

OPWG ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA & NOTES

Date: January 18, 2018

Time: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Location: RIM Park, 2001 University Avenue E, Waterloo

Time	Agenda Item	Lead
9:30	Doors open <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All attendees are asked to sign-in at the door 	
10:00 – 10:10	Open Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome & housekeeping OPWG Committee Updates 	– Janice Gilbert, Karen Alexander
10:10 – 10:20	Ontario <i>Phragmites</i> Working Group 2017 Review	– Colin Cassin
10:20 – 11:30	Water-safe herbicide updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature Conservancy of Canada (20 mins) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (10 mins) McMaster University (20 mins) BASF (10 mins) Monsanto (10 mins) 	– Eric Cleland – Francine MacDonald – Rebecca Rooney – Scott McDonald – Andrew Russell
11:30 – 12:00	Question and Answer period	– Janice Gilbert
12:00 – 12:30	Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$20.00 cash / person Receipts are available upon request 	
12:30 – 1:00	Ontario wide control programs (5 – 10 mins each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Transportation Green Stream Lawn and Vegetation Management Invasive <i>Phragmites</i> Control Centre Pollinative 	– TBD – Steve Ford – Janice Gilbert – Rick Tusch
1:00 – 2:30	Ontario Community Control Programs (5 – 10 mins each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lambton Shores <i>Phragmites</i> Community Group Ipperwash <i>Phrag.</i> Fighters Oliphant Fish Islands Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority North Bruce Biosphere Severn Sound Environmental Association City of London Winter Spider Eco-Consulting Georgian Bay Forever 	– Nancy Vidler – Sandra Marshall – Leslie Wood – Tineasha Brenot – Kate Monk – Katherine McLeod – Anastasia McClymont – Linda McDougall – Judith Jones – David Sweetnam/Heather Sargent
2:30 – 3:00	Question and Answer Period	– Janice Gilbert
3:00 – 3:10	Basin-wide Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great Lakes <i>Phragmites</i> Collaborative 	– Karen Alexander
3:10 – 3:45	OPWG 2018 Goals and Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glyphosate safety and consistent messaging Province wide education campaign Information Sharing Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects on the Go Google Groups 	– Janice Gilbert – Karen Alexander
3:45 – 4:00	Closing Remarks	– Janice Gilbert, Karen Alexander

MEETING NOTES

OPENING REMARKS & OPWG COMMITTEE UPDATES

Janice Gilbert and Karen Alexander welcomed the group.

1. Kellie Sherman has accepted a new position with the Canadian Council on Invasive Species
2. Colin Cassin will replace Kellie as staff support for OPWG
3. This is a Co-Chair election year. To provide some time Colin to learn about the OPWG, the co-chair elections will be postponed until March. Interested members should review the description of the Co-Chair role in the updated Terms of Reference (TOR). Karen will send out the TOR's again with a call for nominations via the OPWG Google Group
4. The members list needs to be updated. OPWG still has Advisory Members and Voting Members and we need to update our list to ensure we have everyone on the right members list. Karen will send out a survey asking for you to select the list you wish to be on. *Note* you cannot be nominated for a co-chair position if you are not a Voting Member.*

OPWG 2017 REVIEW

1. Project on the Go updates
 - a. Check out the updates at www.opwg.ca
 - b. All members should be sharing their projects through this page
 - c. There is a new picture sharing feature
2. Media Campaign with Don Huff and Ecostrategy
 - a. OPWG hired Ecostrategy to deliver a media campaign in Ontario
 - b. 6 different media releases were prepared and picked up by over 300 contacts, ranging from large to small publications. The releases were picked up by 7 media publications
3. OPWG Google Group
 - a. Join the group by emailing opwg+subscribe@googlegroups.com
 - b. Use the group to share information, ask questions, and communicate with each other
4. OPWG Postcards
 - a. Completed another print run
 - b. Use these cards as handouts at events
 - c. Any member can request a stack of postcards (email colin@oninvasives.ca)
5. Terms of Reference
 - a. Updated in June 2017
6. Budget
 - a. OPWG has ~\$1500.00 to spend by March 31, 2018

WATER-SAFE HERBICIDE UPDATES

See PDF presentations.

