

**Oklahoma Invasive Plant Council
Board of Directors Meeting
Oklahoma City, OK
March 14, 2014**

Officers and Directors present: Karen Hickman, Priscilla Crawford, Marla Peek, Lara Souza, Tim Bartram, Jay Pruett, Russell Stevens and Curtis Tackett

Karen convened the meeting at 10:09 am in the Board Room of the Farm Bureau Offices in Oklahoma City.

Jay moved that the minutes from the December 16, 2013 board meeting be approved as prepared by Secretary Tonya Dunn. Motion seconded by Priscilla, and motion approved without change.

Committee Reports

Science – Jay

Jay handed out the draft watch list of invasive plants, arranged by regions of the state, that had been prepared by Bruce Hoagland for the group to discuss. The watch lists consist of invasive species that may not yet be present in large numbers in given regions, but that have the potential to become major invasive problems due to their particular characteristics and “invasiveness”, as determined by science and practical experience.

The following suggestions were made:

- remove weeping lovegrass from the watch list for all of the regions, based on the fact that it cannot be sustained without management.
- check with Dennis Martin about the inclusion of paper mulberry
- remove no other plants from the draft regional watch lists at this time.
- qualify the watch lists by adding a statement that these plants are non-native and may have been planted for grazing or other purposes. Karen indicated that she had some wording that should work for this.
- remove the asterisk and asterisk definition from each regional list (which had been a qualifier added by Bruce originally).
- add giant salvinia to the watch list for the Kiamichi (southeast) Country list.
- mark the lists as “draft” and a statement should be added as to how the lists were developed, before they are distributed any further to board members or other stakeholders for review and comment.
- Make the lists into a table format for ease of use. Lara volunteered to put the lists into a table format.

Jay will make these changes to the lists and send them out to the group.

The cost of invasive plant management and the number of acres affected was briefly discussed as important information to have, know and use, per the last board meeting. Jay said that he doesn't have access to much information/data on this subject. Priscilla indicated that she has worked on it some and has a few ideas and leads to check out. This is a difficult topic to get arms around and find enough good data. Priscilla will talk with Dr. Chad Settles of the University of Tulsa about this more.

Policy - Marla

Marla is working on a letter to Ag Secretary Reese, but it awaits completion.

Marla discussed HB 2900 (by Rep Morrisette and Sen Wyrick), which is in the state legislature currently. It calls for the Eastern Red Cedar Registry Board to be reassigned from the Dept of Ag to the Dept of Commerce. It also contained a new-law Section 5, which would require absentee landowners to control red cedar on their property or

they would have to pay for a government agency to do that work. This Section 5 has been removed from HB 2900. Marla provided a copy of the bill to the board. She also provided proposed new wording for Section 5 of the bill, which would encourage certain counties to provide a pamphlet to property owners educating them about reasons to reduce red cedars. The board reviewed Marla's wording and had no significant comments to make to it. Tim said he would talk with Sen Wyrick about getting this new wording inserted into the bill.

Regarding OkIPC's 501(c)(3) non-profit status, Jay reported that he had contacted the attorney that had provided low bid on the work previously and he is working on it. The goal is to have this application submitted by the summer meeting of the board.

Education - Chadwick

Chadwick was not able to attend the meeting, so there was no report on citizen science.

Priscilla reported on her visit with the Texas Invasive Plant Council meeting. In Texas, Texasinvasives.org is a separate organization, with its own executive director and staff, and serves as the clearinghouse for invasives information. The group covers all taxa and is composed of the TXIPC and multiple agencies, who united through MOUs between agencies. The board discussed whether OkIPC will eventually include taxa other than plants, and it was felt that we need to "get our feet under us" first. The board thought the Texas model was a good one for Oklahoma to shoot for in the future. Russell suggested that we think about a regional (multi-state) invasives species group, but all agreed that we should let someone else start that project.

Chadwick had prepared a success story document on cogongrass. The board discussed reviewing it and placing it on the OkIPC website. Curtis will prepare something similar for hydrilla, and it too can go on the OkIPC website.

