

MINUTES
Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin
Board of Directors Meeting
May 14, 2008
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection, Madison

Board members present: Gene Roark, Rolf Utegaard, Tom Hunt, Mark Feider, Jerry Doll, Tom Boos, Amy Staffen, Ann Walker, Brian Pillsbury, Vijai Pandian
Others attending: Mark Renz, Clarissa Hammond

Administration

1. Approval of Agenda (additions: Live Meeting, Forestry BMPs, Senator Kohl aide visit, IPAW/TPE conference).
2. Vote on Brian Pillsbury as potential board member.
 - a. Utegaard submits motion to nominate Brian as a new Board member, to begin his term immediately (second by Roark). Motion passed.
3. Approval of minutes from March 11, 2008 Board meeting.
 - a. Roark submits motion to approve minutes (second by Utegaard). Motion passed.
 - b. Review of action items:
 - i. Brown action – not present to report.
 - ii. Doll/Feider action for volunteer survey – not done yet.
 - iii. Utegaard action to ask Susan Lehnhardt if she will co-chair Plant Industry Committee with Jeff Saatkamp – not done yet. New related action item: Doll will invite Saatkamp to next BOD meeting to better engage him with the Board and help him get started with his newly accepted position as co-chair of this committee.
 - iv. Boos investigate web space for Power Point presentations – Marsha Vomastic assures him that we've got plenty of space; no need to purchase more.
 - v. All BOD members review membership list – not done yet.
4. Treasurer's Report
 - a. No formal report to submit.
 - b. Boos informs us that our AT-We Energies money will probably pay for one more year of newsletter expenses, and recommends submitting a grant application for money to cover future expenses.
 - c. Action Item: Fundraising Committee will apply for money.
5. Membership Status
 - a. Doll sent out membership list to all Board members for review. There are three spreadsheets: those that are current (100 individual, four institution/organization), those that are expired (175 individual, 13 institution/organization), and those that are complementary (many).

- b. Board members need to review the complementary and expired lists carefully and identify who should be left on the complementary list, whose address information is no longer correct, and who should be encouraged to reactivate their membership by letter and/or other means.
- c. **HAMMOND** will collect and create a new, updated spreadsheet with names and updated information sent to her by Board members. She will then send all of these individuals letters encouraging them to rejoin IPAW. The goal is to send these by June 2008, to tie in to ISAM.
- d. **BOOS** and **STAFFEN** will begin the process of reviewing the spreadsheet, and pass on to Kelly Kearns, who will then pass on to others.
- e. Also see item ___ below on Conference for another plan to bolster membership.

Old Business

- 6. Decision on Insurance Policy
 - a. Reinartz sent out email with documentation confirming that non-profits are immune from liability suits in Wisconsin. Roark points out that in reality, this doesn't actually ensure total protection from law suits, unfortunately.
 - b. Walker would like to speak to a lawyer about this.
 - c. **BOOS** and **WALKER** will follow up with Nancy Denman about pending questions from her presentation to the Board in March. **STAFFEN** will tell Walker/Boos whom Prairie Enthusiasts and Madison Audubon Society use as their lawyer; **WALKER** will then speak to lawyer about this issue.
- 7. Discussion and Decision on Affiliated Group Linkage to IPAW
 - a. Doll changed the text to reflect Board's decision to NOT serve as an 'umbrella' 501(c)3 for affiliated groups. He also removed 'rigid' language from original draft.
 - b. He also changed text to reflect that affiliated group members will NOT be required to be IPAW members, though their officers will be. The last sentence in the fourth-to-last paragraph states that electing officers is optional – this sentence was deleted to eliminate a possible loophole for affiliated groups to avoid having ANY membership in IPAW. Individuals who are not members of IPAW will be 'strongly encouraged' to join.
 - c. **DOLL** will reinstate the benefits/perks that he inadvertently deleted from text (this includes using IPAW as a signatory for grant applications on a group's behalf).
 - d. **DOLL** will delete the statement that IPAW will offer liability insurance to affiliated groups.
- 8. Display Board Update
 - a. Boos has not had time to purchase or investigate this.

New Business

9. Committee Reports

Mark Renz reports that the Science Committee is actively progressing with initiatives:

- a. The Mapping Subcommittee recently met (Chris Reyes is the Chair), and defined their committee structure, set goals, etc. They decided to let MIPN manage mapping on a regional scale, and IPAW would focus on the statewide initiative.
- b. The Invasive Plant List Subcommittee has a large number of active members. They have had two meetings. They want to update the 2001 survey, particularly targeting key stakeholders that were underrepresented in the original survey. The new survey will have fewer species, require less detailed information, but will request specific locations for EDRR species or novel occurrence of common invasives. The removed 81 species from the target list have are considered to be agricultural weeds. They're not sure what to do with native invasives and native/non-native biotypes. They haven't added new species to the list yet – next meeting. They also need to decide how they will send out the survey. Their goal is to send it out in 2008, but this is probably not possible. They may seek funding. They ponder how 'experts' will be involved in reviewing submitted surveys.
- c. The Research Needs Subcommittee has changed their name to "Information Needs Subcommittee." They are evaluating what projects are needed (will update Kelly Kearns's list), will post on listserv. There are currently 105 separate projects in a spreadsheet with the following information: project description, weed species, category, habitat, contact. This will be a living document, and will provide opportunities for different levels (from high school students to college students). They hope to share themes with funding sources/agencies.

