

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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

Karen Hickman, president, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Marla Peek, Jay Pruett, Chad Cox, and Priscilla Crawford were in attendance.

The Minutes of the 11 March 2010 Officers' & Board of Directors' meeting were unanimously approved.

Committee Chairs reported on the committees' activities.

Karen Hickman reported for Bruce Hoagland, Science Committee Chair, that county lists of invasive plant species have been created. She passed out several of the county lists to attendees. Karen plans to send the county extension agents a copy of their counties' invasive species list. Priscilla Crawford will post these lists as a PDF on the website. Priscilla also said that a searchable database, similar to the database on the Texas Invasive Plant Council's site, is in the planning stages and will be a long-term project for her.

Karen also announced a project to model the potential distribution of kudzu in Oklahoma based on current occurrences. The model is being built by Thomas Stohlgren's lab at Colorado State. The results of this research will be presented at the annual meeting.

There was a discussion about including native invasive species on the county lists. Priscilla will send Karen the counties in which mesquite and cedar are found.

Marla Peek reported on the Policy Committee's recent activities. She is making an effort to stay – Marla involved in the State Legislature's Invasive Plant Task Force. Terry Peach (Sect of Ag, ODAFF) said OkIPC would be a source of information and should be involved. Marla will visit with him regarding the Task Force. The BOD and officers agreed to wait until the state budget negotiations are complete before engaging the lawmakers.

Chad Cox reported on the Education Committee's activities. Chad suggested that we develop a list of the 12 worst species per ecoregion. Karen asked Chad to draft a list for his ecoregion. We agreed to discuss over email and at next meeting.

The attendees discussed if economically important invasive grasses should be listed in our citizen science ecoregion lists. We decided to not include those species at this point.

Chad reported that he will be working with Blue Thumb group in Oklahoma City to develop our first citizen science group. They will focus on aquatic and riparian species.

Priscilla Crawford reported on the progress of the Membership & PR Committee. She passed out another draft of the membership brochure. Attendees made comments and pointed out typos. Priscilla will send Marla the brochure for printing at OFB.

Karen announced that *Oklahoma Today* published an article about TNC's Nickel Preserve that mentions invasive species. Karen asked the BOD and officers if they support her writing a letter to the editor on behalf of OkIPC saying that we appreciate their effort to educate the state on invasive species. The attendees all supported the idea.

Karen reported on the progress of the Annual Meeting Committee. She presented the tentative schedule, on which the BOD made suggestions. The schedule will be revised based on who can attend and agrees to speak. The attendees agreed to add a poster session and allow vendor booths during the meeting.

Attendees agreed to the following registration costs: \$30 members, \$55 non-members, \$20 student members, \$30 student non-members until July 4. Late/onsite prices – 50, 75, 30, 40 respectively

We have several sponsors already: Johnston seed; Conservation Districts; OSU; Farm Bureau room fee; Clarke industries (Doug Carroll). This includes monetary and in-kind donations. Karen has also asked several other agencies and groups.

Chad Cox gave the treasurers report.

Changes to the by-laws was discussed during new business. The changes to be voted on during the business meeting in July will include: change reference of OIPC to OkIPC and remove wording that stipulates that the Vice President serve one year.

Marla will go over the By-Laws and check for things that might need to be changed.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla H. C. Crawford

OkIPC Secretary

THE OKLAHOMA INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING AT THE 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
OSU-OKC, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA  
STUDENT CENTER  
WEDNESDAY, 14 JULY 2010

President Karen Hickman called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m. with a quorum of members present.

The attending members approved the minutes of the Business Meeting for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Council Meeting held 8 July 2010.

Bruce Hoagland, Chair of the Science Committee, began the committee reports with an invitation for comment on the draft list of ranked invasive species. There was concern amongst some Council members on the subjectivity of the ranking of the species. There continues to be concern about the OkIPC supporting a list of invasive species that may include economically valuable species. Future drafts of the ranked species list will be discussed within the Science Committee and amongst the Board of Directors and Officers. Hoagland intends to submit the list as a scientific manuscript and would like final comments by August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Marla Peek reported on the activities of the Policy Committee. She will be working to make sure that OkIPC can communicate our concerns to the Oklahoma Invasive Plant Task Force. Peek is looking for additional members for the Policy Committee

Chad Cox reported on the activities of the Education Committee. He will begin developing citizen science groups. He identified people willing to train invasive species spotters. He hopes to work with the Oklahoma Native Plant Society chapters to encourage them to adopt an area to do invasive species identification and potential removal. As the citizen science component grows, this program may be split from the Education Committee to become a separate committee.

Priscilla Crawford reported on the activities of the Membership and Public Relations Committee.

Education specifically for homeowners, landscapers, farmers, ranchers

Annual meeting – Karen – Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Noble Foundation possible hosts

Request for speakers.

Treasurer's Report – increase committee budget to at least \$200 with the possibility to request more. Increase in budget is due to sponsors.

Proposed change to bylaws – Marla introduces – Marla and Karen answers questions. Seconded, approved by voice vote.

New Business

Nominating board members - Curtis Tackett ODWC and Brad Stumpf Osage Nation., Tim Bartrum, Ok Wheat Growers. Nominations end.

Propose to the three as a slate. Approved and by voice.

Comments from public? Would you like to have an industry update -

The 2010 OkIPC Business Meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

THE OKLAHOMA INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AT THE 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
OSU-OKC, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA  
STUDENT CENTER  
WEDNESDAY, 14 JULY 2010

Present: Karen Hickman, Marla Peek, Bruce Hoagland, James Harris, Curtis Tackett, Chad Cox, Tim Bartrum, Jay Pruett, and Priscilla Crawford.

