

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

Karen Hickman, President, called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. Karen Hickman, Marla Peek, Curtis Tackett, Chad Cox, Tim Bartrum, Jay Pruett, and Priscilla Crawford were in attendance, with Bruce Hoagland arriving later.

The Minutes of the 14 July 2010 Board of Directors' meeting were unanimously approved after minor revision.

Karen Hickman reported that the state legislature's Invasive Plant Task Force has not met, but will likely meet after the election. Marla Peek stated that Ron Justice, the Chair of the Task Force, is interested in expanding to animals, such as Canada geese, black vultures, coyotes, and beavers. The OkIPC may want to help educate the lawmakers on the difference between invasive and nuisance species. Mostly the Task Force will be concerned with economic impact. It is unfortunate that OkIPC doesn't have an active group of economists interested in generating information.

Chad Cox reported for the Education Committee. Chad and Curtis Tackett are presenting invasive species training to Blue Thumb volunteers in November. They will teach them aquatic invasive species identification and introduce a citizen scientist data reporting mechanism via the OkIPC website. Marla brought up the issue of privacy and private property rights. Chad will look into how to ensure the privacy of the landowner is maintained. Chad is also working with the Oklahoma Native Plant Society to tackle the invasives in select natural areas near ONPS chapter groups.

Priscilla Crawford reported on activities of the Membership and Public Relations Committee. There are currently 79 official members. Priscilla is working on the next issue of the eNewsletter with plans to distribute it in late fall. The website has been updated with annual meeting presentations. Priscilla's assistant has been working on a database of invasive plant information that will eventually become an online searchable database.

Karen asked if anyone had given presentations about the OkIPC to outside groups or had spoken to the media. Karen reported that she talked about invasive plant issues on KOSU and on the Sunup program. Jay gave a presentation to the TNC Board of Trustees and stressed that invasives are a huge conservation problem.

To promote education about invasive plant issues, Priscilla will post on website PowerPoint presentations that members have developed, such as the one Jay gave to the TNC board. These can serve as templates for others to use in future educational presentations.

Karen reported on the annual meeting plans for 2011. People have suggested that it remain central in the state to encourage the most attendance. Karen will look for venues in the Oklahoma City area. Karen has tentatively set the date to be July 12, 13, or 14. Karen asked if the BOD would approve to pay a keynote speaker for next year. BOD agreed that would be appropriate.

Karen proposed that the Education Committee be split into the Citizen Science and Education Committees. The BOD agreed with the recommendation. Brad Stumph was volunteered in his absence to take the lead on educational publications and the Education Committee. Chad will become the new Citizen Science Chair.

Chad Cox reported that OkIPC made approximately \$2500 from dues and meeting registrations.

Jay Pruett reported on meetings that he and Karen had with stakeholders about invasive plant issues, the role of OkIPC and how OkIPC can help stakeholders with invasive plant problems. They met with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, and Oklahoma Farm Bureau. With ODWC, they found out that there is no coordinated effort on WMA to tackle invasives. TNC may be able to provide a template for a systematic approach to invasive species management. This may also be valuable to state parks.

Some of the groups they hope to meet with next are: OSU extension; County Commissioners; APHIS; and Oklahoma Vegetation Management Association.

Karen and Jay proposed a reduction of the scientific list of invasive species, on which Bruce Hoagland has been working, to a list of four categories. This was suggested as a way to appear more objective, rather than a subjective opinion of one ecologist. Jay, Karen, and Bruce will meet together to discuss.

For New Business, we discussed the OkIPC strategy at the Invasive Plant Task Force. Marla recommended that we don't talk about eastern red cedar. Marla will organize a conference call to strategize our effort in the presentation.

Jay passed out a TNC produced document for the Oil and Gas Industry. The document lists suggested natives to plant. He asked that people look over it and send comments to him.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla H. C. Crawford
Secretary