

MINUTES
Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin
Board of Directors Meeting
July 28, 2009
3:00 to 5:00
The Nature Conservancy – Madison

Board Members present: Tom Boos, Rolf Utegaard, Anne Walker, Jerry Doll, Vijai Pandian, Gene Roark, Amy Staffen, Willis Brown, Tom Hunt, Mark Feider, Bob Frank

Others attending: Clarissa Hammond, Kelly Kearns

Administration

1. Approval of minutes from May 7, 2009 Board meeting
Motion to approve without corrections (Hunt); seconded by Walker.
Motion carried.
2. Treasurer's Report
Boos reports that the current balance is \$14,519, which is about the same as when he reported at the last Board meeting. A couple of businesses joined, adding to our dues income. Several people who couldn't come to the Annual Meeting just made a donation instead. The numbers for the Annual Meeting are off, but Tom is still working out figures; bottom line is that we just-about broke even. Motion to approve (Utegaard), second (Roark). Discussion: Kearns suggests that we list business members in newsletter to encourage more business memberships, and to encourage people to patronize these businesses. Motion carried.

Old Business

3. Review of Action Items from May 7 Board Meeting
 - Roark** and **Utegaard** will fill in Jeff Saatkamp on the history of the plant industry relations committee. – **Utegaard will take action next week.**
 - Kearns** will contact whoever is left on the expired member list. – **not done yet.**
 - Renz** will draft a letter encouraging Extension employees to join IPAW. – **Doll will send reminder, may even draft letter for him.**
 - Courtney LeClair** will provide appropriate handouts to Crall for May 31st event at UW-Arboretum.
 - Kearns** will send out an email to IPAW Listserv with information on the SB123 / AB162 bill, and encourage people to extend their support of the bill to their local representative.
 - Hammond** will advertise the Annual Meeting on the IPAW Listserv.
 - Doll/Hammond** will send the Annual Meeting agenda to all Board Members.
 - LeClair** will set the dinner RSVP deadline for Invader Crusader Award winners to May 20th.
 - Hammond** will identify businesses in the IPAW membership list, and send them an email offering them the opportunity to purchase advertising space on the IPAW website. – **Hammond reports that she has created a list, but has not send an email. She asks how much this advertising will it cost? Action items below need to be completed before Hammond can send email.**
 - Vomastic**, as webmaster, will provide the Board with ideas and options on how best to deal with these advertisements in terms of website location, dealing with a high number of ads, etc. – **Boos will communicate with Vomastic about this.**

- ❑ **Vomastic** will consult with **Anne Walker** about the best way to meet the needs of businesses in displaying these ads, since she is a business owner herself. – **They are communicating, will continue to discuss.**
- ✓ **Oemichen** will send the grant application, along with supporting documents such as maps, to Hammond, who will forward to Staffen.
- ✓ **Staffen** will fill in any necessary IPAW information in grant application and submit to granting authority by the May 15th deadline.
- ✓ **Staffen** will submit a proposed grant policy for IPAW at the July meeting. The goal is to establish a mechanism to protect IPAW from contract disputes under circumstances where they submit grants on behalf of other groups.
- ❑ ~~**Oemichen** will submit an article to the IPAW newsletter describing the project. – **No longer pertinent, since grant wasn't funded, and since we recently had an article on this topic in the newsletter.**~~
- ✓ **Roark** will draft a letter on behalf of IPAW to promote SB 123 and AB 162. He will email this draft to the Board for approval, then submit.

4. Newsletter

July 24th deadline has passed with no action. Meeting attendees came up with a list of possible topics, will send to Reinartz for printing in late August or early September. Boos suggests forestalling until September 1, when invasive species rule will get published and in effect.

- Invasive Species Rule published and in effect! (Reinartz? Kearns, Boos) – should be bold headline.
- FTD summary
- Annual meeting summary [Doll, Boos (photos)]
- Invader Crusaders information (LeClair)
- SEWIC workshop (Feider)
- CWMAs (IRA) (Kearns)
- Business members?
- New and renewing members since last newsletter (or January 1). Look at list and see what makes sense. Clarissa will create a list.
- Article about wild chervil, new findings (Boos and Kearns)
- Citizen monitoring lending libraries (Kearns)

5. Wrap-up of Invasive Species Awareness Month

Kearns reports that we had six Invader Crusader winners who received their awards from Rep. Spencer Black. She gave a summary of all winners (see ISAM website for details: <http://invasivespecies.wi.gov>). We don't have a theme for next year. Past themes: general, woodland, aquatic, BMPs. Le Clair may be able to coordinate next year, due to continued funding through Golden Sands RC&D. Kearns says there is no direct link to ISAM calendar from IPAW website. Brown suggests grasslands as 2010 theme? Might there be funding from NRCS for this theme/topic? Talk to Brian Pillsbury? Other NRCS employees such as Greg Kidd?

