

Wisconsin Invasive Species Council Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2023
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting

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Phone Conference ID: 994 956 996#

Attendees: Jason Granberg, Tara Bergeson, Julieann Fox, Greg Long, Hannah Spaul, Christa Schaefer, Tom Buechel, Drew Feldkirchner, Doug Cox, Matt Puz, Jennifer Hauxwell, Liz Tanner, Robert Stroess, Brian Kuhn

AGENDA

Meeting called to order.

Introductions & agenda repair.

Motion to move forward with today's agenda moved by Hauxwell and seconded by Kuhn. Motion carried.

Action Item: Approve September 29, 2022, Council meeting minutes

Motion to approve minutes moved by Kuhn seconded by Spaul. Motion carried.

Council Member Retirement (Hughes) and Recognition

Jim Hughes of WDOT has officially retired. The position was posted in January, and interviews are planned. When the position has been filled, some assistance will be needed from Tara and Drew to help the new appointee learn about the Council. A plaque will likely be provided to Hughes in recognition of his contributions and this will be presented at the annual Invader Crusader Awards ceremony on June 7, 2023. There are some concerns regarding how quickly the DOT's position will be refilled.

Julieann Fox will also be retiring towards the end of March. Julieann will work with folks at the Department of Tourism to see about a replacement for her position on the Council.

The Council discussed how the positions are assigned from the Governor's Office following retirements. Documentation to help facilitate the refilling of these positions will be helpful. Tara will look for these resources. Tom Buechel will formally send the letter to Governor's Office on the behalf of the Council, if needed once replacements are identified.

Education Committee Update (Christa Schaefer)

Two weeks ago, the Education Committee met to discuss the upcoming Invader Crusader Awards. The call for the awards and nominations will be coming soon. DNR drafted a press release and a Facebook post for the event. February 10th is the roll-out date for nominations. Once those items are posted, there will be listserv and direct emails to relevant parties. Tara shared the details on where the ICA information will be found on the WDNR webpage. Tara will also submit a request for a Governor's Proclamation about Invasive Species Action Month. A date has not yet been finalized, but the event is typically held the first week of June. Greg mentioned that he is looking at various sites to host the event. The decision of the location will likely be made at the next Education Committee. This year, the hope is to have a Council meeting in the morning followed by the awards ceremony in the afternoon. Greg is open for any Council members to be judges; if any Council members are available, please contact Greg. The judging will likely occur in the first week of April, and the scores due at the end of April. Christa mentioned that at the Education Committee, there was a discussion with Mark Renz and IPAW. IPAW wants to promote action on invasive plants. In the past, there was an awareness/action month, but it has been reduced due to lack of budget and capacity by DNR staff. IPAW wants to help promote the event.

Addressing Inconsistencies in NR 40 – summary and next steps (Tara Bergeson)

Tara provided an update on the work that DNR staff have done to address some inconsistencies in Ch NR 40 species listings. A sub-team of the DNR's Invasive Species Team took a pause in the NR40 process to address inconsistencies on how the NR40 criteria are applied to the NR40 Species Assessment Groups.

Key issues were to address inconsistencies with species that have similar geographic distributions and the growing number of species on the list.

One of the issues at the beginning was to review the purpose of NR40, which is to identify, classify, and control invasive species. We wanted to think of NR40 as being one component, or tool, we can use to control invasive species in Wisconsin.

The three key domains we considered were regulation, education, and management & control in Venn diagram. Species did not fall in all areas of overlap. Each domain and overlap provide options on how to reduce impacts caused by invasives.

The Team addressed the NR40 criteria. The most difficult criterion to address seems to be the one that focuses on distribution of a species in the state. There was lots of conversation about what this means. There were issues on how this can be defined, which included the number of counties and the number of populations, and the sizes of populations. Jason collected data on the species distributions, county counts, and spatial clustering to help make some decisions about how to recommend regulatory classifications. We asked the SAG coordinators to review the SAG recommendations if one of the following were true: 1) if the coordinators did not agree with the SAG recommendations, 2) if the SAG members did not agree among themselves, and 3) if the species is widespread throughout the state (found in > 75% of the total counties). Jason created a questionnaire spreadsheet to go through each criterion based on other online assessment tools. Sources included the NatureServe Invasive Species Assessment Protocol, Cal-PC, and other state plant assessment tools. We sent the spreadsheet out to the coordinators for use. The next steps include returning to the Council, presenting the SAG member recommendations, and any DNR recommendations if they are not in alignment. For the future, we should delve into this spreadsheet to help make some additional tools to help with assessment work.

Mark discussed issues about the difficulty of the process and the issues caused by incomplete maps. Brian also mentioned that when the rule process begins, there is a delay between the process starts and when the rule process completes (5 to 10 year) process. Tom Buechel mentioned that it is important to remove the problematic species, and online trade and educational programs are useful to help prevent the spread of

invasive species. Brian discussed issues of regional alignment for consistent regulations. The Council will need to look at activities in Illinois, Minnesota, and Michigan.

Tara discussed future improvements for the process. Tara prepared a detailed draft NR40 process and timeline for the future. Details are found in the document titled, “NR40 Revision Process May 2022”.

Mark recommended reviewing the process. There may be differences in opinion based on the perspective of the stakeholder group. There are concerns on how the public may perceive the process. Tom mentioned the importance of transparency of the process. Mark had expressed interest in how the process worked and the materials collected, and how the decisions are being made. Tara and Jason can discuss these issues with Mark.

