

MINUTES
Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin
Board of Directors Meeting
August 9, 2010
3:00-5:00
The Nature Conservancy – Madison

Board Members present: Jerry Doll, Tom Boos, Amy Staffen, Tom Hunt, Rolf Utegaard, Gene Roark, Willis Brown, Vijai Pandian, Mark Feider, Jim Reinartz, Brian Pillsbury

Also present: Mark Horn, Mark Renz, Amanda Schwoegler, Kelly Kearns, Marsha Vomastic

Administration

1. Approval of Minutes
Boos moves to approve minutes from March 16 Board meeting, seconded by Roark. Motion carries. Roark moves to approve minutes from May 18 Board meeting, seconded by Utegaard. Motion carries.
2. Treasurer's Report
Account balance is \$19,726. A \$5,000 donation was made from Wisconsin Energy Foundation to pay for newsletter printing. Roark moves to approve August 9 Treasurer's Report, seconded by Brown. Motion carries.
3. Update on visit with CPA
Doll, Brown and Boos met with an accountant who is willing to work for us as needed. He was 99.9% certain that IPAW is not under threat of getting audited and does not recommend asking for an audit. He thinks IPAW is just too small for the IRS to worry about. The CPA donated his time for this meeting.

Old business

4. Review of Action Items from March and May Board Meetings
 - ✓ **Boos** will forward info on six new members to Schwoegler for entry into database.
 - ❑ **LeClair** will ask SEWISC to change the Czarapata book link on their website to IPAW. *Not done.*
 - ❑ **Walker** requests that IPAW develop a standardized statement on reed canary grass, along with suggested alternatives; she will ask among her organic farmer colleagues if they know of alternatives. *Not done.* Walker reports that she has communicated with folks, but they are busy, she wasn't sure what the scope of the information should be. Pillsbury says he has identified three species as options: meadow foxtail Garrison (*Allopecurus arundinacea*), redtop, and KYBG. Some are concerned that foxtail is rhizomatous, may have invasive tendencies. Walker will continue to pursue.
 - ✓ **Saatkamp** will contact Doll, set up meeting to discuss the Plant Industry Relations Committee.
 - ❑ **Boos** will look into bank charges and other administrative costs that might be associated with managing separate grant accounts, will communicate this information to Pandian. *Not done, since fiscal agent agreement is on hold.*
 - ❑ **Pandian** will leave the 10% overhead rate in the Fiscal Agent Agreement for SEWISC, will incorporate anticipated administrative costs following update from Boos (see below), and will make other changes in the document as discussed at meeting. *Delete-didn't get grant.*
 - ✓ **Schwoegler** will send renewal template to committee chairs, then to Board for update. Boos also is pushing for a renewed membership drive, wants to discuss seriously at next Board meeting.

- Feider** will set up test run for Skype with **Boos**, along with two remote participants on headsets (**Reinartz** and **Frank**). **Not done.**
- ✓ **Staffen** will ask **Exo** to send his headset to **Pillsbury**.
- ✓ **LeClair** will reach out to members who expressed an interest in participating in the Education Committee (Schwoegler provided). Set up meeting, or at least let them know what's going on and see if there's anything they would like to contribute.
- ✓ **Boos** will communicate with Brakers. Have they been paying? Change Web Host contact person from Steve Braker to someone else. **IPAW evidently paid the fee.**
- Renzi** will develop a proposal/outline describing a possible challenge grant program for IPAW. Renew as agenda item for next Board meeting. **Not done.**
- Kearns** will send recent version of the Information Needs Database to the folks who drafted it originally as well as to those who are listed on it. **Not done.**
 - **Renzi** will send Kearns the most recent version of the document.
- Renzi** will distribute the updated list of invasive plants, with explanation to look for them this summer, and be prepared to fill out survey this fall. **Not done.**
- Kearns** will make additions to invasive plants list before it is sent out. **Not done.**
- ✓ **Kearns** and **LeClair** will compose a newsletter article describing the new reward program. Send out for review to Board.
- ✓ **Boos** will follow through with changing the newsletter printer.
- ✓ **Boos** and **LeClair** will bring display on the 20th, set it up. Doll will man the booth on the 23rd, and will disassemble and return the display.
- ✓ **Pandian** will send an email with an update on volunteer slots taken.
- ✓ **Schwoegler** will send an announcement and request for volunteers to the member distribution list.
- ✓ **North Central Society for Range Management Board** needs to react to email regarding sponsorship of Minnesota invasives conference. **They decided not to cosponsor, will be an exhibitor, and will hold their annual meeting there.**
- IPAW** needs to put together a proposal for a possible invasive plant control certification pesticide category. Should include an outline of what the certification could entail; this can be taken to hearings. **Doll** needs to compose a letter in support of this, to be ready for the hearings. **Not done.**
 - **Doll** will add this topic to our next Board meeting's agenda, invite Saatkamp to attend.
- Renzi** will contact other states to look for possible certification models. **Not done.**
- ✓ **Boos** will send EIS info to Saatkamp.

5. Status of advertising on the web site.

Schwoegler is still waiting for Walker to review the draft letter to potential advertisers. Brown agrees to review instead.

- Schwoegler** will send draft letter to Brown, who will review and revise as necessary.
- Schwoegler** will then send out list of vendors to Board for review, then send letter to invite finalized list of businesses to advertise on the website.