6. Wrap-up of IPAW Annual Meeting

All seemed to like having combined Invader Crusader Awards and Annual Meeting. Doll will send Peter Murray and Spencer Black thank you notes. Suggestions for next year? Boos asks if we prefer having this meeting separate. No strong opinions were voiced one way or another; we will table issue for now.

7. Report on Farm Technology Days (FTD) Display

Pandian reports: Nice display, half a booth, very popular, kept booth attendants quite busy. He liked the set-up of the booth. Mark Bethke, coordinator of FTD, congratulated Pandian on the booth, said the display was the most popular in the tent! Pandian thanks

all volunteers for helping man the display. He estimates 40-50,000 people each day came through FTD. Boos shares one lesson learned: We can't provide handouts, because you can never have enough for that many attendees. Wild Cards were very popular. No books sold, two MIPN guides sold, four MIPN guides STOLEN, even though they were labeled 'Display Copy'!! Boos points out that we need TWO people per shift. Next year, event will be near River Falls; shall we plan on attending? All agree that this is a major event and a tremendously worthwhile investment of our time and resources.

New Business

8. Request for Regional Group Affiliations
 - a. Invasives Removal Squad (IRS): No reasons to deny them affiliation, many Board members are familiar with this group's members, indicate that they are good people, well-qualified. Will be first group to have website to IPAW. Motion to approve (Boos), second (Roark). Motion carried.
 - b. Northwoods CWMA: They have declined affiliation with IPAW for several reasons: they are already IPAW members as a 'business,' and they are daunted by a now-changed requirement that their liaison needs to be an IPAW board member. They should be told that this requirement was dropped in the final revisions of the bi-laws.
 - **Doll** will communicate with Northwoods CWMA again to make sure that they understand the benefits and terms of being an IPAW affiliated group.
 - c. Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Cooperative (SEWISC): Feider has filled out form for SEWISC to become an IPAW affiliated group, but hasn't turned it in yet. Will do so. Feider answered questions verbally to Board during meeting: Do they have a liaison? Yes, Mark Feider. Do they need webspace? Yes. Do they have appointed officers? Yes, plus several major committees. Do they have a mission statement? Yes. Their goal is primarily to stay focused on the Milwaukee River watershed, although they have expanded to a slightly larger region to accommodate needs/requests. What is their reason to want to be affiliated with IPAW? We will be eligible to apply for grants, will be stronger as an affiliated group. Motion to approve (Roark), second (Boos), contingent upon receipt of formal application by Doll.
 - **Feider** will send contact info of officers, mission statement to Doll.
 - d. Madison Area Weed Warriors: Another request came from Tammy Bieberstein with Madison Area Weed Warriors to become an IPAW affiliated group. Madison Parks Dept is their umbrella sponsor. Kearns quoted from application to Board meeting attendees, since this was not mailed out in advance. Motion to approve (Roark), second (Walker). Discussion: Boos points out that they are not members of IPAW; this is a requirement for an affiliated group. Motion failed. Final approval contingent upon this group's meeting the requirements for being an affiliated group (they don't have officers, need to be IPAW member).
 - **Doll** will communicate with Bieberstein about requirements for becoming an affiliated group.
9. Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Cooperative (SEWISC) Workshops
Kearns says that there are two different CWMA's that got grants to put on workshops (SEWISC and Northwoods). Training will be on BMPs and new invasive species rule. Target audience: roadside managers and public works professionals. These are fashioned after workshops coordinated in the past by Gigi LaBudde. SEWISC will have workshops on October 21/22, 2009 (Havenwoods Nature Center in Milwaukee), and one in spring 2010. Bill

Bergner was hired by SEWISC to coordinate. Northwoods CWMA will hold their workshop in the spring, and will be hiring a coordinator.