Highlights:

1. The 2018 Emergency Use Registration (EUR) was approved and control work will continue at Rondeau and Long Point area. The herbicide used is Round-up Custom, a glyphosate product.

2. Dr. Rebecca Rooney (University of Waterloo) continues to monitor the fate and effects of glyphosate and surfactant in these areas. Someone illegally applied glyphosate near a control site for the research study. This activity undermined the monitoring and EUR program.
3. BASF has two products that can be used on Phragmites: Arsenal Powerline & Habitat. Arsenal Powerline is available in Canada for dry sites. Habitat is only available in the United States but an application to register Habitat in Canada was submitted to the Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) in 2015. Have PMRA Research an authorization to aerially apply Habitat to control Phragmites on Fighting Island this year. This island is located on the Canadian side of the Detroit River and is owned by BASF.
4. Monsanto continues to support the EUR programs that are using Round-up Custom. They have completed a pre-submission consultation request with the PRMA in early summer, 2017 and have not heard back from the PMRA on data requirements. They do not know what the PMRA will ask for. Monsanto has been bought by Bayer. The company is interested in registering Round-up Custom for use on more than Phragmites in Canada. The label in the USA is very wide-ranging.

Question & Answer period

What can OPWG do to help the registration process?

Petitions for project registration requests are the lower priority at PMRA; they focus a lot of time on the re-evaluation of already approved products. Letters from the OPWG probably won't help.

What will the label for Round-up custom have for aquatic buffers?

The science group within the PMRA will address this question

Why is Habitat still in the registration process?

The company has not been pushing the registration because of the EUR program that is using glyphosate. They have been answering all the questions as they come from the PMRA.

With an organization like NCC participating in the EUR process, how are they and their boards protected from any unintended consequences? E.g. SAR deaths?

Through the permitting process, there is recognition of potential impacts. The permit application requires a lot of detail to ensure the risks are minimized, the DFO works with the applicant through the process. In the end, the permit exempts you from the Act, but any accidental deaths must be reported.

Has anyone been fined for Phragmites programs that have caused accidental death of SAR?

Not yet.

ONTARIO WIDE CONTROL PROGRAMS

Ministry of Transportation

See PowerPoint.

- Controlling Phragmites with herbicides, enhanced mowing (anything wider than 2 m off the shoulder), and ditching (removes Phragmites from culverts and drainage ditches).

Challenges: Fragmented patches, tractors get stuck, adjacent landowners, wet ditches (especially in Northern Ontario and especially in 2017).

Green Stream

No PowerPoint

- Green Stream is currently focusing on municipal road control programs and getting into chemical-free work with the Invasive *Phragmites* Control Centre.

- Green Stream has been working with municipalities across Southern Ontario. Service requests for the Toronto / Simcoe areas have started coming in.
- Challenges: *Phragmites* does not stop at municipal borders and programs often leave stands partially controlled.

Invasive *Phragmites* Control Centre

See PowerPoint

- New not-for-profit in Ontario with the goal to facilitate effective, efficient, environmentally responsible management of *Phragmites*.
- Activities include improving control methods, research and development of new chemical-free control methods, with plans to deliver an early detection/rapid response program and to design and facilitate training programs to teach others how to implement integrated management programs.
- Challenges: a new invasive plant called Silvergrass that outcompetes *Phragmites* and is present in Ontario

Pollinative

No PowerPoint

- New non-profit in Ontario focused on restoration of pollinator habitat and corridors across Ontario
- Reaching 40 sites, most sites are 1 – 2 acres along highways, including the 401
- They have developed light-weight concrete dwellings for solitary bees called “Bee Bricks”
- Anyone in Ontario could access their services to improve pollinator habitat; they are focusing on building connections and corridors across the Province
- Challenges: *Phragmites* control is often necessary at the start and keeping *Phragmites* out is an ongoing challenge.
- Idea: they would like to link individuals into larger programs to ensure *Phragmites* and other invasive species do not invade pollinator sites. Perhaps an adopt-a-ditch program would be a good fit.
- Question: Are they worried about mortality rates along corridors? Answer: The bees are already using these corridors; Pollinative is trying to improve their habitat.

