

MINUTES
Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin
Board of Directors Meeting
May 18, 2010
9:00 – 3:00
UW-Milwaukee Field Station

Board Members present: Jerry Doll, Tom Boos, Brian Pillsbury, Mark Feider, Vijai Pandian, Jim Reinartz, Amy Staffen

Also present: Kelly Kearns, Courtney LeClair, Mark Renz, Jeff Saatkamp

Administration

1. Approval of minutes from March, 2010 Board meeting
Insufficient time to review; carry over to next Board meeting.
2. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Current financial Status
Current balance is \$15,768. Membership dues for March are \$180. Major expenditures include purchasing a new web domain (\$325). Four Czarapata books and 13 Naturalist Guides were sold to Right-of-Way professionals. Reinartz moves to approve Treasurer's Report (Feider seconds). Motion carries.
 - b. Planning for a more sustainable future
 - Doll and Boos will meet with Bruce Mayer, accountant, from Wegner CPA & Associates on Thursday. They should review past meeting minutes for suggested discussion points, plus ask about investing some money in a CD.
 - Jim Reinartz volunteers to implement investment recommendations that are made by this professional.
 - Renz suggests that we use discretionary funds to develop an invasives control grant program. Staffen points out that these funds are not a sustainable resource. Kearns suggests a possibility for sustainable funding: Pre-Proposals for the current round of Pulling Together Initiative grants are due in June. She suggests that we apply for money to work with CWMAs. She reports that about \$10,000 for each state is allocated in this fund for invasives multimedia outreach work, *e.g.*, billboards describing terrestrial invasive issues. Other alternatives to develop a sustainable dollar source: Set up a fund and solicit donations (Kearns); Devise a challenge grant program (Renz).
 - **Renz** will develop a proposal/outline describing a possible challenge grant program for IPAW. Renew as agenda item for next Board meeting.
 - c. Audit Status
 - Doll, Brown and Boos will meet with an accountant soon.

Old Business

3. Science Committee Update
 - a. Information Needs Database.
Committee = Mark Renz, Brendon Panke, Eunice Padley, Brad Herrick, Kelly Kearns, Ursula Petersen.
 - They currently have 104 topics sorted by topic in Excel spreadsheet. Last updated May 14, 2008. This includes 32 ideas relating to control, 19 relating to impacts, 15 relating to spread of invasives.
 - Haven't distributed yet because some contact permissions need to be renewed; Board recommends either removing these names or contact them for permission.

- Database can be used as a tool to disseminate what we think is important foci for stakeholders and funding sources. IPAW needs to put out an active voice to promote funding of invasives control and management.
- Board recommends the following steps: 1) Update the database; 2) Executive Committee send a cover letter with list to key politicians (national, state and regional); 3) Post and promote list on IPAW website, newsletter and listserv.
- ❑ **Kearns** will send recent version of list to the folks who drafted it originally as well as to those who are listed on it.
- ❑ **Doll** will draft a cover letter that will accompany the revised list, will send out to Board and Renz for review.

b. List of Invasive Plants in Wisconsin

- Last revised in April 2009. There are 233 total plants on the list this time.
- Another 27 are native plants that can behave invasively.
- Sent email in April 2009 to solicit input on conducting a new survey – no response. Committee is now looking for guidance on next steps.
- Kearns indicates that there is no need to tie this list to NR 40.
- Ideas: Implement a 'panel of experts' meeting approach? Have an online survey using Survey Monkey?
- Recommended next steps: i) Ask Miles Falck about how data should be collected/annotated; ii) Finalize current list (include potentially invasive plants, but eliminate natives from the list – see below); iii) Distribute the list widely, prompting constituents to review the list and watch for these species this summer in preparation for sharing observations in a subsequent survey in the fall; iv) Science Committee meet this fall to get the survey going.
- Reinartz wonders if we should even be addressing aggressive native plants. Reinartz moves to establish new guideline (Boos seconds): When IPAW creates and disseminates lists, we do not include native invasives. Motion carries.
- ❑ **Renz** (with assistance from others) will distribute the updated list of updated plants, with explanation to look for them this summer, and be prepared to fill out survey this fall.
- ❑ **Kearns** will modify list before it is sent out; she has more to add.

c. Invasive Plant Reward

- The establishment of a "Reward" program for finding and reporting prohibited plants is discussed. Boos moves to establish an IPAW reward program (seconded by Reinartz). Discussion: \$50 per confirmed sighting, \$500 cap per year. Motion carries.
- We will need to add a column to the invasive plant list discussed above, that shows which plants are restricted under NR40. Details can be provided on IPAW website.
- ❑ **Kearns** and **LeClair** will compose a newsletter article describing the new reward program. Send out for review to Board.

4. Newsletter Update

Reinartz reports that the next draft should be going to Slapnick for layout early next week. We should offer a complimentary newsletter to contributors. Reinartz reports that it will be a short one, not much in there about what IPAW is doing, others should feel free to contribute, suggests that we should list more of our accomplishments. We may change printers – waiting for mailing details before committing. Ideas for articles with respective assignments:

- ❑ Save-the-Date for conference – **LeClair** will write.
- ❑ Farm Technology Days article (1 paragraph) – **Pandian** will write.
- ❑ Day-long Board meeting – **Boos** and **Staffen** will write.
- ❑ **Boos** will follow through with changing the printer.