Karen has a student who will prepare an inventory of the presence of callery pears in the state (by county) and will solicit this information from each county.

Karen has two students who are preparing information for a fact sheet on kudzu. An additional 60-70 fact sheets on Oklahoma invasive plants are being done, both new and revisions to existing, and should be done by June. A grad student will compile all of the fact sheets into a single document.

Annual Meeting – Karen

The annual meeting will be held on June 17th as a Field Day. The meeting will begin at the Education Center, and a bus will take attendees from Stillwater to Lake Carl Blackwell. There, Curtis will talk about zebra mussels and Dwayne Elmore will talk about the effects of eastern red cedar on lesser prairie chickens. Lunch will be back at the Education Center and will feature a keynote speaker. Gene Miller of the National Wild Turkey Federation may talk about cooperative weed management associations. The afternoon will include visits to two other sites near Stillwater.

Priscilla distributed a draft budget for the meeting based on varying numbers of attendees. There was discussion of splitting the group into two if there are more than 70 attendees. The board agreed that it did not want to limit the number of attendees.

The use of water bottles was discussed (disposable vs reusable) and the group elected to go with disposable bottles with an OkIPC label.

Registration fees were reviewed. The board decided upon a fee of \$50 for adults (higher than last year because of bus cost) and \$20 for students – Tim made a motion that these registration fees be adopted and Jay seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

A poster contest for students was discussed since those had been held at previous annual meetings. The board wanted to continue the tradition of such a contest, and agreed to use the same prize structure as last year. Tim mentioned possibly asking industry representatives to sponsor prizes and act as judges.

Regarding sponsors, Priscilla distributed a list of potential sponsors and a draft sponsor request letter, which had sponsorship levels defined, that could be sent to sponsor candidates. Additional sponsors were discussed and board members were assigned to call sponsors as a follow up the letters.

Membership – Priscilla

Priscilla made a motion that meeting registration fees cover membership dues, eliminating membership dues per se, with those memberships remaining in place until notified by the member. Karen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Priscilla mentioned that website development continues.

Karen discussed training that had been requested by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF) for its staff that will be doing forest inventories. They want to learn about invasive, non-woody plants – OkIPC will provide the training in May /June. Likewise, Rebecca Pace requested an invasive plants presentation on May 17. Priscilla will cover this. OkIPC's name is getting out there!

Treasurer's Report – Chadwick Cox

No report

Stakeholder Meetings – Jay

A meeting with horticulture industry representatives was organized by Mike Schnelle at OSU. The purpose was to initiate a conversation between OkIPC and that industry to discuss where each side is coming from and determining how we can work together. The industry people had some issues with our Dirty Dozen list – they did not agree with all that were listed. They also wanted to provide edits to the information about plants on our website, with the possibility that it could be used for education of consumers at the nurseries toward making better plant selection choices. The meeting went through an anticipated “venting “ stage, but it did not have insurmountable differences arise. There look to be possible ways in which the two groups can work together toward the reduction of truly invasive plant species that have been sold through nurseries in the past. Future meetings and patience will be needed for additional advances on this front. Both sides agree that we want to do what we can to prevent the introduction and further spread of invasive plants.

Poster Distribution – Priscilla

Priscilla announced that 10,000 copies of our Dirty Dozen posters have been delivered from the printer. She brought packets of 200 each for board members who want them for distribution. The group began to develop a list of potential recipients of the posters:

- Extension Service, NRCS, Master Gardeners, OSU System – Karen is taking 800 to give to these groups.
- Ag in Classrooms – Tim will visit with these people about distribution there.
- Conservation Day at the Capital – Priscilla will contact Darrell Dominick for a booth next year.
- ODWC regional offices
- grain elevators
- school districts

Karen will continue to develop the distribution list for board use.

Meeting adjourned at 12:16 pm.

