

MINUTES

Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, September 13th, 2006
3:00 – 5:00 PM
The Nature Conservancy, Madison, WI

Board Members present: Amy Staffen, Willis Brown, Gene Roark

Board Members joining via conference call: Rolf Utegaard, Tom Hunt, John Exo, Jerry Doll, Jim Reinartz, Brian Swingle, Doug Bastian, Bob Frank,

Others present: Jessica Bolwahn, David Ladd, Kelly Kearns

I. ADMINISTRATION

1. Acknowledged and welcomed new board members, Bob Frank and Doug Bastian.
2. Approved Meeting minutes, as modified, from July 11th 2006.
3. Treasurer's Report, July 2006, was approved.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on Long Term Strategic Planning

- Jim Reinartz sent out the compiled information from the survey, but it did not make the newsletter. He felt it would be good to go through the process, the organization has grown and there are so many new people. It would be good to look over the survey and think about.
- John Exo spoke with Pat Goggin, who mentioned that this has been an issue even before he had been on the board. Board members need to decide how ready the organization is, and consider putting at 2 – 3 person ad hoc committee together to come up with ideas and proposals which can be given to a facilitator. Board members were wondering about how much time would need to be invested in a sessions (half-day, day, etc.) – what should they expect?
- Tom Hunt felt that the organization should review the original mission, etc. and see how things have changed.
- Kelley mentioned that IPAW went through the planning process at the very beginning and that someone should contact Nancy Braker about it. The original plan was to review and make changes as needed every few years.

John will convene a group of willing participants to review materials and come up with ideas (Jim Reinartz and Amy Staffen volunteered) and will invite Nancy Braker to participate.

Jerry will contact Dan Undersander.

2. Newsletter Updates and comments

- The current newsletter is in the mail.
- As discussed at the last meeting, the December issue will focus on the conference. Discussion turned to what the best timing and format should be – maybe a December issue would be too late. It would need to be in members hands by December 1st at the latest, which means materials would be needed by November 10th, maybe November 15th. If it were to go out by November 20th, Jim would need materials by November 3rd. There is a 3-day turn around from the printer at this time of year.
- A full announcement could be a mailing so that a newsletter could be sent later with a streamlined agenda and registration sheet. Jim would still need everything by November 6th.

- On a slightly different topic, Rolf wondered how many newsletters should be left over from a mailing – this last time there were 25. Amy suggested that extras should be minimized except in the spring where they could be used during ISAM.
 - Is the organization actively archiving? Both paper and electronic copies are kept.
3. Economic Impact Indicator Website
 - John mentioned that he could not access the site. Doug, Bob and Amy were successful.
 4. December Conference Update
 - Exhibitors and 25-50 non-profits will be present Wednesday, currently there are 18 papers and as many posters. IPAW's portion is the 13th and 14th of December and the organization is responsible for the Thursday afternoon Break. MIPN is holding a meeting Wednesday at Noon.
 - IPAW's annual meeting will be Thursday at Noon. Should lunch be provided? What kind of financial commitments does the organization have? Cover speakers? Invader Crusaders?
 - For the Thursday afternoon break – Cookies at the location cost \$28 a dozen, Drinks are \$3 a piece. Just a beverage break?
 - For the Annual Meeting – there is 1 hour scheduled for lunch. If people leave for lunch, the Grand Avenue Mall walkway is nearby, but that cuts meeting time down to about ½ hour – 5 minutes per committee? The conversation turned to whether or not food could be brought into the facility, or if it had to be ordered through the facility. Bagels and Pizza were considered – meetings generally have a small attendance, but providing food may increase that number. A breakfast meeting was also considered.
 - Volunteer needs – volunteers who currently work on-the-ground with Garlic mustard are needed to talk about their work, people are also needed to coordinate exhibitors, coordinate the education material exhibit (both days), and as AV troubleshooters. Debbie Mauer is looking for hand tools and new gadgets for the tool exhibit. Students would be good (a student could be used to take down the posters) – would the organization consider paying ½ the student registration as an incentive?
 - A motion was put forth to spend \$500 for a beverage break and \$1,500 to cover registration fees for invited speakers and students. Motion was amended to spend up to \$500 on a beverage break and \$1,500 on registration fees, if more is needed, it could be discussed later. Motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Committee Updates
 - Education: not much going on – there are many great ideas presented, but no one is willing to step forward to act on them; need to get committee members motivated.
 - Communications: lots of response from presentations given around the state.
 - Conference: Annual meeting needs to be planned and finalized.
2. ISAM Coordinator selection status
 - Received a \$20,000 grant from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) – focus will be on forest ecosystems
 - There are currently 7 great candidates, 3 have been interviewed and narrowed to 2. The individual will start October 1st and will be supervised by Amy Staffen and Becky Sapper.
3. David Ladd, concerned citizen: meeting deviated slightly from the agenda to accommodate Mr. Ladd's schedule

- Mr. Ladd lives in Iowa County and is upset that the State will tell him to control his invasive plants, yet will not control them on their own lands. There is 30 acres of Garlic mustard just over the property line on DNR land. He understands that the DNR is understaffed and lacks the time and resources; contractors could be hired, but money for this work is also lacking. He suggests what DNR foresters tell him – sell timber to fund the work. He does commend Kelly for all the work she has done in Iowa County. Mr. Ladd has spoken with legislators, like Steve Freese, but hasn't received any promises.
- Jerry Doll mentions the effort to resuscitate the noxious weed laws, but that it doesn't solve the financial aspect.
- Gene suggests working with the DNR to come up with statutory language where lumber money goes to invasive removal work. He's willing to talk to the DNR and others about reallocating some of the money for this work, but not all will agree with the idea.
- Amy suggests that continued pressure is needed and that the League of Conservation Voters should add this to their list of things they track and speak with legislators about.

4. National EPPC/IPC Policy items

- This is a national organization trying to get funding for invasive issues.
- An act was passed by congress and signed by the President for \$15 million/year to go to weed management agencies for invasive species control, but money was not appropriated and no rules were designated. Language was included for Park staff to work on adjacent lands and form invasive plant management teams.
- Letters will be sent by the national organization – MIPN needs to be included as well as a spelling change in IPAW's name.
- Motion to support this organization was carried.
- Carmen Chapin with the NPS is IPAW's representative to the organization.

5. IPAW's role in supporting CWMA's in the state (Kearns)

- Organized Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA) can accept monies that would be appropriated. Two are currently organized in N. WI – the question of forming regional chapters came up – but it was agreed that this is where strategic planning would come into play.
- IPAW could act as a financial recipient of grant money as well. A person could be hired to take care of the 501c3 reporting.
- There is currently a Q&A on CWMA's, but it hasn't been distributed yet. There is a slideshow on the MIPN website as well as on-line workshops that are offered.

6. Jerry's questions

- As newly elected BOD President, Jerry was wondering about the organization's "institutional memory" and if there is a central storage location.
- Rolf has many files – but he'll be stepping down in the next 12 months.
- Angie, the original Program Assistant, kept many files. Jessica should have most of them and will send a CD copy to Jerry
- Nancy Braker is another resource for early events.
- Jim Reinartz may have additional newsletters.

IV. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN

1. Schedule next meeting: November 8th from 3 to 5 pm.
2. Meeting Adjourned