

MINUTES
Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin
Board of Directors Meeting
May 7, 2009
3:00 to 5:00
The Nature Conservancy – Madison

Board Members present: Tom Boos, Rolf Utegaard, Anne Walker, Jerry Doll, Tom Hunt, Vijai Pandian, Brian Pillsbury, Gene Roark, Amy Staffen

Others attending: Courtney LeClair, Clarissa Hammond, Mark Renz, Wade Oemichen

Administration

1. Approval of minutes from March 26, 2009 Board meeting.
Motion to approve with corrections (Boos); seconded by Hunt.
Motion carried.
2. Treasurer's Report
Boos reports that few changes have occurred since last report on March 26. The current account balance is \$15,442. Membership dues for March through May totaled \$310. Major expenditures includes \$157 for website services and \$94 for the Post Office Box.

Old Business

3. Review of Action Items from March 26 Board Meeting
 - Roark** and **Utegaard** will fill in Jeff Saatkamp on the history of the plant industry relations committee – **Not done**.
 - Kearns** will contact whoever is left on the expired member list. – **Not done**. **Boos** needs to resend information to **Kearns**.
 - Renz** will draft a letter encouraging Extension employees to join IPAW. – **Not done yet**.
 - Boos/Kearns Courtney LeClair** will provide appropriate handouts to Crall for May 31st event at UW-Arboretum. (**Courtney volunteered to take care of this**.)
 - 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.
 - ✓ **All Board Members** should send out the renewal letter to individuals that they identified as targets in the expired membership spreadsheet.
 - ✓ **All IPAW Board and Committee Members** will advertise the May 31st training workshop.
 - ✓ **Doll** will solicit Board nominees on the IPAW Listserv.
 - ✓ **Courtney LeClair** will contact all CWMAs about acquiring a GPS unit for invasive plant monitoring.
 - ✓ **IPAW Board members** should review material on NR 40 and provide comments to the Natural Resources Board and/or attend the meeting on April 22nd to speak in person.
 - ✓ **Doll** will send out email to schedule next Board meeting.

4. Review budget summary from IPAW Conference in February.
Boos provided an Excel spreadsheet with details of all expenditures and income for the conference. The income was \$15,559, while the expenses totaled \$14,983, resulting in \$616 in funds earned to return to the IPAW conference budget for future events.

New Business

5. Election of IPAW Officers
Nominations for Officers for the term of 2009 to 2011 are: Jerry Doll (President), Tom Hunt (Vice President), Tom Boos (Treasurer) and Amy Staffen (Secretary). Utegaard moves to close nominations and vote on the slate of nominees as listed above; Pandian seconds. Motion passes. All nominees are elected.
6. IPAW Annual Meeting
Clarissa Hammond is coordinating. She sent out 175 invitations by mail to current members. Interested parties can mail in their registration or register online (she set up a Survey Monkey online registration form). The fee is \$11 for members and \$13 for non-members. The hike will be led by Arboretum staff from 5:15 to 5:45. Dinner will be catered by Kitchen Hearth. Brandon Panke's comedy troupe will perform; we will need to sign a contract with them.
The possibility of having drinks before or during dinner was discussed. There will only be 15 minutes between the hike's end and dinner. Is alcohol allowed on University properties? Also, will we need liability insurance? Staffen feels that we should provide just lemonade, water and coffee. Others like the idea of serving beer and wine in addition to non-alcoholic options. Issue unresolved.
Should Invader Crusader Award winners be invited to dinner? There are many of them, since some are actually groups, not individuals, plus they all typically invite guests. It was decided that the award winners would be invited to register for the dinner, but not automatically be included on the guest list.
Doll will be leading the Annual Meeting, and will expect reports from Staffen (a five-minute summary of the February conference), Boos (Treasurer's report), and others yet to be determined. Possible topics that may also be covered: NR-40, Forestry BMPs, activities taking place on Sunday, May 31).
 - 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.
7. Invasive Species Awareness Month update
LeClair reports that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 12th. Natural Resources Foundation field trip leaders have agreed to promote invasive species awareness during June excursions. The ISAM Committee has provided these field trip leaders with resource kits that include the following: an 'Invasive Species Pledge' that guides people to formalize their commitment to battling the spread of invasive plants, stickers and boot brushes. The ISAM event calendar is now managed through Google, which shows map locations of events in addition to details in text format. Posters to promote ISAM are being made. The Invader Crusader Award Committee met on May 6th, but was unable to finalize decisions until a complete set of information is acquired for all nominees. Doll, who was on this committee, reports that there were many excellent nominees, and that those who do not receive an award this year will be thrown into the pool of nominees for consideration in 2010.
8. Discussion of advertising on IPAW website
Boos secured interest from five vendors at the IPAW conference in February. How much should we charge? The amount of \$50 was suggested. The following decisions were made by the Board: a) Some fee needs to be paid by advertisers; b) Each

advertiser applicant will be considered by the Board and must have their approval before their advertisement is posted; c) Advertisers will be required to be members of IPAW; d) Advertisers will purchase ad space on an annual basis.