Northwoods has asked IPAW to be a sponsor the workshop. What shall we offer? MIPN guides? Raffle several books? Gigi gives books for those who do best on plant ID quizzes. Provide 80 books at-cost? We have 220 books left. Offer books 'on consignment,' i.e., at-cost, then they sell for same price. Boos would like to draft a summary of conversation with Northwoods, send to IPAW Board for approval – we don't have enough information right now (Doll's info was incomplete). At least make sure to have the display there (Boos and/or Kearns will be there).

9. Invasives Detection/Mapping Project Update

Kearns reports that GPS units are now stationed at 20 different sites throughout the state, waiting for people to borrow them. A letter went to each host site with a list of their responsibilities, links to the citizen-based monitoring website, a check-out sheet, and the protocol for submitting data. PDAs are out there too, but Kearns didn't know where. Technically, these units belong to us. Walker asks what happens if they are stolen – no one knows. Board would like to see copy of User Agreement, other related documents. Walker says that we might like to institute some incentive to return, like a deposit. Conclusion: We don't want to alienate possible hosts/volunteers. Staffen says wait a year, address again if issues come up; all agreed.

10. Committee Reports

a. Education Committee

Staffen reports that she is waiting for a response from Marjy Brzeskiewicz with U.S. Forest Service regarding door hanger. Alycia Crall has volunteered to take over chairing the Education Committee; Amy is trying to coordinate a time to meet with her and discuss further. It is assumed that Alycia would just help to get the committee back on its feet, as she will be moving away from Wisconsin in 2010.

b. Governmental Relations

Roark reports that SB 123/AB 162 are out of committee, but have not made it to the floor for a vote. Can Committee take executive action? Not sure. Kearns says that Wisconsin Towns Association is concerned that this legislation would give WDNR authority to list statewide noxious weeds, and that they would list far too many species too easily. Kearns has assured them that this won't happen, and that these types of issues could be addressed during rule-making, but the rule can't be developed unless the legislation is approved!

Kearns announces a celebration for completion of NR40 on Sept 1!! Further details are forthcoming.

Minnesota approved a sales tax by referendum, 3/8 of a cent, which goes to environmental/cultural programs, including invasive species stuff.

11. Future events and announcements

- Wisconsin Master Gardeners meeting on October 2-3 in Wisconsin Dells. We will have a speaker there. Find out how many days, if we can have a display.
- WI Crop Production Association, \$585 for display. It is decided to not participate; Doll informs that this group is not an appropriate target audience for IPAW.
- Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, September 10-13 in Stevens Point.
 - ☐ **Boos** will be there for WDNR, will take IPAW display too.
- Wild Ones National Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, October 16-17.
 - ☐ **Kearns** is giving a talk, will take IPAW display.
 - ☐ **Feider** will sign up IPAW for a booth, will man the booth along with Kelly. Is display free for speakers? **Feider** will investigate.
- Second Annual Herb Day, October 3, Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison.
 - ☐ **Walker** will coordinate IPAW display for this event, will need help.

12. Future IPAW Conference

No time to discuss. Make sure this topic is on next meeting's agenda.

13. Grazing and Reed Canary Grass

Boos reports that Peter Pitts at Farm Technology Days recommended (to Tom) the planting of reed canary grass as a forage crop. He averred that it is not invasive, and that there are native strains. Doll believes that he works for NRCS. It is suggested that we ask Brian Pillsbury to talk to him about this issue further, as his statements are completely in conflict with IPAW's position on reed canary grass.

☐ **Doll** will track down contact information for Pitts, request that Pillsbury speak with him.

14. Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN)

Mark Renz poses the question: How can MIPN help IPAW in furthering its mission? Table issue until next meeting.

15. Best Management Practices (BMP) update

Boos reports that the draft Urban Forestry Track BMPs are open for public input until the end of July. Board members are encouraged to take online survey, provide input at: www.wisconsinforestry.org The goal is to approve both the Urban Forestry and Recreational BMPs in September, 2009. The Right-of-Way BMPs are still under development, will hopefully be approved at November Wisconsin Council on Forestry meeting. Implementation of Forestry BMPs is in progress with six instructional workshops occurring across the state.

16. Next IPAW Board Meeting

The next IPAW Board of Directors meeting will be held on Thursday, September 24th, 3:00-5:00.

Minutes composed by Amy Staffen, IPAW Secretary, August 9, 2009