Board Members present: Willis Brown, Greg Bunker, Jerry Doll, Diane Schauer, Tony Summers, Patricia Trochlell and Christa Wollenzien

Board Members Present by Telephone: Mic Armstrong, Jeremy Chiamulera, Mark Feider, and John Lunz.

Also present: Michele Jasik and, by telephone, Kelly Kearns

Absent: Tom Boos and Jamie Nuthals

Administration

1. Roll call

2. Approval of Agenda – Doll added the review of Jasik’s salary to the agenda. Doll moved to approve the agenda and Trochlell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes – Trochlell moved to approve the Minutes of November 12, 2015 and Doll seconded the motion. The motion passed.

4. Treasurer’s Report – Brown provided the Board with the Treasurer’s Report since the last IPAW meeting. Brown stated that he received a bill from our tax service for $1,000.00 and this is due to the increase of profit we received from the conference, however, he does not believe we will be charged this every year. After expenses, the balance of the IPAW account is $22,455.15. After expenses, the balance in the conference account is $29,640.32. Lunz moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Doll seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Committee Reports

5. CISMA – Schauer stated that the telephone conference between the CISMAs went well. Jasik stated that the CISMAs were interested in partnering with IPAW to hold field day events, educating the public about invasive species in their areas. Wollenzien stated that Jill Hapner of SEWISC has asked IPAW to help pay for two conferences in which they would like to attend. One is the 2016 Southeast Wisconsin Woodland Owners Conference taking place on January 30 in Pewaukee in the amount of $50.00 and the other is Mother Earth News Fair taking place on July 9-10 at the Washington County Fair Grounds in the amount of $275.00. Kearns stated that we could possibly get some talks in at Mother Earth News Fair. There was discussion as to how much should be given to a CISMA per year and how to promote this to other CISMAs because we had helped SEWISC with one of these events in 2015. There was also discussion that IPAW would rather support “Where Ecology Meets Economy” over these conferences for SEWISC. Cost sharing with SEWISC was proposed.

- Jasik is to speak with Jill Hapner regarding these conferences.

6. Membership – Jasik stated that due to a vote that was held by email, she has changed the memberships on the IPAW website and on the IPAW brochure starting January 1, 2016 to student - $10.00, Individual - $25.00, Family - $20.00 and organizational - $100.00. She said that there was some discussion as to having a lifetime membership, however, she thought we might wish to continue this conversation before we make that addition. Jasik stated that as of today, IPAW has 138 members, which include 20 comp members, 8 organizational members, 88 individual members, 21 family, and 1 student. There was discussion as to whether or not to have a lifetime membership and, if so, what would this amount be. Lunz stated that some organizations have a sliding scale for membership pertaining to age. The older one gets, the less they have to pay. It was decided that there needs to be further discussion with the membership committee and then a recommendation be brought to the board.

7. Legislative/Government Relations – Wollenzien stated that the Legislative Committee met via conference call last Friday to try to address the 4 questions 1) Who are the funds meant for? 2) What is the source? 3) Which legislator(s) would be most approachable? and 4) What would IPAW want the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters to do? She stated that the committee
realized that this was a much bigger issue then IPAW can attack alone. Therefore, the committee has decided to ask the board what organizations should IPAW reach out to in order to develop legislative partnerships with. Some organizations that were suggested were The Nature Conservancy, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, and birding organizations, such as Madison Audubon. Midwest Invasive Plant Network and The Prairie Enthusiasts were also suggested. Schauer stated that the hunting organizations have come together and written a letter to oppose an Assembly Bill because it negatively impacts wetland habitats. She stated that perhaps we could get help from these organizations – Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever, Green Bay Duck Hunters Assoc., and Wisconsin Waterfowl Association.

- All are to get back to Wollenzien with a list of organizations they believe IPAW should reach out to in order to develop legislative partnerships.

Schauer stated that she will be meeting with Al Ott on Friday and she will ask him which legislators or organizations he believes are most approachable and how he would recommend doing so. Lunz stated that user fees and taxes have been created for other types of issues, what if any does Al Ott believe are doable.

- Schauer will report back to the board on her discussion with Al Ott.
- Lunz, Feider and Schauer will meet with Dan Collins to discuss these issues also.

Wollenzien stated that she has put some money for this issue on the 2016 budget if IPAW would like to hire someone for outreach specific to this cause.

- Wollenzien will look into how Michigan, New York, Minnesota and Missouri get their funding for invasive species issues.

8. Website – Jasik had created a year-end analysis of the IPAW website and sent it to the IPAW board. If there is anything else the board is interested in, please let her know.

Jasik also stated that Boos had given her some updates on the website with regards to the bounty and she has made those corrections. She said that she would like to change our logo on the Flickr account; however, she does not have the administrative information to log into the account. If anyone has experience using Flickr and would like to give her a hand, that would be great.

- Feider will check to see if he has the Flicker access information and will pass it on to Jasik if he has it.