Karen Hickman, President, called an informal meeting of the Board of Directors (BOD) to order at 4:20 p.m.

The BOD agreed that the annual meeting went well, with a variety of stakeholders attending. Hickman expressed frustration in her attempt to get more in the horticulture business involved.

The BOD will make an effort to increase transparency of their actions. This will include adding all meeting minutes to the website and to make regular contact with members through the website and listserv. Making

The BOD will next meet during the week of 27-29 September at The Nature Conservancy offices in Oklahoma City.

Hickman charged all committee chairs to formalize committee membership and have a committee meeting before the next BOD meeting.

The informal BOD meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Priscilla H. C. Crawford  
Secretary

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



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

Karen Hickman, President, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Karen Hickman, Bruce Hoagland, Marla Peek, Curtis Tackett, Chad Cox, Tim Bartram, Jay Pruett, Jim Harris, Brad Stumph, Jeanetta Cooper, and Priscilla Crawford were in attendance, with Clay Pope arriving later.

The Minutes of the 1 October 2010 Board of Directors' meeting were unanimously approved after minor revision.

Brad Stumph reported for the Education Committee. Being his first meeting of the BOD, Brad is learning his role in the OkIPC. He sees that there are three different audiences: the general public, agriculture producers, and agencies. There was a suggestion that there be weed free hay certification education for producers. Also, it was suggested that the general education could be broken down into ecoregion with the primary invasive threats for each ecoregion. This could be done in partnership with OSU Extension.

Tim Bartram suggested that OkIPC develop an exhibitor booth that could be displayed at a variety of meetings and events: Crop Improvement meeting, Cattlemen's Convention, Wildlife Expo, Vegetation Management Association meetings. Brad is tasked to look into buying display board. Tim is tasked with coming up with a list of potential venues. Another education and outreach idea is to produce a poster or fact sheet educating the public on native thistles and invasive thistles. Bruce Hoagland supported the idea of a comparison of native and invasive species; maybe a small poster that is easy to look at and carry with you. These kinds of posters could be displayed at grain elevators to educate producers before spraying. Bruce also thought we could produce a booklet after our native list settles down. We were also reminded of the all the other resources developed already. Jeanetta Cooper passed around a CD of invasive plants from [invasive.org](http://invasive.org). She will look into getting copies to put in annual meeting packet.

Marla reported on the Policy Committee activities. She has organized the Invasive Plant Task Force meeting for 5 January 2011, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the state capitol. Anyone can attend. Karen Hickman, Jay Pruett, Jeanetta Cooper, and others, not associated with OkIPC will be speaking.

Citizen Science Committee activities were reported by Chad Cox. Chad and Curtis Tackett conducted the Blue Thumb training. The website reporting mechanism for invasive species spotters has been set up. Chad and Curtis are working on a field guide for the Blue Thumb volunteers that focus on the aquatic species. Voucher specimens collected by the Citizen Scientists can be sent to the Oklahoma Biological Survey for deposition in the OU herbarium. It was suggested that directions for specimen preservation be put on the website. Chad has been working with ONPS and master naturalists. He also presented to Cleveland County Democratic Party. Curtis will pitch a story on OkIPC to Outdoor Oklahoma?

Priscilla Crawford reported on the Membership and Public Relations Committee. The newsletter was recently sent out. OkIPC members are encouraged to forward the newsletter to all those who should know about invasive issues in the state – including NRCS, all the state Conservation Districts, ODAFF website, ODWC newsletter recipients, Ron Hayes, etc...

Karen discussed the Annual Meeting plans. The next annual meeting will be 12 July 2011 at the Metro Tech in Oklahoma City. Speakers include: Dan Hines, Terra Nova Nurseries; Tom Stohlgren, USGS and Colorado State; Joe Armstrong, OSU. Karen would entertain additional speaker suggestions. Bruce suggested that there be a presentation on how to report invasive species. Priscilla suggested there be a presentation on restoration. Chris Hise from the TNC Four Canyon Preserve could speak on management plans. Tim suggested that we have slot open until the end of the legislation session to see what issues

might arise and need to be discussed. Clay and Jay both suggested there be a session on how tackling the invasive problem will improve the land. It was suggested that students could contribute posters to the meeting if there is a good place to post them.

Chad Cox gave the Treasurer's report. There is a balance of \$3774.02 in our account.

Karen discussed the Nomination Committee for the upcoming term. She stressed the importance of having consistency during this early period of our organization and hoped that BOD members would continue into the next term. We will need to nominate a President-Elect.

For new business Karen passed out a draft of the Oklahoma Invasive Species. As invasive natives, both eastern red cedar and mesquite have been added to the list. Karen went on to explain some of the differences in this list and previous lists. There are five categories proposed:

- Invasive species of primary concern
- Invasive species in Oklahoma with high likelihood of control
- Other Invasive species of concern in Oklahoma
- Watch list
- Broadly promoted but invasive

The category of "broadly promoted" was added to emphasize horticulture and agricultural uses of some invasives.

The BOD should go over the list and contribute information to help incorporate a variety of opinions into the list. Taking everybody's contributions, a computer program will collate and assign category from our information. Jay and Karen emphasized the need to be objective and have representation of diverse opinions with a lot of expert knowledge. They stated a preface would be written for the list to include the methods for deriving the list and rankings. It was suggested that known economic impact be included if known or reasonable estimated. BOD had until mid-January to make comments and send them to Karen.

Unless otherwise announced, the next OkIPC BOD meeting will be 25 February 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the TNC OKC office. [the location has been changed to the Oklahoma Farm Bureau building in Oklahoma City].

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Priscilla H. C. Crawford  
Secretary