

Wisconsin Invasive Species Council Meeting

June 30, 2022
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

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Minutes

Attendees: Mark Renz, Jason Granberg, Tara Bergeson, Robert Stroess, Amy Kretlow, Kari Fenske, Thomas Buechel, Tom Bressner, Julie Fox, Jennifer Hauxwell, Christa Schaefer, Drew Feldkirchner, Brian Kuhn, Liz Tanner, Lauren Leckwee, Doug Cox, Greg Long,

Introductions & agenda repair

Quorum reached, and Tom Beuchel called the Council to order. Introductions by attendees.

Action Item: Approve October 19, 2021 Council meeting minutes

Motion to approve by Brian Kuhn, Seconded by Tom Bressner. Motion carried, minutes approved.

AIS Discussion (Tom, Buechel)

Tom noted that there have been challenges finding staff for some Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) positions around the state, including boat launch inspectors. At the municipality level there have been struggles to hire employees for these roles. Tom recommended that a survey be produced and shared with partners to assess the current situation and use the results to inform actions. Jen: There have been issues with getting hires for the Clean-Boats-Clean-Waters programs. There have been some AIS specialists, including Tim Campbell, who focuses on the Great Lakes and serves as a national liaison for the coastal systems. Tom: In Florence County: 3 of 8 workers were hired under a grant, and the grant may need to be re-written. Mark Renz: University of Wisconsin-Madison has encountered low recruitment and they have needed to raise the rates for hires and have needed to hire high school students. Mark recommended to keep the salaries high. Brian Kuhn: DATCP has had vacancies in their Spongy moth trapping program for this field season as well. Current salaries compete with other industries. Drew: DNR also encounters similar problems. Jen: It is difficult with state systems. Mark: We need to change the systems, by provide training to students, that would take the students through the summer. Certificate programs would be very useful. Tom: We should look for a solid example and provide letters to the state legislature expressing the need. Brian: There are avenues called “hiring above the minimum” at DATCP. Tom asked for a general update on the AIS program at a future Council meeting.

Education Committee Update (Christa Schaefer)

Christa: Invader Crusader Awards ceremony was held on June 7th at Schmeeckle Reserve in Stevens Point. Thanks to Carroll Schaal, Becky Gray, and Drew Feldkirchner, for providing the funding for the event. Thanks for all the staff and judges that assisted with the event.

Council Member Terms Expiring on July 1 (Bressner and Long)

Tom: The terms of Bressner and Long will be expiring. The terms of the members is for durations of either 3 or 5 years. Greg: Could members request renewals? Tom Bressner: He has retirement plans within three years and would like to adjust his term to match his retirement plans. Tom has asked for information on filling out applications and Tara will send Tom Bressner resources.

ACTION: Tara will send link for applying for Council to Tom Bressner and Greg Long.

Update and Discussion: Addressing Inconsistencies in NR 40 (Tara Bergeson)

Tara: Presentation on NR40 Foundations. Tara is requesting thoughts from the Council members on the process and the materials that have been provided. Tara's presentation is on the inconsistencies among species, which have similar characteristics, but regulated differently. Additional details in Tara's presentation. Tara has notes on Jason's presentation on the species distribution counts.

Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference Sponsorship Updates

Lakes and Rivers Section (Carroll Schaal): \$2,500

Parks (Craig Anderson): \$350

Natural Heritage Conservation (Tara Bergeson): \$1,000

Forestry (Becky Gray): \$1,000+

Fisheries (Lori Tate): \$1,000 (Details from Justine Hasz)

Wildlife Management (Unknown): Will commit funds needed to get to top tier (Details from Justine Hasz)

Current Commitments: \$4,850

Amount Needed to reach Event Sponsor (\$5,000): \$150

Amount Needed to reach Champion Sponsor (\$7,500): \$2,650

If Forestry commits \$1,000, then Wildlife Management can commit \$1,650

Sponsorship Tier:	Champion Sponsor \$7,500	Event Sponsor \$5,000	Daily Sponsor \$2,500	Session Sponsor \$1,250
Included Registrations:*	10 + 25% off on up to 5 additional	8 + 25% off on up to 3 additional	4 + 25% off on up to 3 additional	2 + 25% off on up to 2 additional
Branding Opportunities:	Sponsor all plenaries & special events	Sponsor a plenary & any track throughout	Sponsor any track on day of choice	Sponsor a concurrent session
Color Ad in Program:	half page	half page	quarter page	
Logo on Conference Keepsake:	✓	✓		
Announcements on UMISC Social Media:	9	6	3	1

*Staff will work with sponsors to split registrations between onsite and online to fit the organization's needs. We can also customize a sponsorship package upon request - please email admin@umisc.net to inquire.

