

MINUTES

Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, July 11th, 2006
4:00 – 6:00 PM
The Nature Conservancy

Board Members present: Amy Staffen, Willis Brown, Tom Boos, Gene Roark
Board Members joining via conference call: Rolf Utegaard, Tom Hunt, John Exo, Jim Reinartz
Others present: Jessica Bolwahn, Program Assistant

Rolf Utegaard, as acting President, called the meeting to order:

I. ADMINISTRATION

1. Move to approve new board members (motion carried)
 - Move to approve Jerry Doll as Board President (motion carried)
 - Discussed how retiring board members should be acknowledged – possible ideas include giving the Czarapata book, a Wisconsin state park sticker, or the Wisconsin State Natural Areas book as a gift, and adding a vignette in the newsletter. Board agrees to give the State Natural Areas book (Wisconsin Naturally) to the board members and both the book and a state park sticker to Pat. A vignette will be included in the next newsletter with each board member's bio and a statement about what it meant to be a board member.
 - Members retiring include Steve Strachota and Pat Goggin. Members retiring early include Donna Van Bueken and Jen Baker
 - Tom Hunt will gather statements from each of the retiring BOD members for the next newsletter
 - Jessica will get the document listing BOD member term expirations from Pat
2. Approve Meeting minutes
 - Minutes approved as modified
3. Treasurer's Report July, 2006
 - Approved

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on Long Term Strategic Planning
 - No further discussion
2. Status of Economic Impact Statements
 - Tom Boos will email a link to PBwiki with instructions to follow
3. Discuss next Board Election for returning members and more recent nominees
 - Several issues were discussed: Ramifications of not filing Steve Strachota's position (he represented the Green Industry), whether or not the board has the authority to appoint board members to fill an unexpired term, and how best to go about staggering board members so that large groups are not leaving at the same time.
 - Pat Goggin, Steve Strachota and David Hamel's terms expired in May and Donna Van Bueken and Jen Baker left the board before their terms expired. David Hamel seems interested in continuing his involvement as a board member. Steve Strachota has found a replacement and Kelly Kearns has identified an interested person to represent the Tribes. Willis Brown, Jerry Doll and Brian Swingle were recently elected to replace the three retiring board members.

Amy will contact David Hamel to see if he would like to begin another term, and discuss his availability

- The organization's bylaws were referenced to determine if the board can appoint individuals to fill seats vacated before term expiration or if a second election must be held. According to Article IV, section 5 of the bylaws, a vacancy in the board may be filled by an appointment by the Board of Directors for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Tom Boos will look into engineering an appropriate term stagger

Bios from Bob Frank (Tribal Representative) and Doug Bastian (Steve's replacement) need to be obtained for the next newsletter

4. Next newsletter

- It was agreed that the organization should stay on a 3-month schedule for newsletter. 4 newsletters were sent to members in 2004, 3 in 2005 and two so far in 2006. Jim felt that a September/October newsletter would be reasonable, October 1st would be better. It was noted that this newsletter should be sent as a 2-month conference reminder and that section headings for the conference are currently set and could be included. This way a December issue could be sent and dedicated to the conference.
- Jim suggested an August 1st deadline for all submissions and a deadline of the 25th for handover to Rolf for printing. He would need to check with Susan Slapnick – her schedule could change everything
- Topics to be included: Conference Heads Up (Kelly), Welcome and Farewell to Board members (Tom Hunt), Summary of Long Term Strategic Planning Survey (Pat), ISAM (Amy), Reed canarygrass research article – Craig Annen (Willis) and/or Crown vetch article (Amy) – trying to include a “spotlight” article on a particular invasive species – Japanese stilt grass and the Emerald ash borer were also suggested.

Jim will send an email to everyone looking for additional topics

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Committee Updates

- Gene attended a meeting in Stevens Point that addressed the formation of BMP's in the Forestry industry (Urban Forestry, Logging/Forestry, Recreation, etc.). It is progressing slowly, but eventually there will be a set of BMP for anyone working with Forests.
- Rolf asked if the Green Industry Relations Committee is still functioning. Tom Boos suggested that Brian may be a good person to take on that committee – but wasn't sure if it was formally functioning.

2. Request for IPAW Representation at National Public Lands Day in Milwaukee, WI

- Amy agreed to take any requests for representation in the future. If a board member is not willing to take it on, then it could be posted on the Listserve. Once a volunteer has agreed to the event, must coordinate with Kelly to obtain Booth info.
- Kelly currently has a work study student making copies of the main elements of the booth display, which will be available as a “kit”. Volunteer would need to provide his/her own display board. Amy suggested that additional “Wild Cards” could be ordered through the DNR service center

3. Additional Matters

- How best to address individual's request to present an issue to the Board. Amy (while on the Governor's Council on Invasive Species) had received a letter from an individual asking her why he is harassed by the State about invasive species removal when the neighboring state land has invasive species and nothing is done to curb the problem there. He assumed that with her position she had authority to change the current situation. In addition to sending her this letter, he sent copies to legislators as well. Amy sent a copy of the letter to the head of Endangered Resources and responded to the individual in a polite

manner explaining her position with the council and that she did not have authority to address his situation and made some suggestions for further action on his part. Amy noted that the individual had not followed any of her suggestions and is now writing to the IPAW BOD requesting an opportunity to air his concerns at a meeting.

What can IPAW do? Some board members felt that if his presentation would be reasonable and not hostile, it would be fine, another suggested a “letter to the editor” in the next newsletter. Jim suggested that he be directed to the Listserve so that people will respond to his situation and questions. Tom Boos suggested an Advocate letter – unless he holds a position that IPAW cannot support. Tom Hunt felt that it should be a unified approach – need to determine what the real issue is and disregard the person’s personality and potential bias of the landowner. Amy suggested he join the Legislative committee and Gene noted that at one time he had been asked to be a board member. The board agreed that there are many people in his situation and that he needs to be given a forum. Amy tried to find statistics for what the state currently spends on invasive removal, but Kelly (in an earlier conversation) felt that it may anger some individuals when they see how much tax money goes into mitigating this problem. Amy still believes that those types of statistics would be useful in cases this.

If the individual is to present, what guidelines should the board set? Tom Hunt would like to know what he expects of IPAW first. If allowed to present, the individual may have an innovative idea – something that the board has not considered before. Tom Boos would like to see a list of the issues, give a set amount of time and requests that the presentation be kept factual. Tom Hunt suggests a 10 – 12 minute presentation with discussion. Once again both the listserv and a “letter to the editor” are strongly suggested.

Tom Hunt will contact the individual once a meeting day and time is set.

IV. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN

1. Schedule next meeting
 - Board agrees that meeting should be held every two months, vs. every month
 - Some new members have conflicting obligations
 - Amy will send out a questionnaire to Board members about best days/times to conduct BOD meetings and next meeting will be scheduled once all the responses are in.
2. Meeting Adjourned