Submitted by Russell Stevens and Jay Pruett

THE OKLAHOMA INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE OFFICERS' & BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
11 JULY 2014

Karen Hickman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Members Karen Hickman, Jay Pruett, Marla Peek, Chad Cox, Tonya Dunn, Curtis Tackett, Dennis Martin, Russell Stevens, Tim Bartram, Priscilla Crawford, Chad Cummings were present. Guests Steve Thompson, Elizabeth Nguyen and Jeremy Seiger were also in attendance.

A motion was made and passed to accept the meeting minutes from March 14, 2014 without correction.

Science Committee Report

Jay Pruett reported for the Science Committee. Jay will have the regional watch lists in draft form for review by August 1. Karen Hickman volunteered her students to put information in a table format. Regarding the costs of invasive plant management, Jay reports not having much information; Priscilla Crawford said she will follow up with Dr. Chad Settles for more information.

Policy Committee Report

Marla Peek reported for the Policy Committee. Marla discussed concern about sending the letter to key legislators and to Ag Secretary; however passing out the Dirty Dozen posters was discussed as still being a good idea. Marla asked for thoughts concerning identifying regulatory and legislative additions, and asked what OkIPC might want legislators to do. Karen Hickman handed out short term and long term goals as a reminder; previous thoughts were for the letter to convince state legislature to propose a bill to establish a working group that will develop a state management plan. Proposing funding, publicizing a new invasive species, and being more visible were also discussed. Asking for assistance was decided as not being a good tactic; this group is to develop invasive plant species management plan and present it. Karen will come up with management plan examples to use as a go-by; Chad Cummings offered to write up draft plan after the model that Karen sends and Marla offered to write policy part of draft management plan. The deadline for the draft Oklahoma Invasive Plant Management Plan (or ideas at the least) is prior to the next BOD meeting in October. The Council also decided to get a booth at the state's Conservation Fire Day on March 23, 2015 to hand out posters instead of sending them with the letter to legislators. The booth is at no cost to the Council.

Jay Pruett reported that he is working on the Council's 501c3 status; the current lawyer in Altus, OK is not returning calls and Jay discussed finding someone local. Online application of 501c3 was discussed and Jay will look into it. The estimated cost if OkIPC is able to accomplish online was estimated at \$400.

Education Committee Report

Chad Cox reported for the Education Committee. Chad reported that he gives occasional talks and the Callery Pear paper (by Zoe Cooper, OSU – NREM) was handed out to the BOD.

Priscilla Crawford reported that she, Lara Souza, and Elizabeth Nguyen have been part of a pilot project that trains groups of people on specific species. So far, they have trained two groups of park naturalists and "Walks and Talks" are being set up. They have made a packet with information and have developed a new website (www.okinvasives.org) for the project. Priscilla

proposed to take off education aspect from the OkIPC website and just have the new website that has the educational information about the state's invasive species, etc. She also proposed to have a link of the new website on OkIPC's website and vice versa. Priscilla will send out an email to the Board to vote on the proposal; the deadline will be posted in the email.

Linking to other state websites (like ODAFF) to the new website was also discussed as the next logical step for OkIPC's vision of being a data clearinghouse. Elizabeth will present the idea to ODAFF, Russell Stevens will present to the Noble Foundation, Curtis Tackett will present idea to ODWC, and Dennis Martin said establishing links to the Cooperative Extension can be done. Priscilla will contact agencies to confirm.

Karen will email the list of species for which she will put together fact sheets for; they will contain the type of info found in the Callery Pear paper. The content will go through peer review. The first set will be about 25 – 30 species which are considered ornamental/horticulture species.

Chadwick Cox mentioned the success story of cogon grass has been turned in, but is not up on website yet; this species is not in OK but it has been successfully controlled in southeast U.S.

Curtis Tackett will do a success story for hydrilla by the next Board Meeting in October.

