that this is the pre-assessment meeting and there will be many more opportunities to participate and provide feedback. Inclination is to let the March 11 meeting go forward unless there is real unhappiness. There is some tension between timelines and capacity etc. Winter is the time to get bulk of work done before field season.

Ms. Bergeson explained some of the challenges with timing and getting information assembled.

Discussion about the overall timeline of the SAG process. Feeling of exec committee is that we could hit a “pause” button at any time if necessary. There was desire among DNR staff to not “lose a winter” and to get their pre-assessments done before the spring 2019 field season.

Tara shared what she had heard from SAG

Mr. Buechel asked why the woody group has two SAG coordinators.

Mr. Kuhn suggested brief phone call updates throughout the process with an email follow-up as a way to stay in touch on the process. To discuss on April 9.

Update on Invasive Species Action Month and Invader Crusader Awards

Nominations for Invader Crusader Awards are open until April 1. We have received a few nominations already. Information has been shared via DNR News Release, direct emails, DNR Twitter, and a DNR Facebook post. The call for nominations will also be shared via DNR’s Gov Delivery system to the Invasive Species Topic lists.

The ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5 at 1:00 p.m. at Olbrich Gardens.

Mr. Buechel suggested reserving the space way ahead – like this year for next year.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will find a location for the Council meeting on June 5 prior to the ICA ceremony.

Upcoming tasks include:

- Finalizing judging panel
- Scheduling judges meeting

Education Committee Team Charter Update

Ms. Schaeffer is making some edits to the Charter and will share it with the Education Committee for final review. A final DRAFT version will be sent to the Council before the April 9 meeting.

Mr. Kuhn – Have statutorily mandated requirements for DNR and DATCP to coordinate on forest pests. Maybe should be a topic for a future Council meeting.

Mr. Feldkirchner – might be good to have something that says why the committees aren't regularly meeting, but in what circumstances they do engage. The committees do participate in the SAG process, so are engaged now.

Review minutes and tasks from January 9, 2018 Council meeting

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will issue a Doodle poll for planning future meetings.

Status: Complete for April and June meetings. Coming soon for fall and winter meetings.

Mr. Buechel and Mr. Kuhn noted that it was fine to meet in January this year rather than December, which is a busy time for many.

Suggested meeting dates toward end of September/early October and in January.

Preparation of agenda for April 9, 2018 Council meeting

The Committee discussed agenda items for the April meeting.

Agency/program updates on invasive species

Mr. Kuhn – DATCP hosting the Central Plant Board meeting at the Concourse Hotel on April 15. Updates from USDA Forest Service to talk about forest pest issues. It would be great if a Council member wanted to attend. WI hosts once every 12 years, so this is a good opportunity. Twelve upper Midwest states regulatory officials and federal officials.

TASK: Mr. Kuhn will send information about this meeting to the Council and invite any members to attend.

Conducted interviews for a gypsy moth position.

Will be spraying more acreage than last year, but last year was a low year for acres treated. Will be doing egg mass surveys... will be interesting to see results given the winter conditions. Some thought that the conditions will have put a dent in the populations in some areas of the state. In big picture, it is unlikely to have a significant long-term impact on the population.

Overwhelming numbers of applications to the hemp program. Has an impact on Brian's time and other key staff. Went from 250 license applications last year to about 2200 this year. Not taking in enough fees to cover the program. Could use 7 staff. Used 5 FTE full-time last year. Are working with the legislature and state budget effort. They have to test every field. May take more of a "gypsy moth trapping" type approach. With LTE's assigned territories to conduct testing.

Hemp 2.0 being introduced in the legislature next week – will include 3 positions and money for some laboratory equipment. Trying to keep the nursery inspectors out of the hemp world.

Act 369 has also taken up many staff hours. Publication and guidance document review process.

Mr. Feldkirchner – have filled in more administrative positions. Elizabeth Kluesner is new Deputy Secretary. She has been with DNR for a long time as a government liaison and federal/state liaison. Deputy Assistant Secretary is Todd Ambs. Was DNR Water Division Administrator from 2003-2010. Drew has not yet briefed the new Secretary. Mr. Cole has stressed the importance of science. Has mentioned hiring a Science Officer.

Working to get more stable funding for Matt Wallrath position working with organisms in trade. It would be good to get this message to the legislature.

Porcelain berry – big effort to reach out to homeowners in the Madison area.

TASK: Ms. Bergeson will include bios for these folks in the Invasive Species Updates packet for Council.

Other business allowed by law

No other business was discussed.

Adjourn

Mr. Kuhn made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Feldkirchner seconded. Motion passed. Mr. Buechel adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.