

Illinois Invasive Species Council Advisory Board Meeting
July 27, 2021-Zoom
12:30-1:30 pm
Meeting Minutes

Present: Steve Worth, John Lough, Ann Tosovsky, Chris Evans, Michael Ward, Jim Herkert, David Gibson,
Tricia Bethke, Erin Holmes, Kevin Irons, Chris Evans

Progress with Committees

- Terrestrial Plants update
 - Chris talked about the assessment process and asked the council for clarification on whether the committees have the same assessment process or do they develop their assessments based on individual needs?
 - Chris mentioned that they need a place for shared files like dropbox or google share.
 - They discussed the purpose of lists and using the list to build educational awareness and plants in the horticulture trade and exemptions from lists
 - Next meeting will be in September and will look at watch list and different reporting mechanisms. Also, trying to get better descriptions on where invasives are in the state.

- Pest and Pathogens update
 - Tricia mentioned they need more information before creating their assessment. Erin thought committees might be able to follow a similar format, but with flexibility for each committee. Kevin mentioned sometimes it becomes an onerous process so be mindful of making things too complicated.
 - Tricia stated their committee is meeting tomorrow, July 28th, at 9:00am with 14 confirmed members. Their meeting will focus on reviewing membership, setting priorities and discussing assessments.

**Steve asked for a final member list for each committee and to share with Ann to send to council members.

Challenges and opportunities with remaining committees

Board Discussion

- Aquatics-Kevin hopes to have a report on a meeting next month
- Wildlife-Mike Weaver will be the point person in the interim while searching for a permanent committee chair. Lydia suggested connecting with Mike to get things rolling for the committee

Steve asked if there was an aquatic and wildlife act and Kevin mentioned there is something in place pertaining to those areas like the exotic species act. It was mentioned there are a lot of lists out there and all have different ways and paths of being updated.

Opportunities for communications

Steve Worth

- Connections to communications resources, e.g. <https://pestlens.info/>
 - Steve stated we need to somehow let people know the IISC exists and asked for opinions and ideas.
 - Tricia said she thinks we need a website with links to agencies and organizations, but recognizes the challenges associated with updated and managing that project

- Chris mentioned they do host agency's websites and will see if that is doable for the council
- Tricia also mentioned we should pull together the things we do have in place
- Chris stated that we need to know who our primary audience is and create an email list as well. He also stated that any emailing would need to be done outside IDNR
- Erin said having a way for people to report issues would be helpful which could then be funneled to the appropriate place
- Lydia will check into an email address
- John Lough stated our primary audience is DNR and IDOA and suggested the committees discuss who else would be part of their primary audience
- Other resources?
- Suggestions

Annual Meeting (December 7, Springfield)

Board Discussion

- Meeting time (at this point) would be 10:00 am -12:00 pm for the council followed by committee meetings early afternoon and conclude by 3:00.
 - There was a general consensus that it is important for everyone to meet in person
 - Please pass along any topics for the meeting
- Speakers
 - Having speakers for the annual meeting was discussed. If anyone has any ideas for good speakers let Steve/Lydia know. Most likely speakers would be virtual, although it could be possible to have an in person speaker and maybe get monies to cover transportation and hotel costs.
 - Having a speaker for the event is not the primary focus. As stated above the council felt having an in-person meeting and having council and committees meet and get to know each other is important.
 - Creating a blended environment with in person and virtual would be important. Chris Evans said he has experience in this area.

Other Board business

Announcements:

Oak pest and disease forum at Morton Arboretum coming up
2-day Japanese chaff flower meeting 8/12 (virtual)

Adjourn