New Business

5. IPAW Board of Directors Elections/Changes

- Ann Walker requests a six-month leave of absence from the Board, does not want to fully resign. This is not in the By-Laws. Doll approved. IPAW will welcome her back. Currently, seven board members are needed for a quorum.
- Feider makes motion to re-elect Doll, Hunt, Boos and Staffen as IPAW officers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary, respectively); seconded by Reinartz. Hunt not present, did not acknowledge willingness to serve another term, so we voted on all positions but Vice President. Motion carries.

6. Announcements

a. Farm Technology Days

IPAW will have an educational display booth at this event in River Falls on July 20-22 on the Peterson Farm. He is seeking two volunteers for each day to man the booth. Two shifts each day: 8:30-12:30 and 12:30-5:00. Two free passes for each day will be distributed to volunteers on a first come, first serve basis. For more info, see:

<http://www.wifarmtechnologydays.com> .

- 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.

b. Dow Agro Sciences

There will be a field day at Horicon Marsh (federal property). Renz will be working with Wade Oehmichen on field trials, field training. There will likely be an attendance cap. IPAW could get involved with organizing and assisting. Can we build upon it? DOW will foot the bill. Target audience is land managers, invasive plant managers. There will be grassland weed (e.g., Canada thistle) and brush management herbicide workshops.

Renz suggests that IPAW develop a classroom component, can be from one to four hours. What type of educational component could IPAW contribute? Should we expand the current agenda beyond herbicide, and describe other aspects such as identification and early detection?

Feider moves to form an IPAW committee to work with DOW in prairie settings, with Mark Renz as Chair (seconded by Pillsbury). Motion carries.

c. Invasive Species Conference – November 8-10, 2010

Will be in St. Paul, MN at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Three organizations will be involved – IPAW, MIPN and Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC). Minnesota SWC Chapter will be fiscal agent. Steve Chaplain is leading this effort. An all-species conference. Field trips are a possibility. Le Clair is IPAW representative on conference Executive Committee. They hope to hire a conference administrator, only one is proposed, will extend time period for applications. If anyone is interested in being involved, let LeClair know. There will be various committees in which one can participate, including a Program Committee. An invitation letter will be sent out soon. They will be soliciting papers. Any ideas for keynote speakers? They will develop a website, will use the logo from 2008 with WI in it, but don't have a conference name yet. Online registration will be used. MIPN and IPAW will help with program development mostly, not sure what else yet. They are still looking for sponsors and exhibitors (there is no financial commitment as of yet, nor any fiscal reward). [Belle can raise money – IPAW should foster relationship with her.]

Pillsbury wants to have the annual meeting of the North Central Society for Range Management (NCSRM) at this conference, could be a possible cosponsor.

- NCSRM **Board** needs to react to email, label subject line "Decision Needed."

7. DATCP 29 Revisions

Jeff Saatkamp reports on recent deliberations over a new certification category for invasive plant control purposes (natural community-related) as part of the DATCP 29 pesticide administrative code rule revision process. Probable timeline: Have the proposed revisions go to the Board of Agriculture in August for their review and approval, then to public hearings after that. We need to rally people to attend the public hearings via listserv, website, membership list, newsletter. WDNR could provide comments as well.

- ❑ **IPAW** needs to put together a proposal for a possible invasive plant control certification 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.
- ❑ **Renz** will contact other states to look for possible certification models.

8. Plant Industry Committee – Jeff Saatkamp, Chair

- Utegaard sent Saatkamp all past materials from committee.
- Brian Swingle is key partner, got a State Specialty Block Grant to study cultivars of invasives.
- An important 'show-and-tell' meeting at the McKay Nursery and UW-Milwaukee Field Station took place in the past, all participants left with good feelings, felt that they would be able to work through the issues.
- Meeting participants brainstormed goals and objectives for this committee:
 - Goal 1: Science of Invasiveness (Research)
 - Laura J. and Mark Renz grant to study *Euonymus* cultivars.
 - Others studying *Miscanthus*, *Berberis*
 - What traits do consumers value in popular invasives? What are non-invasive alternatives? (Cross-reference with Outreach objective)
 - What other invasives should be priorities for research?
 - Goal 2: Economic & Social Issues
 - Get dealers to buy into this first.
 - Growers look to dealers for guidance. Challenge: Dealers not always in WI.
 - Plant industry supply chain: Growers → Suppliers → Retailers (e.g., Co-ops, landscape architects, landscape installers).
 - Take advantage of monthly seed growers teleconference?
 - Brian Swingle grant – economics of selling select woody invasives, grower focused.
 - Objective #1: IPAW contact Brian Swingle about involvement in his grant research, e.g., review taxa list for study. Master Gardeners may also be helpful in developing this list.
 - Objective #2: IPAW facilitate collection of similar research on herbaceous invasives. Ask for Ag. Census Data through DATCP. May involve seeking funding if DATCP provides go-ahead.
 - Goal 3: Outreach and Education
 - How can IPAW be the state's primary information source on invasive plant industry issues?
 - NR-40 implementation guidance
 - Economic Impact Statements or other species-specific outreach materials.
 - ❑ **Boos** will send EIS info to Saatkamp.
- Suggested next steps for Saatkamp:
 - Review list of past committee members, notes on key representatives from past meetings, send list to Board for review and recommendations. Begin reconnecting with past members, developing new connections with target members, seek help from Board and other colleagues as needed to build committee.
 - Saatkamp expressed interest in using conference calling for meetings; he is assured that this resource will be made available when he needs it. He should contact Schwoegler about setting up WisLine conference call (copy Doll on communications, Boos on call dates so that he can track expenses).

Minutes submitted by Amy Staffen, IPAW Secretary, on July 8, 2010.