

THE OKLAHOMA INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE OFFICERS' & BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA  
4 SEPTEMBER 2009

Karen Hickman, president, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Steve Bieberich, Marla Peek, Jay Pruett, Tonya Dunn, Bruce Hoagland, Clay Pope, Jim Harris, Priscilla Crawford, and Chad Cox were in attendance.

The Minutes of the 8 July 2009 Officers' & Board of Directors' meeting were unanimously approved.

Jay Pruett presented a draft mission statement. Marla Peek suggested that we add wording similar to the Alabama council mission statement, which includes a stateholder's list. We agreed that we wanted to keep the mission as short as possible, and expand our thoughts using the strategic plan. Karen Hickman stressed the use of the word "facilitate," because our council will not be able to conduct the actual invasive plant management, but instead we will be a clearinghouse of information for our stakeholders. After some discussion, those in attendance revised Jay's initial draft. The attached mission statement, which was compiled by Priscilla Crawford is based on comments from members.

Jay Pruett went over the summary of The Nature Conservancy's invasive audit for Oklahoma. The audit recommended that Oklahoma needs an economic assessment of invasives. The audit noted there are few financial resources in the state to combat invasive species. The audit also highlighted the weak noxious weed legislation in the state and recommended action to bring about a meaningful list of state noxious weeds. The audit recommended an improvement in the early detection and rapid response to invasive species, where we can have most impact on invasive management for the least financial input.

Marla Peek presented the report that Kinsey Money, a research intern at Farm Bureau, compiled regarding states' invasive species legislation. She found that all states are struggling with funding for invasive species management. In Oklahoma, we have a weak noxious weed law with no funding making the law ineffective. Marla and Clay Pope suggest using carrot approach, with education first, before we jump out with legislative mandating of noxious designation. Marla stated that the Farm Bureau would be much more likely to support doable projects that are voluntary. Karen suggested that Kinsey expand her report with states that are similar economically and politically to Oklahoma.

Marla also announced that Oklahoma just recently passed weed free hay certification program. She said this would not have happened without the OkIPC.

Members took a break from 10:55-11:07.

Chad Cox resumed the meeting to report on the Education Committee activities. He is developing a pamphlet to cover: what is invasive, the mission statement, and how to become a member. Chad is very interested in starting the citizen science component of the OkIPC – Invaders of Oklahoma. He recommends that we contact master naturalists, master gardeners, county conservation districts, and

others to help find invasive plants across the state. Jim Harris recommended USACE park rangers and Clay Pope recommended talking to the Blue Thumb Volunteers. Chad said he would like more members of the committee.

Bruce Hoagland reported for the Science Committee. They are working on the list of invasive plants for the state with rankings. They are also working toward a more accurate distribution of invasive species. A future project would be to use an online invasive plant reporting system similar to Texas.

Marla Peek reported for the Policy Committee. She is trying to figure out ways to get members involved. Clay would be a valuable member for the committee.

Priscilla Crawford reported for the Membership and Fundraising committee. There was a discussion on who to recruit as members. Steve Bieberich suggested that groups with a vested economic interest be educated on invasive species problems. We should focus on the stakeholders and encourage them to join.

Karen Hickman announced that the annual meeting will be held in Oklahoma City in 2010. We plan to continue with a single day format with a tentative date in July.

Karen also reported that the newsletter is delayed because of an ill student, but should be out soon and be published three to four times a year.

Jim Harris suggested that OkIPC develop an informational booth to be taken to fairs, home and garden shows, the Wildlife Expo, and more.

Karen adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Priscilla H. C. Crawford  
OkIPC Secretary