

THE OKLAHOMA INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE OFFICERS' & BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
11 MARCH 2010

Karen Hickman, president, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Marla Peek, Jay Pruett, Jim Harris, Chad Cox, and Priscilla Crawford were in attendance.

The Minutes of the 4 September 2009 Officers' & Board of Directors' meeting were unanimously approved.

Karen Hickman verified with those in attendance that the current mission statement has been approved and will no longer be referred to as a "draft." Priscilla Crawford will make the corrections on the Web site.

In Bruce Hoagland's absence, there was no formal report from the Science Committee. However, he continues to work on the invasive species list, which will be published in the Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas. There is a strong interest in creating county specific lists. Bruce is encouraged to work on this in the future.

Marla Peek reported for the Policy Committee. She brought copies of state Senate Bill 1330 that creates an Invasive Species Task Force. This was introduced by Senator Schulz because of a constituent complaining about the musk thistle problem. The OkIPC needs to meet with the Task Force so that we can educate the members. The bill has passed the Senate and because it has no fiscal impact, it is likely it will pass the House soon. Task Force will be made up of members of the Senate Agriculture Committee and the House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. Priscilla will post the bill on the OkIPC website in the announcement section.

Chad Cox reported on the activities of the Education Committee. The membership brochure was discussed. We decided to include eastern redcedar and lespedeza to the brochure as "the worst of the worst" species. Karen stressed that we don't want to use black and white copies of the brochure. We need to present a professional image with a nice brochure. Priscilla reported a quote of \$600 to print 1000 of the full color brochures. Karen said she would get another printer quote. Jim Harris said he would look the prison system printers. Unfortunately, the Education Committee lost two members. However, Jim Harris suggested that Stacy Dunkin at the USACE would be a good member.

Priscilla reported on the Membership Committee activities. The Web site has been revised with an online membership registration that will record all important information for joining members. Jay Pruett suggested there be a Web site to be used by the Board and Officers for sharing files and such. Priscilla will look into possibility making a wiki.

Karen announced that a student of hers will work on the Newsletter.

Chad gave the treasurer's report.

Karen gave details regarding the 2010 Annual Meeting. It will be a day long meeting on July 14th at the OSU-OKC campus. We decided to rent one conference room for \$150. We decided we did need morning and afternoon snack. Karen asked for suggestions for the preregistration price. It was decided that \$30-35 would be appropriate, if it covers most of the cost. Karen asked for input on keynote speakers. She suggested Tom Stohlgren who could give a talk on risk assessment of invasive species. He may be willing to speak if we pay travel costs. Jim suggested Everett Laney, a biologist with the USACE who has written about zebra mussels. Jim also suggested Allan Storjohann who is a horticulturist and the manager of the Myriad Botanical Gardens.

It was suggested that Jeanetta Cooper give a short update on the weed free hay certification.

Karen said during the next Business Meeting of the OkIPC, we need to make a few revisions to the bylaws.

Jay reported on several recent meeting he had with stakeholders. Jay met with Tom Crider, Oklahoma State Parks. Tom would love for us to draw up invasive species lists that are park specific. The Parks would be able to design and print brochures based on our list. Jim said the USACE would be willing to do the same for their lakes. Tom said there is a need for information on control of invasives and how to use prescribed fire to manage invasives. Because of budget constraints, the Parks don't regularly use herbicides. Tom also offered the use of the Parks video production facility. Tom also said they would start encouraging the use of the certified weed free hay within the parks.

Jay also meet with George Geissler in the Forestry Services section of the Department of Agriculture (ODAFF) and Jeanetta Cooper in the pesticide and horticulture section. They suggested there is a desire to have an effective noxious weed law. Forestry Services has hired a GIS technician that has modelled noxious weed distributions. Currently ODAFF can't recognize newly discovered invasive plant locations unless there is an ODAFF certified person who reports it. There are few people certified and there should be an effort made to get more people qualified to report invasive species. This also emphasizes the need to create a comprehensive and central database of invasive plant locations that everyone in the state uses as a resource.

Jay also reported that the Forestry Services set up a Fire Crew, who can help burn private lands for nominal fee.

There was a discussion on how to recruit new members to the OkIPC. It would be nice to have at least one member at each agency. We need to target individuals that would be good.

The definition of invasive plant, which will be in the membership brochure, was discussed. We decided, because of eastern redcedar, to take out the reference to non-native. After reworking the definition, we came up with:

A plant that causes economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Some people consider invasive plants only to be alien species, those that are not native to the ecosystem. A few of our native species, such as eastern redcedar and mesquite, are causing the same problems as non-native species.

Karen asked to report on any OkIPC outreach activities. Priscilla spoke to the Texas Society for Ecological Restoration. Jay said the OkIPC would be in the TNC magazine in the Oklahoma blurb. Chad represented the OkIPC at the Native Plant Society Wildflower Workshop. Karen spoke to the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma Vegetation Management Meeting, Texas Wildlife Society Meeting, an OSU biosecurity class, and the Osage Nation.

Chad asked about which species we should focus on from our draft list of invasive species. He is concerned which species should be identified by the citizen science group. Karen suggested that the list be based on where the first citizens group works, maybe a particular park.

Meeting adjourned 4:44 p.m.