

Wisconsin Invasive Species Council

Executive Committee Meeting

January 25, 2023
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Present: Tom Buechel, Drew Feldkirchner, Brian Kuhn, Tara Bergeson, guest: Billy Froeschner (Wings over Wisconsin, Tri-County Chapter)

- 1:00 p.m.** Call to Order/Agenda Repair
Chairman Buechel called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.
DF motion to approve agenda. Kuhn seconded
- 1:05 p.m.** Review/Approval of minutes from Sept 6, 2022 Executive Committee meeting
Bump to next meeting.
BK motioned to okay. DF seconded.
- 1:10 p.m.** Review Action Items from September 29, 2022 Council meeting
No action items from this meeting.
Kuhn noted that he attended UMISC and it was a really good meeting with a diversity of topics. He was able to chat with Bob Stroess at that meeting.
- 1:20 p.m.** Council member retirement (Hughes)
Jim Hughes (DOT) will be retiring soon. How would the Council like to acknowledge Jim's service? We have done plaques in the past along with a resolution. Could Christa Schaefer possibly be Jim's replacement? Executive Committee members willing to write a letter to DOT Secretary encouraging this.
ACTION: Drew check to see what he can do to recommend Christa.
ACTION: Tara will check on getting a plaque for Jim to honor his service. Defer until ICA ceremony.
- 1:30 p.m.** Education Committee Update (ISAM/ICA planning)
Committee met last Thursday and kicked off planning for ISAM and ICA 2023.
Mentioned that IPAW would like to help and have suggested they could encourage folks to report invasive species. BK mentioned that DATCP will likely be sending out some messages in June as well – possibly related to spotted lantern fly. Marsha Wensing on IPAW Board and active with a prairie in southeast part of state. Probably a public v. private place.

ACTION: Tara will ensure that we submit a request for a Governor's Proclamation.

Are there any good locations in eastern or southeastern part of the state? Have sometimes tried to be central location. Chiwaukee Prairie State Natural Area? Would be nice for a field trip. Not sure about a facility. A location on a reservation? Ask Doug Cox. Tribal nations are doing work on invasive species. Brian mentioned monthly WTCAC call where he could ask about this possibility. DF – we could also talk with Kris Goodwell, DNR’s tribal liaison.

Back to IPAW – June is a great month for organizations to get the word out about invasive species and taking action.

1:45 p.m. Preparation of agenda for next Council meeting

Tara described that she plans to provide an update on how the process went. Suggested another Council meeting to follow the February one quickly. BK endorses idea of trying to meet again sooner than later.

Council votes on SAG recommendations and minutes summarize that discussion. DF and that gives department what we need to move forward – go to Natural Resources Board to initiate rulemaking process. We may need to get NRB members up to speed on NR 40. BK – did we do listening session first before scoping?

SAG Informational Sessions (do we want to discuss as a Council? Tara’s recommendation would be that the Education Committee and DNR Communicator’s put together a proposed process for the Council to review. DF – good to do at this next Council meeting on Feb. 8. BK agrees. Will want to consider in-person and virtual opportunity along with opportunity to provide feedback via email (online form etc.) TB – can include a communication plan. DF – good idea to talk with some folks who’ve done public input recently and consider remote options. Need to balance time to travel etc.

ACTION: Brian will talk with DATCP Land and Water program folks to learn what they are doing with public input sessions. Tara/Drew can do the same within DNR.

2:10 p.m. Agency Updates/Other Business

Drew: Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (RAWA) did not pass the last Congress. Much of our invasive species work is funded via grants. RAWA could have provided funding for some of this work. Budget proposal submitted for CISMA support for 2023-2025. NHC working on hiring an LTE for invasive species work. Several other invasive species staff members have left the agency, including Bernie Williams, Barbara Heindl, Taylor Peltier, Brenna DeNamur, Jaqi Christopher. Annual Invasive Species Legislative Report was submitted by October 1. Tara will share final with the Council.

New DNR Secretary – Adam Payne. Drew met him last week. Briefing including invasive species.

Brian (DATCP): Brian has more vacancies than he has ever had in 17 years. Five vacancies out of 27 permanent bureau staff. Chris Foelker – unit supervisor in pest control program headed up spongy moth program – headed to new job in Montana. Work from home is a draw for many who leave for other jobs. Several staff have moved around within the agency, so need to backfill positions. Lost Stephanie Jentz,

outreach/education role – moved to another position within the bureau. Lost PIO for Brian’s Division – Morgan (left for private company). Tim Allen – With DATCP for 10 years – took new position back with DNR as a forester.

Plant protection act spending plan announcement from USDA. Got three projects they applied for: forest pest outreach, pine commodity survey, honeybees survey – pest and disease issues. Connected to national honeybee survey. Anticipate standard spongy moth treatment program. Treatment acreage will be down this year because it targets high populations, but we’re seeing high concentrations that taper across the county, so no hot spots to go after. 80,000 acres of defoliation in Bayfield Peninsula last summer. There will probably be a quarantine for Douglas County this year. Has been on watch list for several years. Targeted outreach in the County – nurseries, loggers. Some additional compliance agreements will be signed, but most of the industry is already under compliance agreements. APHIS federal quarantine. First western border county with MN.

DF: Is spongy moth in MN? BK – they are doing treatments in MN. There are two quarantine counties in arrowhead area of the state. Have treatments planned for Duluth for this year. WI has reproducing populations in Superior. Another reason they are recommending quarantine for Douglas County. Think there is a lake effect that buffers and protects populations. Just south of Douglas County, have a lot of mortality to the egg masses.

Other Business: No other business

2:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Chairman Buechel thanked the guest who joined us today for the meeting. Encouraged attendance at the Council meeting on February 8.

BK motioned to adjourn. DF seconded.

Approved. Meeting adjourned.