ONTARIO COMMUNITY CONTROL PROGRAMS

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority

No Powerpoint

- Started *Phragmites* control in 2012 as a part of their overall invasive species programming
- Priorities:
- *Phragmites* control on Conservation lands using an integrated roll, burn, herbicide approach
 - Roadside *Phragmites* control services for the County of Huron; this started 3 years ago and the *Phragmites* in ditches in Huron County is now pretty much under control.
 - ABCA provides support to community groups and see an increase in *Phragmites* control because of the work of community groups and public pressure

Lessons:

- Community engagement is key
- Early control is always the most effective
 - Grand Bend, got on it early, \$300 / year for touch-up
 - Port Franks, is still adding 0's to this figure easily

- Do the work at the watershed scale; they are finding that old online ponds contribute to *Phragmites* downstream, and *Phragmites* growing in roadside ditches are link to stands on the beaches and shorelines
- Responsible herbicide application needs to be a priority; proper applications are 90 – 100 % effective
- *Phragmites* is popping up in constructed wetlands so it is very important to keep contractor equipment clean

Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group

- Continuing *Phragmites* control efforts in the Lambton Shores area using a combination of spading, herbicide and cutting-under-water
- The Lambton County roadside program is 5 – 6 years old, costs have gone down overtime but Phrag is still on the roadsides where water is present. The municipality, the county, and the MTO are all involved
- Stewardship Rangers came out in summer 2017
- Nature Conservancy of Canada has been very helpful over the past 7 years
- Their Letter of Opinion allowing herbicide use has been renewed for another 5 years

Challenges:

- Port Franks – a very large monoculture cell on NCC and municipal property, both in standing water. This is at the heart of the village and it continues to contaminate other sites
- *Phragmites* growing in shallow water, not deep enough to drown
- Weather events can interrupt control work
- Terrain can cause challenges with the equipment and significantly slow control work
- The removal of biomass
- Finding the funds to keep the project going
- Insurance for the organizations directors

Needs:

- Chemical for aquatic sites
- Upcoming events: March 26, 2018 presentation with J. Gilbert at Kent Essex Golf Superintendents meeting in Windsor and March 27, 2018 presentation with J. Gilbert, Linda McDougall and Steve Ford a GLAGS Golf superintendents meeting in London, Ontario
- Working with the Municipality of Lambton Shores on a program to deal with the proper disposal of *Phragmites* and other invasive plants at the landfill
- Lambton County has just agreed to hire a *Phragmites* coordinator

Ipperwash Phragmites Phighters

- Formed in May 2016 as a community group focused on controlling *Phragmites* on the beach
- Are a subcommittee of the Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group

Activities:

- They have created an educational test pilot area in the dune swales, 0.97 acres where they completed spray and roll control
- Members walked door-to-door to distribute educational doorknob hangers; includes information to call either ABCA or SCRCA for *Phragmites* control on their property for a nominal fee
- Started a website: centreipperwashcommunity.ca and they share the weekly Phrag Friday articles from the Great Lakes *Phragmites* Collaborative

- In spring, they walked along the shoreline and collected Phragmites segments in the strandlines
- They enrolled a site in PAMF in 2017

Challenges:

- Landownership is fragmented along the shore
- Varying deeds with regard to shoreline property boundaries ie. water's edge, high water mark
- Summer residency patterns
- Bad shoreline management in general
- Cost of contractors to undertake the herbicide control

Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation

- *Phragmites* control is currently focused on the Brucedale conservation area
- They have partnered with Enbridge, Bruce Power, Municipality of Kincardine, and Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority
- They have developed a restoration plan for the site that includes education and outreach components, the active removal of Phragmites, and improvements to existing facilities. Monitoring vegetation regrowth is included as well
- Control methods include cutting to drown through program undertaken by IPCC
- Needs:
 - Increased data sharing; EDDmaps is a great platform for GIS data sharing
 - Stronger communications between groups

Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association

- Work in an area of Province where there is no Conservation Authority
- The Bruce is a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve
- They are currently forwarding all the background work required to get control efforts on the ground; this includes mapping of Phragmites
- Community Phrag. Fighters program to acknowledge and support community champions
- Challenges:
 - Transporting the volume of biomass using trucks, and sometimes dump trucks
 - Lack of insurance on water to transport volunteers
- Next steps:
 - Invasive species task force, searching for funds

Severn Sound Environmental Association

- In 2017, SSEA piloted an invasive species program that brings together 8 municipalities
- They completed Phragmites surveys along Tiny beaches and Tiffin Pond and across the Severn Sound area
- Co-hosted a Phragmites workshop with Georgian Bay Forever
- Currently managing Phragmites on two sites: Wahnekewaning Beach and Tiffin Pond
- Next steps:
 - Continued management, participating in PAMF, additional sites in Tay Township, education and outreach, and invasive species municipal working group
- Challenges:
 - Funding for management
 - Getting full support from all 8 municipalities; invasive species are considered an upper tier problem but the county is only managing Phragmites within forests

- Additional resources, learning about other research

City of London

See Powerpoint

- Working with Ontario Invasive Plant Council and the Invasive Phragmites Control Centre
- First city in Ontario to have a City-wide management plan. The plan includes other non-native species

Georgian Bay Forever

- Completing control work in Georgian Bay
- Student employees, placed in partner organizations
- Charities and NGOs are critical for Phragmites control and management
- They are using EDD Maps to report Phragmites occurrences
- Challenges:
 - Volunteers with sustained energy; cutting Phragmites in water is very difficult
 - Signage regulations / language restrictions
 - Varying funding amounts available across municipalities
 - The time it takes to get paperwork together to get the control work on the ground, i.e. provincial parks.
 - Currently trying to work with the National Parks who have a mandate to preserve the natural environment and the language is a barrier because native species are impacted while managing invasive species so they are not currently managing *Phragmites*.

GREAT LAKES BASIN-WIDE PROGRAMS

Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative (GLPC) & the Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework (PAMF)

See Powerpoint

GLPC:

- uses the theory of Collective Impact to align partners and address common challenges and needs.
- currently focused on information sharing and communication activities that include a number of opportunities for members of the OPWG to get involved www.greatlakesphragmites.net

PAMF

- a new initiative of the GLPC that is a decision-support tool for landowners managing Phragmites in various conditions over time.
- combines a predictive model and a monitoring protocol to learn from the various types of management strategies occurring in the basin.
- Anyone managing Phragmites in the basin can participate.
- Training and information sessions will be scheduled for June 2018. Interested participants should join the PAMF list serve to receive regular updates.
- www.greatlakesphragmites.net/pamf

OPWG GOALS AND ACTIVITIES 2018

Glyphosate safety messaging

- OPWG is interested in developing consistent messaging in Ontario. The TOR advocate for water friendly herbicides and there is some interest in developing messaging around the safety of glyphosate so partners across the province can respond to inquiries with consistent messaging.

Do we develop a Position Statement?

Open discussion:

- Messaging should include: Language about not using “home-remedies”, and the need for trained, professionals
- Messaging about the safety of glyphosate is risky, we may end up in an information battle on glyphosate risks/benefits.
- Safety statements are tricky – this should be deferred to manufacturers. It is not our job to defend the safety of the product in the province. This is the job of the Province and the PMRA.
- Some consistent messaging would be helpful, especially for other environmental impacts, responding with “The company says so”, doesn’t always help
- It is Health Canada’s responsibility to ensure the safety of herbicides for Canadians. If they get new information, this sparks re-evaluation.
- There has been one call to the MOECC after all the roadside control programs; communication on the safety of glyphosate might not even be a necessary problem to address.
- The messaging that the MNR uses – managing Phag. requires a toolbox. OPWG should emphasize the impact and destruction that will occur without the tool. Highlight the need for multi-tools, one of them a water safe herbicide used in the right way.
- The amount of effort to defend the position is not available in OPWG

