

MINUTES

Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, November 8th, 2006
3:00 – 5:00 PM
The Nature Conservancy

Board Members present: Willis Brown, Tom Boos, Jerry Doll, Gene Roark

Board Members joining via conference call: Rolf Utegaard, Bob Frank, Tom Hunt, John Exo, Brian Swingle

Others present: Kelly Kearns, Rachel Orwan, Jessica Bolwahn, Program Assistant

I. ADMINISTRATION

1. Agenda Approved with modifications
2. Approve Meeting minutes with Jerry's modifications
 - Minutes approved as modified
3. Treasurer's Report Nov, 2006
 - Current balance is \$18,903.
 - Approved

II. OLD BUSINESS

4. Update on Long Term/Strategic Planning for IPAW/Facilitation
 - John Exo contacted Nancy Braker for documentation/background on former strategic planning sessions. Amy Staffen, Jim Reinartz, and John Exo tried, but were unable to get together and discuss ideas. A decision needs to be made about facilitation.
 - Many action items have been carried out, however, many issues that were issues early on are still issues today.
 - There is no formal proposal at this point, but a summary will be sent out. This item will be added to the Annual Meeting Agenda.
 - How can we increase our effectiveness as an organization, as a board? Ex-board members should be encouraged to be involved.
 - Jessica will send John Exo the list of past board members
 - John Exo will contact and discuss strategic planning issues with them
5. Newsletter updates and comments
 - Major component of newsletter was to be a registration form for the conference – it may not be worth putting together this time because of the online registration form.
 - Tom will follow-up with Jim concerning the newsletter.
6. Economic Impact Indicator Website
 - Website is not working again – people are having trouble accessing it.
7. December Conference update: Symposium, Workshops, Exhibits; Annual meeting agenda at conference

- More than 100 people are registered for both days – 141 total for Wednesday and 130 total for Thursday. May need to put a limit on registration and/or not allow walk-in registration due to a 350 person room limit.
- Kelly & MIPN are asking presenters if abstracts and PowerPoint presentation can be posted on the internet (flags will be placed next to North Central people). The question of whether this action would jeopardize the ability to publish those papers elsewhere was raised.
- Board members are needed to staff the IPAW display table – is someone willing to organize? Gaps can be filled in once it is known who will be attending. Help will also be needed for tear-down – posters, tools, etc.
- Kelly will send out a list of tools that people can/will need to contribute.
- Tomorrow is the cut-off for reservations at the hotel – there is the possibility it could be extended. Rates for the full conference go up as well.
- The North Central Weed Science Society website has the online registration form.
- Jerry Doll officially commends Kelly Kearns for all of her hard work and dedication in organizing this event.

III. NEW BUSINESS

8. IPAW representation on BMP Steering Committee of Forest Invasives Leadership Team
 - Currently trying to set up a recreational stakeholders group/meeting
 - Gene represents the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association and IPAW officially in the Forestry group.
 - Use the listserv to find volunteers or ask at the annual meeting?
9. The Pocket Naturalist: do we become a partner?
 - Eastern states invasive plants pocket guide
 - MIPN won't do this by themselves – they are asking the rest of the regional/state groups to see who would be willing to help fund it.
 - Each plant drawing costs \$20 (western ones are free), people are putting together descriptions and the number of species needs to be narrowed down to 60 – 80.
 - If MIPN is the driving force, why go so far outside of the organization's boundary? The organization received a grant to create a field guide. An initial amount would need to be given away, but enough would be printed so that they could be sold through organizations in the area.
 - The Pocket Guide is \$1.50 per unit.
 - Reasonable enough to give to new members when they join
 - Amy suggests contributing \$1500 over two years. Motion was seconded and passed.
10. IPAW Membership drive and brochure status
 - Focus will be on lapsed/renewal memberships, but will hold off mailing letters until after the meeting.
 - Can try to catch lapsed members at the registration table and also offer membership to other registrants.
 - Jessica will send Tom the list of lapsed members by December 10th.
11. Prairie inventory mailing – not addressed at this time, Amy was not present.
12. ISAM

- Rachel Orwan has been named the 2007 ISAM Coordinator. She's new to Wisconsin and has been working for the USFS in the Chequamegon National Forest.
 - She intends to organize four forest field days around the state with a focus on the emerald ash borer and continue to work on landowner education.
 - She's forming a planning committee and needs members – both Kelly and Jerry volunteered and Gene will contact the WWOA President to see if someone from the organization would like to be involved.
 - An email has been created for ISAM for continuity: isam_wi@yahoo.com
13. Committee Updates: Education, Communication, Funding, Science, Legislative, Green Industry (committee chairs)
- Funding – need to touch base with Nancy Braker
 - Science – a co-chair is needed
 - Legislative – need to work on weed law to give DNR more authority; create format letters members can send to the legislature
 - Green Industry – Brian met with Jed Colquhoun to look for things to work with the industry on. Considering research to label plants “not invasive” (cultivars, etc.), a sort of stamp of approval to give landscapers “safe” alternatives to invasive plants.
 - Board members need to pick a committee.
14. Annual meeting agenda
- Treasurer's report – a year end summary
 - Committee Chairs will be participating at the meeting
 - Use handouts instead of a presentation?
 - Start with Strategic Planning?
 - Hold a raffle to help increase participation? (hold at end)
 - Introduce invader crusaders
 - Introduce Rachel
 - Make announcement about representative for the Forestry BMPs

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN

16. Julie Solomon is the new Aquatic Invasive Species (Education) Specialist
17. Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10th from 3 to 5 pm at The Nature Conservancy in Madison
18. Meeting Adjourned