6. Summary of IPAW display at Farm Technology Days.

Pandian reports that Farm Technology Days was a great success, with many visitors to a well-done display. He particularly lauds the plastic invasive species vector model that Bernie Williams from DNR forestry created. The only detracting point was rain, which forced cancellation of Thursday's events. Special thanks go out to the staff and volunteers that helped with transport, assembling, disassembling and manning the IPAW display.

New Business

7. Election of New Vice President

Tom Hunt has stepped down as Vice President of IPAW, but will still serve on the Board. Since no current volunteers or nominations were forthcoming, a nominating committee will be needed.

- ❑ A nominating committee comprised of **Brown, Doll** and **Staffen** will seek out nominees for Vice President in coming months.

8. Minnesota/Wisconsin Invasive Plant Conference Update

Kearns reports that Belle Bergner (Bergner & Associates) has been hired as conference coordinator. They are still looking for sponsors. The budget/planning status will be reviewed on a monthly basis. Kearns says that we need to solicit many more abstract submissions. She stresses the importance of promoting conference attendance (goal is 400), also reports that State-of-Wisconsin workers should be able to attend this event since they will be able to secure lodging in Hudson, WI, within easy driving distance to conference in Minnesota. The conference program is coming together, but there are still some gaps; the planning committee is soliciting suggestions for speakers for the following topics:

- Terrestrial invasive invertebrates (esp. feral hogs) – Dave Matheys?
- Chicago invasive plant ordinance – Kay Havens?
- Impacts of invasives – Jim Reinartz?
- Invasives outreach – Laura Felda? Cathy Bruner?
- Green Industry – Brian Swingle? Laura Jull?
- Success stories of major control projects
- Staffen suggests doing a talk on roadside management, compare and contrast DOT programs of WI and MN. Feider agrees, and suggests asking Bonnie Harper-Lore to speak on this topic.

IPAW will have an exhibit there. Schwoegler volunteers to man the booth the whole time to drum up new members.

9. Tandem IPAW Meetings at Minnesota/Wisconsin Conference?

It is presumed that if we held our IPAW annual meeting at this event, it would be poorly attended, as might be a Board meeting. Sentiments run against both of these ideas.

10. Dow/IPAW Field Day at Horicon Marsh

Renz reports that the Dow field day is scheduled for September 28th at Horicon Marsh. The indoor sessions will be held at Marsh Haven; they are not charging us a facility fee, but request a donation – we will contribute money from registration fee as a donation; IPAW will have no other expenses. Dow will pay for lunch for attendees, plus the bus that will transport them on the field trip. Boos suggests adding an “Herbicide Q & A” to the program. The fee will be \$5 for IPAW members, \$20 for non-members.

11. Possible IPAW Flickr Account

Vomastic presents the idea of setting up a Flickr account for IPAW where members can upload digital photos. This can serve as an image library for general usage, as a source of images for use on our website and in publications or Power Point presentations, and even as a means of invasive plant identification and “georeferencing.” There is no limit on disk space, we can have a variety of links from our website: slide shows, links to individual photos, etc. The challenge is that someone needs to monitor submissions and verify proper identification, suitability, etc. It is decided that we will do a limited trial run with this for starters, focusing on images of people doing invasives control/outreach, IPAW events, equipment, techniques – basically photos that aren’t already well-represented on other websites (plant id is well-covered on DNR and extension websites). Perhaps also plant bounty submissions?

- Vomastic** will set up a Flickr account designating the IPAW email account as administrator; **Schwoegler** will then receive and review submissions and, with assistance from others, verify and approve or reject submissions (they don't go live on the website until the administrator approves them).
- Schwoegler & Vomastic** will communicate with David Beckmann about allowing modification of listserv, allowing communication between listserv and Flickr sites. (??)
- Doll** will renew this as agenda item for next Board meeting. We will still have to decide who to invite/allow to use the Flickr site – anyone? Listserv members? IPAW members?

12. Southwestern Wisconsin Weed Management Association Grant Application

Mark Horn reports that his preliminary grant submission to the US Fish & Wildlife Foundation Pulling Together Initiative received approval for a full proposal, which will be due on September 30. The proposal describes developing a Southwest Wisconsin Weed Management Area comprised of seven county highway departments, volunteer organizations and other agencies. The grant, if funded, would finance monitoring of emerging invasives along highways in these seven counties. He now needs to fill out the full narrative template, as well as develop a full budget.

- Doll** will send Horn a fiscal agent agreement (Staffen points out that overhead statement in current draft is up for negotiation). **Horn** will complete, sign and submit to Doll.
- Horn** will submit full draft proposal to Doll by September 15th to allow time for the full Board to review. If approved by the Board, IPAW will serve as fiscal agent for the grant.

Horn seeks recommendations on possible people to ask to serve on this group's Board and Advisory Committee. Brown volunteers to serve on Board. It is suggested that they also have at least one highway department commissioner on the Board. Roark suggests asking Gigi LaBudde.

- Doll** will amend grant policy statement to address lack of clarity regarding overhead when IPAW serves as fiscal agent. The decision was to review each situation on a case-by-case basis, and designate an appropriate overhead rate based on size of grant award, amount of allowable overhead, and amount of work required by IPAW to administer.

13. Next Board Meeting

- Schwoegler** will send out a Doodle survey to schedule next Board meeting for September 20th-30th (but not Sept 28th).

14. Announcements

Renz announces that the next set of roadside management workshops will be held in Eau Claire and Green Bay August 24-28. Check announcement on Listserv for more information.

15. Other Business

- The deadline for the September 13th newsletter is August 27th. **Schwoegler** will solicit ideas for articles from Board and volunteers.