Other Options:

- Talking points – common toolbox among the group.
- Factsheet about Glyphosate itself

Information Sharing Activities

Projects on the Go

- OPWG website Projects on the Go tab is available for partners to share information about their control programs.
- OPWG members are encouraged to use the website
- www.opwg.ca

Google Group

- A OPWG Google Group has been set-up, existing members were auto-added to the group.
- Members can come and go as they please
- A PDF instruction sheet was sent out through the Google Group and will be made available on the website

Appendix: 2018 OPWG AGM Attendance

First	Last	Organization
Kate	Monk	Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
Bob	Baker	Baker Forestry Services, Nursery & Consulting
Sarah	Dollelly	Baker Forestry Services, Nursery & Consulting
Scott	MacDonald	BASF
Stuart	McCartney	Belhaven Horticulture
Laura	Mclennan	Biologic
Kathrine	McLeod	Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association
George	Berenyi	City of Hamilton
Ryan	Moore	City of Hamilton
Linda	McDougall	City of London
Kristen	Vincent	City of Toronto
Bryana	McLaughlin	Credit Valley Conservation Authority
Maya	Basdeo	Delta Waterfowl
Nigel	Buffone	Dow Agrosiences
Kyle	Borrowman	Ducks Unlimited Canada
Margaret	Hulls	Elgin Phragmites Working Group
Isabel	Reid	Elgin Phragmites Working Group
Dan	Lebedyk	Essex Region Conservation Authority
Eric	Giles	Giles Restoration Services
Lindsay	Campbell	Grand River Conservation Authority
Ron	Wu-Winter	Grand River Conservation Authority
Steve	Ford	Green Stream
Rebecca	Ferguson	Grey Sauble Conservation Authority
Elaine	VanDenKieboom	Grey Sauble Conservation Authority
Lynn	Short	Humber College
Nancy	Matthews	Lake Eugenia
Mary	McEwen	Lake Eugenia
Sue	Rietschin	Lake Eugenia
Tineasha	Brenot	Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation
Hannah	Weiebe	Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation
Sandra	Marshall	Lampton Shores Phragmites Community Group
Nancy	Vidler	Lampton Shores Phragmites Community Group
Natalie	Boyd	Ministry of Transportation Ontario
Robin	Cantin	Ministry of Transportation Ontario
Brenda	Carruthers	Ministry of Transportation Ontario
Nadia	Dabagh	Ministry of Transportation Ontario
Kristine	Houston	Ministry of Transportation Ontario
Derek	Illman	Ministry of Transportation Ontario
Kelly	Jansen	Ministry of Transportation Ontario
Barb	Macdonell	Ministry of Transportation Ontario
Erin	Reed	Ministry of Transportation Ontario
Andrew	Russell	Monsanto Canada Inc.

Art	Shannon	N/A
Eric	Cleland	Nature Conservancy of Canada
Heather	Crewe	Ontario Good Roads Association
Colin	Cassin	Ontario Invasive Plant Council
Tom	Cowan	Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Kari	Soetemans	Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Jenny	Fulton	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Michael	Irvine	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Francine	MacDonald	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Jessica	Ferguson	Ontario Nature
Karen	Alexander	Ontario Phragmites Working Group
Janice	Gilbert	Ontario Phragmites Working Group
Rick	Tusch	Pollinative
Bill	Tusch	Pollinative
Marty	Weld	Pollinative
Jennifer	Bowman	Royal Botanical Gardens
JoAnne	Harbinson	Saugeen Conservation
Anna	McClymont	Severn Sound Environmental Association
Steve	Shaw	St. Claire Region Conservation Authority
Paula	Davies	Tod Morden Mills Wildflower Preserve
Anamika	Ray	University of Toronto
Greg	Michalenko	University of Waterloo
Heather	Polowyk	University of Waterloo
Courtney	Robichaud	University of Waterloo
Rebecca	Rooney	University of Waterloo
Sarah	Yuckin	University of Waterloo
Richard	Brewer	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
Dan	Jones	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
Cole	Volkacki	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
Brandon	Williamson	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority