

**Wisconsin Invasive Species Council**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**

August 9, 2023  
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

**Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order/Agenda Repair

- Brian Kuhn called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.
- No agenda repair

Review/Approval of minutes from May 3, 2023 Executive Committee meeting

- ACTION: Tara will check on the letter from Rebecca's agency
  - We are still waiting on this letter. Tara will check with Rebecca again.
- ACTION: Tara will check on replacement for Tourism
  - We don't have a Tourism representative yet. Tara will check with Amy Webber of Tourism.
  - ACTION: Mackenzie to talk with Liz Herzmann at Horicon about leading a field trip - Done
- ACTION: Tara/Mackenzie ask Doug Cox about giving a talk. Ended up just going with Liz Herzmann.
- ACTION: Tara to ask other Council members about emcee. Done.
- ACTION: Tara to send out SAG recommendations. Done.
- ACTION: Tara to discuss Golden oyster mushroom with Andrea Diss-Torrance. Tara will check with Andrea.
- ACTION: Mackenzie to send out DoodlePoll about quarterly meeting availability after discussion at next Council meeting.
  - Mackenzie sent the doodle polls.
  - Tara will check results for quarterly meetings. Tara will send a reminder to Council members to fill out the one for quarterly meetings. Done.

Drew motioned to approve minutes from May 3 Exec comm meeting. Brian seconded. Motion passed. Minutes approved.

Review Action Items from May 17 and June 7, 2023 Council meetings

- Executive Committee members will send any edits to Tara.
- Minutes have been shared with Council members and will be sent again prior to the August 24 Council meeting. Minutes will be approved at the Aug. 24 meeting.
- ACTION: Revisit Herbaceous Ornamental SAG recommendations at June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Done.
- ACTION: Schaefer to send Phragmites control data to Renz for analysis. In progress.
- ACTION: Chameleon Plant. Michelle Nault sent background on chameleon plant to herbaceous SAG asking for input.

- ACTION: Tara will ask Michelle to specifically check-in with the Nursery/Green Industry representative on the HO SAG for input.
- Brian noted that he could also reach out to WNLA if more input is needed.
- Action Item: Request for Council members to seek representation from their organization/agency for the Education Committee. Need help planning and implementing SAG information sessions.
  - Brian will follow-up with Renee Pinski. DATCP has a former DNR Forestry Outreach person (Kiersten) who may be able to join the committee.

#### Legislative Report Update

- DNR staff continue to make progress on the draft report.
- DNR's Legislative Liaison submits it to Governor's Office, Legislature, and Council.
- ACTION: Tara and Drew will check in with DNR Legislative Liaison to see if we can better understand the reach of the final report.
- ACTION: Education Committee to consider how to get the report to a wider audience.
  - Could we print some hard copies? Tom Bressner has offered in the past to share with legislators in person. Having someone from the Agriculture Industry talking about the importance could have a stronger impact than the agencies.
  - Could develop a strategy to specifically target certain legislators with an interest in invasive species.
- Report is written for a broad audience so it is easy to distribute it more widely.

#### Species Assessment Group Update

- Need to revisit Herbaceous ornamentals, Aquatic plants, and hear from Woody ornamentals at next Council meeting (August 24)
- Michelle Nault is gathering more input on chameleon plant and DNR staff, Christa Schaefer and Mark Renz are working on compiling more data related to phragmites to help with the Council's recommendation for this species.
- Council will hear the updated information at the next two Council meetings.

#### Preparation of agendas for next Council meeting

- SAG meeting on August 24
  - Brian suggested tackling Woody Ornamental SAG recommendations first on the agenda and then moving on the wrap-up for HO and AQ outstanding items.
  - Can finalize August 24 meeting agenda.
- Quarterly Council meeting on September 12
  - Would like to be able to hear a strategy/recommendations/options from the Education Committee at this meeting
- ACTION: Tara and Drew will discuss timing of the next steps with SAG process from DNR perspective, considering workload etc.

#### Future Council Meetings

- Reminder to fill out [Quarterly Council Meetings Survey](#) (December 2023 – September 2024 meetings)

#### Agency Updates/Other Business

- DNR

- We haven't heard anything new on the status of the Wild Parsnip Bill that was introduced a couple months ago.
- Organisms in Trade (OIT) position has been approved by DOA to be a full-time position. Will be moving ahead with hiring process. We need to go to open recruitment.
- DATCP
  - Have hired 4-6 positions. Vacant supervisory position (spongy moth) will soon be moving forward with hiring process.
  - Have had good recruitment results with recent hires. Has brought in great new talent to the bureau.
  - Seeing high trap numbers for spongy moth in southwest part of the state - Grant, Lafayette, and Iowa Counties. Added Douglas County to quarantine earlier this year. Iowa and n. Illinois are also seeing high numbers. Not as high numbers in central and northern WI. Re-setting traps (larger ones) as many traps have been full when checked, so not sure how many moths might have been in there had there been more room.
  - Such high moth numbers have resulted in state park closures in the past due to safety concerns on roads etc.
  - Warm springs have favored spongy moth survival over the past several years.
  - Attended National Plant Board meeting in Little Rock, AK last week.
    - Concern about spotted lantern fly reaching Wisconsin. Have a planned response (tabletop) exercise coming up within DATCP.
    - Box tree moth concerns. DATCP will work with DNR Forest Health and Urban Forestry. National issue of concern. Michigan doubled size of their box tree moth quarantine. Kills boxwood plants. Highly valued ornamental plant in green industry. It is probably well established in some areas and now becoming evident. New York, Mass have found populations along with Michigan and Ohio. Expect it to arrive in Wisconsin. Would quarantine counties when it arrives. From nursery perspective – if a nursery is in a quarantined area, nursery can't ship boxwood out of the quarantine area. Looking to develop a regulatory option to allow movement of boxwood out of quarantined areas because of potential economic impact otherwise.
    - Would probably use an administrative order to implement a quarantine rather than emergency rule.
  - Legal counsel left DATCP last week.
- Tom
  - Will not be at the August 24 meeting.
  - Will be at September meeting.

#### Adjourn

Brian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Drew seconded. Motion carried. Chairman Buechel adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.