SAG Informational Sessions

The Education Committee in the past described these as “public listening sessions”. There needs to be public sessions for sharing SAG recommendations with the public and soliciting feedback from the public about species proposed for regulation. Tara recommended having a live webinar about the rule, the SAG process, and the recommendations. For submitting questions or comments, the public could provide these ideas before, during and after the public listening session. Comments could be submitted electronically via form. We would need to provide the public a reasonably long forewarning about the meeting. We would also need to work with a variety of contacts to spread the message, including direct emails and listservs. WDOT has also dealt with similar issues, especially as it applies to Spongy Moth. Webinars have been useful. DATCP has used both webinars and in-person meetings (as a requirement for some federal funding). Webinars have provided much higher levels of engagement.

Council Member Updates

Drew: Bernie Williams (DNR Forest Health program) has left the agency. Programs are working on filling positions. NHC is planning on hiring an LTE for invasive species work. We have a new DNR Secretary, Adam Payne. Drew has provided briefing materials, including about invasive species. There was a press release from Gov. Evers Office, he is including a line item about terrestrial invasive species, resilient forest initiatives, and urban forest issues and invasive species response. More details are needed from the Governor’s Office. Mark mentioned there is an interest in seeing the invasive species team at full strength.

Mark: Anne Pearce took a new position now and is not at the Wisconsin First Detector Network (WIFDN). Anne is now at the UW Arboretum. Her former position is posted until end of February. There is an internship position using APHIS PPA funding.

Brian: APHIS will be presenting on the spotted lanternfly strategy. States like California have concerns about their grape industry and establishing quarantines. Christopher Felker has taken a new position and Brian will be recruiting for this vacancy. Brian Weigel will be leaving DATCP and returning to the WDNR to address Water Quality issues.

Doug Cox: First report of EAB along the southern portion of the lake. Menominee Tribal Enterprises had a response plan. They have a silvicultural prescription in plan to remove the affected ash tree. Keeping local quarantine in place for the Tribe. Not accepting any wood outside of the reservation. The removal of the ash, 23 million board feet in green ash and 12 million board feet in black ash; so, this is a huge issue. This will also be an issue for the native cultural use of ash for basket making. Working with the regional CISMA and looking for assistance the Menominee can use. Menominee Tribal Enterprises will need to remove a lot of ash. The removal will likely occur year-round.

Christa: WisDot has a contract with a consultant to handle Prohibited species on Rights-of-Way. This has been in place for five years. It started with an agreement with Todd Matheson to handle non-native Phragmites in western and Prohibited / Restricted boarder counties. WDOT has treated 7.5 acres of Phragmites. There is annual review and retreatment, sometimes resulting in alternate year treatments. Additional treatment has occurred on other Prohibited species and wild parsnip control on WDOT rest areas. Perennial pepperweed and wild chervil has also been treated. Biocontrol releases have occurred for spotted knapweed and leafy spurge. There is an increased interest in drone use for invasive species control. Brian Smith from Federal Highway Commission is interested in the expanded use of drones.

Amy Kretlow: Matt Puz has developed a statewide non-native Phragmites control plan. This will be going out for public review within the next 30 days. AIS program is in the process of hiring a new Lakes and Rivers Team Leader.

Julieann Fox: Travel Green certification program for travel program (TravelWisconsin.com). Helps travelers to find sustainable travel options. The pledge program is currently closed. We have ~ 6 months to update to become a more sustainable business.

Jen: Competitive grant program reviewing pre-proposals now. Research can be used to fund aquatic invasive species projects. USGS will be issuing a call for proposals for AIS research in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. The state water resource institutes would administer this grant.

+	2022	IA	AIS	Habitat associations and biotic interactions of invasive Rusty Crayfish to inform risk assessment and management of shallow glacial lakes at the invasion front	Federal: \$122,971 Non-Federal: \$122,972	Michael Weber
+	2022	IL	AIS	Causes and consequences of mollusk invasions throughout the Illinois River watershed	Federal: \$300,000 Non-Federal: \$300,000	Joel Corush
+	2022	IL	AIS	Habitat selection of juvenile black carp and associated predatory effects on native and non-native bivalves	Federal: \$122,318 Non-Federal: \$122,318	Joseph J. Parkos III
+	2022	IN	AIS	An assessment of three sources of data for predicting the presence/absence and human-mediated spread of AIS throughout the UMRB	Federal: \$286,248 Non-Federal: \$288,177	Paul Venturelli
+	2022	MN	AIS	Predicting from the past - identifying characteristics of invasion-resistant and invasion-prone waterbodies to aid horizon scanning	Federal: \$272,927 Non-Federal: \$272,936	Nick Phelps
+	2022	WI	AIS	Do freshwater species invasions alter ecosystem responses to external drivers?	Federal: \$299,974 Non-Federal: \$305,986	Jake Vander Zanden

Tim Campbell from Sea Grant is working on projects to work with underserved audiences. If the Council members are interested, they can contact Tim.

Tom Buechel: One of the latest issues relates to botanical names. Many of these plants are being moved forward for plant patents. When plants are listed, the plant name serves as the trademarked name. There are issues with companies not using the appropriate scientific name and trademark name. This causes issues with plant regulators. Tom Buechel is putting together a spreadsheet of regulated names. Brian had mentioned there are issues at the federal level, and a lack of consistency makes it an issue for consistency and enforcement. DNR has a spreadsheet to track different scientific names and common names.

Greg: Asking for judges for the Invasive Species Crusaders and funding for plaques. Mark mentioned asking IPAW.

Other Business

No other business was addressed.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned 11:16 a.m.