Other questions that came up: If we get many advertisers, how will we accommodate them, space wise? Ideas include: a) Have a single advertising page with one vendor per time period (day, week?) that changes on a rotational basis; b) Install a new link on the entry page to "Contractors" or "Services."

- ❑ **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.
- ❑ **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.
- ❑ **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.

9. Invasive monitoring training workshop

No update available from Crall. Registrations have been coming in strong. It is likely that Crall will meet her goal of 140 participants.

10. Spotted Knapweed grant proposal

Wade Oemichen with WDNR would like IPAW to submit a grant application to TransWild Alliance entitled "Spotted Knapweed Biological Control on Wisconsin's Highways. A draft copy was submitted to the Board in advance of this meeting and reviewed by its members. The amount requested would be \$2,500, with total project costs coming to \$7,500. He informed the Board that biological control is a low-cost and long-acting method of suppressing spotted knapweed. These agents have been used in Wisconsin since 1991 and are currently being reared in over 35 field insectaries around the state. *Cyphocleonus achates* (root-mining weevil) is a very important agent but is difficult to collect in field insectaries. A new corral rearing pen is being constructed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in Boscobel, WI. This project's funding would be used to aid in the construction of this pen, and then to collect and distribute the following agents: *Larinus minutus* (seed-head weevil), *Larinus obtusus* (seed-head weevil), and *Cyphocleonus achates* (root-mining weevil) to highway margins along Highway 39 from Portage to Wausau that are currently infested with spotted knapweed. The term of the project is July 2009 to 2011. The ultimate goal of the program is to produce 6,000 biocontrol agents per pen. Questions from Board and answers from Oemichen:

Will long-term monitoring be done? His program will develop a monitoring protocol for this and other sites. He points out that one typically doesn't see results from such biocontrol initiatives for at least three years.

What is the history and track record of this type of biocontrol? These particular biocontrol agents have been used since the 1970's in Canada, since the 1980's in the western United States, and since 1991 in Wisconsin. They are proven to be effective in partial control of spotted knapweed, but not elimination. These insects are known to be non-toxic to birds.

Other comments from Board: Doll suggests collaborating with Monroe County on such biocontrol initiatives. Hammond recommends that Oemichen communicate with Kim Mello. A press-release touting the project may also be a good idea. Utegaard moves to authorize Staffen to submit the grant application on behalf of IPAW as written by Oemichen; seconded by Roark. Motion carries.

- ❑ **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.

11. GPS Unit purchasing update

LeClair reports that she has successfully secured commitments from four CWMA's who wish to acquire GPS units. She needs to work with Crall to develop use protocols. She also conveys a request on behalf of Crall: Crall is willing and able to oversee this GPS monitoring program through July 2010, but she would like to have an IPAW representative assigned to be trained to take over this function at that time. In the future, IPAW will need to be in charge of communicating with participating groups and dealing with equipment repair issues.

12. Committee reports

a. Science Committee

Renz reports that the "Research Information Needs Database" is completed (see minutes from January 21st meeting for more information). The revision and update of the Working List of invasive plants is also done, meaning that they are now ready to take the next step: sending out the invasive plant survey. He is waiting to hear back from Committee members as to when they can send out the survey.

b. Legislative Committee

Roark testified at the Natural Resources Board (NRB) meeting in April on behalf of IPAW and WI Woodland Owners Association to support NR-40. He reports that NR-40 was approved by the NRB. Renz inquires about the possibility of substantive changes being made as this bill works its way through the legislature? Roark doesn't believe that this is likely, but will look into it. Roark also reports that he wasn't able to attend a recent legislative hearing on SB 123 and AB 162, which would enhance invasive species-related rules in the state (see March 26 meeting minutes, item 14b). He called his representative, Spencer Black, who indicated that they had not voted on this bill yet.

- ❑ **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.

13. Future events and announcements

a. Farm Technology Days

Pandian sent an article to the IPAW newsletter soliciting volunteers for this event that will be held in Dodge County near Waterloo on July 21-23rd.

14. Next IPAW Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, July 28th, 3:00-5:00 PM.**

Minutes composed by Amy Staffen, IPAW Secretary, May 19, 2009