10. ISAM Update

- a. The Invader Crusader Award ceremony will take place on June 2nd at the state Capitol. All IPAW Board members are invited; please RSVP to Kelly Kearns. ISAM poster winners will also receive their awards during this ceremony; all top poster artwork will be on display in the Capitol.

11. Committee Planning

Insufficient time to cover this.

12. Live Meeting

- a. Tom R. offered a white board without charge, but regular fees are required. "Free" offer only covers set-up. The regular fee would represent one-half of current WISLINE charges. The breakdown:
WISLINE = 15 cents/minute
Audio line = 3 cents/minute
Webex-E = 17 cents/minute

- b. **Feider** will ask Tom R. the following questions, and set up a conference call with the Executive Committee to review the options:
 - i. Can we have audio all the time, and turn the white board off and on?
 - ii. What would the term of the contract be?
 - iii. Will the connection be reliable?
 - iv. Will the connection be web- or phone-line-based?
 - v. Do we pay only for the number of lines used, not the number reserved?
13. Senator Kohl Aide Visit
- a. Doll has been communicating with Brian Heindl, Aide to Senator Herb Kohl. Heindl will be in the Green Bay area in August, and would be interested in some type of an invasive species field visit. Pandian would like to be involved.
14. Forestry Invasives Best Management Practices (BMP)
- a. Boos gave an update on this ongoing initiative. The committee recently met in Steven's Point to finalize the first draft of the BMP manual. He shared the **DRAFT** Purpose and Scope Statement and Letter with the IPAW Board (below).

Purpose Statement

Forest invasive species can pose a threat to forest ecosystems and forest productivity. Landowners, forestry professionals and loggers can play important roles in limiting the spread of invasive species. This manual describes practices to aid in those roles. The goal of the manual is to provide practices that reduce the impact of invasive species.

Scope Statement

The BMP statements in this manual are intended to apply to forest management activities. The use of this manual is voluntary and non-regulatory and is intended to help landowners, forestry professionals and loggers make the most efficient use of limited resources to combat invasive species.

How will this be implemented? The BMPs in this document cover a wide variety of situations. Practitioners who develop management plans, prescriptions and timber sale documents (including contract language) are encouraged to identify specific BMPs within this manual that address their circumstance. Some landowners or managers will have more resources than others; landowner goals and objectives will vary; therefore the scale and intensity of implementation for each BMP may vary with individual situations." [DRAFT TEXT – DO NOT DISTRIBUTE]

- b. Boos explained that the draft manual will soon be shared with stakeholders in targeted listening sessions throughout the state. The goal is to have the final draft in place by the end of 2008.
- c. Boos emphasizes the importance of IPAW's involvement during these listening sessions. He is concerned that the BMPs may have been 'diluted' significantly during the drafting process, and may not sufficiently

address the threat of invasive species from the standpoint of ecologists and scientists.

- d. Staffen says that IPAW should offer assistance in implementing the BMPs once they are in place, as well as education. Many of the forestry stakeholders who will be effected by these BMPs may lack knowledge of invasives species identification and control, as well as the necessary resources to manage them.
 - e. Roark reminds the Board that the forestry BMP Committee was charged by the Wisconsin Council on Forestry to create voluntary BMPs, but they're not really voluntary. These BMPs will be tied to sustainable forest certification standards, thus will be adhered to out of necessity by any forestry professionals who want to create a marketable product.
15. Winnebago Street (Madison) Planting
- a. Walker reports that the planting of the new street triangle on Winnebago Street in Madison is going comprise native alternatives to invasives. Would IPAW be willing to fund a sign? Walker also expresses her interest in enlisting a speaker on non-native invasive medicinals.
16. IPAW / The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE) Conference
- a. Staffen reports that the planning for the 2009 joint Prairie Enthusiasts / IPAW conference is moving ahead slowly. Target dates are end of February or early March in Madison area. The theme will be grassland invasives. IPAW will be the primary planner of the conference, though TPE share their mailing list and collaborate in promotional initiatives both through specific tasks as well as through shared funding. Promotional initiatives will include a printed brochure, website posting, newsletter articles, and emails. Suggestions for possible speakers include Brian Pillsbury, Jerry Doll and Mark Renz. We can anticipate 250 to 300 people. One question that still remains: How will proceeds from conference be handled? **Staffen** will speak with TPE Board about this issue. The IPAW Board agrees that some kind of package deal will be offered as a means of increasing our membership (e.g., conference registrants get a significant discount on IPAW membership).
17. Scheduling Survey
- Staffen** will send out a new scheduling survey to determine the best meeting times for the Board.

IV. Future Events/Announcements

- The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on July 10 from 3:00 to 5:00.

Minutes composed by Amy Staffen, IPAW Secretary.