Old Business

9. Education/Conference Displays

Wisconsin Wetland Association conference – February 23-25, 2016 – Schauer stated that she is willing to be at the IPAW booth for this event. She said that Nuthals will also be at the conference and he will drop by the booth to help out. Trochlell will be at this conference and will stop by the booth. Schauer asked about other items that IPAW might wish to have. Jasik told her that the IPAW display was at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources office. Schauer took 30 of the WI DNR Field Guides (left over from the Urban Forestry workshops) that she plans to give out to people who show a strong interest in invasive species.

Wisconsin Public Television’s Garden Expo – February 12-14, 2016 – Jasik stated that she has a sign up sheet for the Garden Expo and she is soliciting volunteers. If anyone would like to help out, please let her know.

IPAW Annual Meeting – April 21, 2016 – Wollenzien said that the IPAW annual meeting will take place on April 21st at the Mead Wildlife Area’s Visitor Center, which is near Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Wollenzien stated that we will have to invite our members and that perhaps IPAW could pitch in for lunch for this event. Schauer suggested that the morning meeting be geared toward CISMA’s and the afternoon presentations will be items of interest to both CISMA’s and IPAW members. Kearns added that the Mead Wildlife Area Visitor Center has a large kitchen in which we would be able to utilize.

- Wollenzien and Schauer will meet with Kearns and Tim Campbell to set up the meeting so something can be put in the January newsletter.

Farm Technology Days – July 19-20, 2016 – Doll stated that the next Farm Technology Days will be held in Walworth County south of Lake Geneva. Doll stated that the exhibit did not cost IPAW
anything and that all of the participants at the booth thought it was a great event. Kearns suggested that Doll sign us up for this year’s event.

10. **Board of Director Insurance/Herbicide Email** – Doll stated that after the last IPAW Board meeting, Jasik sent him a copy of her contract, and he and Brown spoke with the insurance company to see if IPAW really needed Worker’s Compensation Insurance. After speaking with the insurance company they found out that Worker’s Compensation is not required. Therefore, Doll moved to rescind the motion that was made at the November 12, 2015 IPAW Board meeting in which it was determined that IPAW purchase Worker’s Compensation Insurance. Schauer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

After doing research, Doll suggested that IPAW purchase Directors and Officers Liability Insurance – which covers non-profit organizations in claims arising out of wrongful acts for up to $1,000.00 in the amount of $450.00 per year. Lunz made a motion that IPAW purchase Officers and Liability Insurance with $1,000.00 coverage. Doll seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Doll also recommended that IPAW purchase General Liability Insurance – which covers event related incidents in the amount of $350.00 per year. Doll moved that IPAW purchase General Liability insurance. Trochlell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

11. **IPAW Brochure** – Jasik stated that a draft of the IPAW Brochure has been sent to the board, corrections were made, and she is now in the process of getting quotes from the printers.

12. **IPAW Budget & Bookkeeping** – Wollenzien stated that she would like IPAW to have a budget as a guide to direct us throughout the year. If something comes up and it is within our criteria, she could make the decision to pay for it our not, without having to ask the board each and every time. Therefore, she created a budget in which she would like to IPAW Board to approve. There was some discussion in that the budget needs to be adjusted for a few items, for example, adding the $800 per year for insurance. Wollenzien stated that she will make the adjustments, but she would like to have the IPAW board pass the budget prior to the March meeting.

☐ **Wollenzien** will fix up the budget and send it out to the IPAW Board asking them to vote on it prior to the March board meeting.

13. **Membership vs. Website Sponsorship** – Jasik said that the membership committee would be meeting this afternoon. This item was tabled until the next IPAW board meeting.

14. **February Newsletter – Articles Due January 20th** – Jasik stated that she has received all of the articles except for Feider’s introduction, Schauer’s article on water plants and the board member’s questionnaires from Brown, Feider and Nuthals. It was decided that we should also put something in the newsletter about the annual meeting that will be taking place with the AIS/CISMA meeting in April.

**New Business**

15. **Board Member Changes** – Wollenzien stated that she spoke to MacDonald and he realized that he has taken on more than he could handle and would not be able to continue with IPAW.

16. **Statement of Commitment** – Wollenzien stated that a new Statement of Commitment needs to be signed by the board members every year and Jasik has sent them out to the board, so please sign them and return them to Jasik.

☐ **All** sign and return your Statement of Commitment to Jasik.

17. **Change in Jasik’s Salary** – A motion was made by Doll and seconded by Trochlell to increase Jasik’s salary to $16.00 per hour as of February 1, 2016. The motion passed unanimously.

**Announcements**

Jasik stated that she had put out a plea for donations at the end of the year and we received a total of $240.00.

Summers stated that the counties are interested in having trainings, similar to the ones that were held last fall. These trainings would happen around the state mostly for county employees, but will be open to the public also. He and Renz will be working on the details for those.

**Meeting Adjournment** – Brown moved to adjourn the meeting. Summers seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.