Membership Committee Report

Priscilla Crawford reported for the Membership and Public Relations Committee. Priscilla reported no new members; membership is tracked by who signs up for the eNewsletter and there are 153 members to date. Priscilla also reported that over half of the members are opening the eNewsletter and reading it. In the eNewsletter, Priscilla puts information about courses and workshops coming up; the eNewsletter is not on a schedule and is sent as needed. Priscilla invited any information that she can promote in the eNewsletter to be given to her.

Annual Meeting Committee Report

Priscilla Crawford reported for the Annual Meeting Committee. Priscilla reported that there was no field meeting due to low registration. Dennis, Karen, and Priscilla previously discussed among themselves why there was low interest/registration, and the following were thoughts: topics had been covered in other events (such as cedar control), field meeting was too much work, OkIPC did not offer early registration incentive, and perhaps June is a busy month for people. Priscilla mentioned registration for the annual meeting dropping over the years, but not enough data to figure out trend. Confusion with OkIPC's Annual Meeting and Ok Pest Action Council's meeting was discussed as a possibility and agreed by the Council to be a good idea; Priscilla will contact OKPAC for idea of doing a joint annual meeting next year. The Council also decided not to do field days at the annual meetings.

Nomination Committee

Karen Hickman reported that Tim Bartram and Darrel Dominick will be stepping down from BOD; Tim recommended Steve Thompson to replace him and Priscilla nominated Elizabeth Nguyen to replace Darrel. Karen appointed Elizabeth to replace Darrel and made a motion to nominate Curtis, Dennis, and Steve Thompson to join the Board. Jay Pruett seconded the motion and all were in favor. Priscilla will send out email for official vote.

Treasurer's Report

Chad Cox reported for the Treasurer's Report. Chad passed out the report; there is a balance of \$9,145.95 as of today. A motion was made and passed to approve the Treasurer's Report.

New business discussed:

Karen mentioned obtaining information for kudzu from State Parks, Nature Preserves, Cooperatives, OG&E, and other entities in order for students to obtain information, sample, and map kudzu in Oklahoma. Karen will send out an email asking for information.

Regarding the Dirty Dozen poster, a comment was made that OSU Ag Committee put out a press release and there was an email that came back that asked what was supposed to be done with the information (on the poster). This prompted discussion and resulted in the Council agreeing that there should be about a half a page of information sent out with the posters on what to do with the poster's information. Karen will have students write up the information (encouraging not to plant it and to report it if seen, etc...) and send out in ".pdf" form. Karen will craft a statement referring the reader to learn more at the new website (okinvasives.org), and add a control component (management strategy/resources).

Dwayne Elmore, with Rural Resource Extension, has funded printing posters, Karen has ordered water bottles with OkIPC logo info, banners of the Dirty Dozen poster and two table top versions of the posters have been ordered. Dwayne also has funding for mailing the posters; OkIPC will send the posters to various agencies with letter (half page to a page informational letter). Chad will hand out 100 -150 to the OK Cattlemen's Association.

Curtis mentioned there is space available at the ODWC Expo on Sept 27 – 28, 2014; Karen will email students in her invasive species class to volunteer. There will be a sign up sheet for those who want a poster mailed to them. A copy of the poster on back of 11x8.5" sign in sheet will be example for public; Curtis is to email Karen for reminder.

Tonya Dunn is to get the draft minutes to Karen Hickman as soon as possible after meetings so that she may review and send out reminders accordingly; a deadline of July 25th was given.

The next BOD meeting will be in October; Karen Hickman will email another meeting poll to determine best date for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tonya N. Dunn, OkIPC Secretary

THE OKLAHOMA INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE OFFICERS' & BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
18 DECEMBER 2014

Priscilla Crawford called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. Members Jay Pruett, Marla Peek, Chadwick Cox, Chad Cummings, Tonya Dunn, Russell Stevens, Steve Thompson, Lara Souza, and Curtis Tackett were present.

Minor corrections to the November 3, 2014 BOD meeting minutes were discussed. A motion was made and passed to adopt the meeting minutes from November 3, 2014 with minor corrections incorporated.