Registration and tentative agenda likely to be released either today (6/30) or tomorrow (6/31). UMISC will be a hybrid conference, both in person and for remote attendance. Mark requesting to share on social media posts. Contact Michelle Beloskur for additional details about the registrations. DATCP likely to go for the “Daily Sponsorship” \$2,500 level.

Council Member Updates

Brian Kuhn: DATCP has some changes in Secretary and Division Office. New Division Administrator, Brian Weigel from DNR is transferring to DATCP. In the Plant Industry Bureau, Melody Walker, retired last November and Renee Pinski has been hired as the new Section Manager for Pest Control (includes Spongy Moth). Working with Liz Tanner on OIT related topics with nursery inspections for part of annual nursery inspections.

Doug Cox: No major updates from the Tribes.

Christa Schaefer: Working with a consultant to remove invasives on Rights Of Way. Working on a change to mowing policy related to a monarch project with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Updates to invasive species and herbicide policies. No new information on invasive species grant monies from federal grant project. Mark: That funding was not appropriated. May have to wait until 2023 before implementation. Mark asked about the Wild Parsnip bill at the state level. Drew: DNR was asked to give testimony on it last summer. No new details.

Drew Feldkirchner: The America the Beautiful grant includes eligibility for invasive species. Timing is short for this year. There will be more opportunities in the future. Forestry program will be submitting one this year that includes funds for invasive species work. Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (RAWA) passed the House, but there will be some reconciliation between the House and Senate. These funds are intended to support implementation of the State Wildlife Action Plans and Species of Greatest Conservation Need as defined in those plans. A DNR budget Initiative focused on support for CISMAs is moving through the process within the agency right now. Keith Warnke, DNR Division Administrator for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks has retired.

Greg Long: Dates for the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) are Oct 25th to Oct 27th.

Jen Hauxwell: USGS released call for proposals for AIS research in upper Midwest basin. Lots of grant opportunities are coming out. There are a few applications from Wisconsin. Awards amounts went up from last year. \$1.5 million available with \$300,000 funding limit.

Julie Fox: Economic impacts materials are available on the Wisconsin Tourism website. Pollinator project considered for activities on Great River Road. Details to follow.

Mark Renz: UMISC Program Schedule: <http://www.umisc.net/program--schedule.html>

UMISC Workshops: <http://www.umisc.net/field-trips--workshops.html>

Mark's lab at UW-Madison is doing some goat-related research with invasive species: Work with brush and invasive species management and quantitative assessment of goat related control. Received funding on woody invasive plant management along Wisconsin coastal communities. Continued work on wild parsnip control. Received report of Palmer amaranth on a Christmas Tree Farm. Julie also mentioned details on a goat project.

Israel Haas, Executive Director,

GRR Visitor & Learning Center at Freedom Park in Prescott

Israel@freedomparkwi.org or 715-262-0104

<https://www.freedomparkwi.org/donate>

Tom Bressner: Field crops with small, localized occurrences of invasive species. Technology with drones can now carry an eight-gallon payload. Working with local departments in putting together a program on how to learn to operate drones and received licenses and certifications. Likely a year away from implementation but could be a useful future program. Mark: There will be three or four presentations on drones at UMISC.

Lauren Leckwee: New round of grants on July 1st. Several invasive species related projects.

Amy Kretlow: Introductions to the Council. Second year of Lake Monitoring and Protection Network, removed competitive process. Hoping to have 90% of the programs get enrolled by next year.

Tom Buechel: E-commerce still strong across all sectors.

Other Business

No other business.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Brian Kuhn, seconded by Drew. Meeting adjourned.