

Wisconsin Invasive Species Council

Executive Committee Meeting

May 3, 2023
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Present: Tom Buechel, Drew Feldkirchner, Brian Kuhn, Tara Bergeson, Mackenzie Manicki

- 9:00 a.m.** Call to Order/Agenda Repair
- Chairman Buechel called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
 - DF motioned to approve agenda. BK seconded.
 - Introductions: Mackenzie Manicki new to Species Management – will be taking notes for these meetings going forward.
- 9:05 a.m.** Review/Approval of minutes from January 25, 2023 Executive Committee meeting
- Tom Buechel motioned to approve minutes. Drew seconded. Motion passed.
- 9:10 a.m.** Review Action Items from February 8, 2023 Council meeting
- None
- 9:15 a.m.** Review Action Items from January 25, 2023 Council Executive meeting
- Tara has requested Governor’s Proclamation for ISAM
 - Public hearings: Brian says DATCP has been having hybrid meetings. Drew comments that DNR Wildlife has been doing a lot of remote.
- ACTION: Tara to check on how DNR is doing public hearings (remote/in person)
- 9:20 a.m.** New Council Member Representing DOT (Rebecca Szymkowski; replaces Jim Hughes)
- Still waiting on letter from Rebecca’s agency
 - Julie Fox indicated she would talk with Tourism
- ACTION: Tara will check on the letter from Rebecca’s agency
ACTION: Tara will check on replacement for Tourism
- 9:30 a.m.** Education Committee Update (ISAM/ICA planning)
- Mackenzie is new point person for logistics
 - Field Trip: Need to find leader
 - Tara requested Secretary Payne or a Secretary Director for opening remarks
 - Council meeting (10:00-12:00) before awards (1:00)
 - Snacks provided but bring your own lunches

- Emcee: Tara asked Mark Renz, but he's unsure of his availability. Tara will ask other Council members but Drew is available if needed.
- Have past winner come talk? May be difficult for this year, but great idea for future year.

ACTION: Mackenzie to talk with Liz Herzmann at Horicon about leading a field trip

ACTION: Tara/Mackenzie ask Doug Cox about giving a talk

ACTION: Tara to ask other Council members about emcee

9:45 a.m. Species Assessment Group Update

- At next two Council meetings SAG coordinators will present – most have already presented, but then we paused to ask experts to weigh in on SAG recommendations. Now SAGs will present their recommendations and anything the species experts differed on.
- Tara will send out SAG recommendations very soon
- Fish and crayfish group only focused on mosquito fish in past, but since then there have been concerns on Asian swamp eel. Bob Stroess raised this issue and talked with Fisheries – want to have this species listed by name specifically (genus). Species is in the food trade.
- Would be nice to have update from Bob Stroess and Liz Tanner at a future meeting.
- Questions about adding Golden oyster mushroom. Tara can talk with Andrea Diss-Torrance about it. Could come up at a public hearing, so we should prepare for that.

ACTION: Tara to send out SAG recommendations

ACTION: Tara to discuss Golden oyster mushroom with Andrea Diss-Torrance

10:00 a.m. Preparation of agendas for next Council meetings (May 17 and June 7)

- Remind the Council about why we're coming back around with SAGs and why we had the experts look at recommendations.

10:10 a.m. Future Council Meetings

- Try to get back to regular quarterly schedule – establish meeting dates in advance. Raise this at the next Council meeting.
 - Previously were September, December, March, and June.
 - Would need to be first two weeks of December – send DoodlePoll requesting availability for first two weeks of each of these months.
- Discuss remote/in person ratio – how many in person per year, how many remote
- Remind Council members to share agenda ideas with Mackenzie and Tara
 - Tom Buechel suggested education and outreach.
 - How can we do a better job of reaching landowners – inform them on invasives, control, and money available.
 - Tom Buechel also asked how we are going to help enforce NR40 going forward?

- Brian suggested making a tool for NR40 that integrates national regulations, so people can easily search what is regulated in which states.

ACTION: Mackenzie to send out DoodlePoll about quarterly meeting availability after discussion at next Council meeting

10:15 a.m. Agency Updates/Other Business

Drew Feldkirchner (DNR) – Don't have much other than tried to get more funding for this work. Submitted budget proposal last two rounds but has been taken off the table for now. Mackenzie hired and has started as new Invasive Plant Specialist. Little brown bat show modest increase in populations – maybe slow rebound from white nose syndrome. Northern long-eared bat is now endangered on the Federal level, not doing well.

Brian Kuhn (DATCP) – Added Douglas County to spongy moth quarantine. Worked with DNR Forest Health staff to get quarantine in place. This is a slow the spread program, but won't stop it. Duluth will be treating some areas of the city this year for spongy moth. Expect Minnesota to have challenges from forest products industry about spongy moth quarantines. DATCP spongy moth treatments to begin week of May 22nd. Filled 4/5 permanent vacancies, hired 20-25 seasonal LTEs for trapping spongy moths. Filling supervisory position has been challenging. Moving office (same building, different floor) this week and next week. Met Secretary Payne with DATCP secretary – Secretary Payne started with DATCP as an LTE back in the day. Central Plant Board meeting last week went well. National Plant Board meeting will be in Little Rock, Arkansas in August.

Other Business: No other business

10:30 a.m. Adjourn
Tom Buechel motioned to adjourn. Drew seconded.
Approved. Meeting adjourned 10:32 a.m.