Science Committee Report

Jay Pruett reported for the Science Committee. After the last BOD meeting, Jay reviewed documentation from Bruce Hoagland and verified that the beefsteak plant went through the initial and appropriate filters as the other plants on the Watch List; the draft Watch List now includes the beefsteak plant. Since the beefsteak plant (*Perilla frutescens*) is also commonly known as perilla mint, that common name will be added on the Watch List and to the previous meeting's minutes. Chad Cummings reported that the Noble Foundation's website lists common names of plant species; Jay will check that website for other common names for the species that are listed on the Watch List and include those on the list as well.

It was decided that all three thistles detailed in Oklahoma's Noxious Weed Law (musk thistle, Scotch thistle, and Canada thistle) should be represented on either the Dirty Dozen list or the Watch List. The musk thistle is on the Dirty Dozen list and the Scotch thistle is currently on the Watch List; therefore, the Canada thistle will be added to the Watch List as well. While not currently reported in Oklahoma, the Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) will include a footnote as such, and the region of Oklahoma for the noxious weed will be listed as Red Carpet Country, as this region is the most likely pathway of the species into the state. Also discussed, in keeping with the standard of not duplicating species on both of the lists, Russian olive and hydrilla will be removed from the Watch List. A note will be made on the Watch List that states that the list is a secondary level list to the Dirty Dozen list. All genus and species names will be italicized and a date will be added to the Watch List as well. A motion was made and passed to approve the changes made to the Watch List during this meeting. Chad Cummings will change the Draft Oklahoma Invasive Plant Species Management Plan (MP) to reflect the species on both lists.

Jay reported that OkIPC got 501(c)(3) status approval and it is effective as of the date of application, which was November 2, 2014. He will redo the incorporation of the Council with the state. OkIPC's Federal ID number is 26-3051709. With 501(c)(3) status, receipts for donations will suffice for the taxpayer's reporting purposes; no letters will be mailed out. For online registration to the Annual Meeting, Priscilla Crawford will work on a way to provide registrant an itemized receipt, as it is believed that the conference part of the meeting is not tax deductible; however, the membership portion of the total cost of the registration is deductible.

Chad Cox will file a 990 IRS form and explore the option of changing financial items to calendar year from the fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) that is currently used.

Regarding the costs of invasive plant management, Jay reported he has asked The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Preserve staff for a cost estimate. The information provided to him will include a cost per acre and it will be reported at the next board meeting.

Policy Committee Report

Lara Souza reported that she reserved a booth for the Council at the Conservation Day at the Capitol on March 23, 2015. OkIPC will man the booth and the Dirty Dozen posters will be handed out. Karen Hickman, Lara, and Priscilla will be there; all Council members are welcome as well.

While reserving the booth at the Capitol, OkIPC was offered to participate in the Annual State Meeting on Feb 22 – 24, 2015 at the Reed Center in Midwest City, OK. The Annual State Meeting is a combination of the Association of Conservation Districts and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. Steve Thompson reported that Monday, Feb 23 would be the fullest day. Lara and Priscilla can man the booth; Jay may be able to assist. Lara will arrange the booth and send out an email to the Council for participation. Priscilla will develop new information signage for the board display at the booth.

Chad Cummings reported on the Draft Oklahoma Invasive Plant Species Management Plan (MP). Chad reviewed the rationale behind using Georgia's and Minnesota's state plans, as well as the National Invasive Species Management Plan, as go-bys while developing Oklahoma's Invasive Plant Species MP. Chad reviewed areas to focus on for Council members' comments. Priscilla reported that when Bruce Hoagland finalizes the total invasive plant species list for Oklahoma for publication, it will have rankings to incorporate into the MP if needed. It was decided that Council members should use the Track Changes feature (in MSWord) for the commenting function of the MP; Chad requested putting the commenter's initials and the date into the title for each set of comments sent to him. Council member comments are requested to be submitted before the next BOD meeting in the first quarter of 2015.

Education Committee Report

Chadwick Cox reported for the Education Committee. He reported that Citizen Science has been taken over by OkInvasives.org but that he is still willing to give presentations. Priscilla reported that the Citizen Science part of the OkInvasives' website is slow and that there has been a lack of follow through with reporting after she gave presentations to State Park Naturalists and Park Managers. Priscilla updated security on the website's form so the spam reports that she and Chadwick Cox have been getting will stop.

Chadwick mentioned the success story of cogon grass has been turned in, but is not up on the website yet. There is an update to the cogon grass story, Chad will research and get the information to Priscilla. Priscilla Crawford will then put the story up on the OkInvasives' website. Curtis Tackett will have the hydrilla success story to the Council soon.

Membership and Public Relations Committee Report

Priscilla Crawford reported for the Membership Committee. Priscilla reported 165 members; membership is tracked by who signs up for the eNewsletter. She has determined that one-third to one-half of the electronic newsletters are opened for a given mailing. She also mentioned that the website has been updated recently.

Priscilla developed an official agreement form for partnerships with entities with the OkInvasives.org website via Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (though the actual form says 'Agreement.'). Currently, the Oklahoma Biological Survey and the Oklahoma Natural Areas Registry have MOUs with OkIPC in place. The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife, Oklahoma Pest Action Council (OPAC), and TNC will be signing an MOU; Priscilla asked for ideas of other entities (agencies, burn associations, professional organizations, and non-profits) to be contacted regarding this opportunity. Suggestions included: Oklahoma Native Plant Society, Society for Range Management, Wildlife Society and the Oklahoma Prescribed Fire Council, among others.

Priscilla reported that the OkIPC website has moved to a WordPress website. The site is cleaner and has updated info. The pages of the old website will be deleted before the end of the year. OkIPC still has same domain name and is paid up for another year; Priscilla suggested registering OkIPC.org for \$25 per year.

Annual Meeting Committee Report

Priscilla Crawford reported for the Annual Meeting Committee. The combined Annual Meeting with OPAC will be held on March 13, 2015 at the South Central Climate Science Center in Norman, OK. The venue is free for the meeting. The Center will offer a tour of the facility. A box lunch will be provided by OkIPC and OPAC and prizes will be given to students for the poster and oral portions of the meeting. Eric Rebek (OSU) will pay for registration of out-of-state attendees and for students presenting at the meeting.

This year's Annual Meeting will be one day and consist of several presentations; no concurrent sessions will be held this year. Priscilla has confirmed the following speakers (and their respective topic): Gene Miller, National Wild turkey Federation (Cooperative Weed Management Areas, or CWMAs), Allen Knutson (biological control of salt cedar), Scott Johnson, Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge (management of invasive plants throughout the Refuge), and Curtis Tackett is asking researchers from OSU to speak on the risk assessment project for Oklahoma lakes and zebra mussels. Other topics to possibly include (but not confirmed yet): feral cats, crop pests, climate change effects on invasives, and the invasive earthworm.

OkIPC has been invited to the Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference on February 12 – 13, 2015. Priscilla and Karen will not be able to be in attendance; Priscilla will send out the form to the council and ask for OkIPC representation at the conference. Jay said that he would be attending the conference and could represent OkIPC

Treasurer's Report

Chad Cox reported for the Treasurer's Report. Chad stated that the balance is the same as reported at the last BOD meeting: \$9,145.95 as of today.

New Business

There are plenty of Dirty Dozen posters left; Russell Stevens requested posters for the Trade Show in Norman. Russell will also get the big poster for the show as well. Also, the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting will be February 23-24, in Midwest City.

Marla Peek reported on new state officials in the Capitol. Rep. John Enns is the new House of Representatives Chair of the Agriculture & Rural Development Committee and Rep. Scott Biggs is the Vice Chair. In the Senate, Senator Eddie Fields is the Chair of the Agriculture & Rural Development Committee and Senator Ron Justice, Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources, is a member of the Agriculture & Rural Development Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tonya N. Dunn, OkIPC Secretary