

## **International Poplar Commission**

### **Environmental Applications of Poplar and Willow Working Party**

#### **Minutes of Business Meeting, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2006, Montreal**

The business meeting was held as part of the Working Party workshop held 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June 2006 in Montreal, Canada. The venue was the Institut de Recherche en Biologie Végétale of the Montreal Botanic Gardens.

**Chair:** Jud Isebrands,

**Present:**

Jim Richardson, Ionnis Dimitriou, Tim Volk, Alistair McCracken, Katrin Heinsoo, Scott Laidlaw, Richard Lord, Julia Kuzovkina, William McAlpine, Ian Shield, Nicola Yates, Ryan Hangs, Sasa Orlovic, Andrej Pilipovic, Mauritz Ramstedt, Pajand Nejad, Michel Labrecque, Werther Guidi, Angelo Massacci, Lorenzo Vietto, Case Van Oosten, Jud Isebrands, Drusilla Riddell-Black.

**Apologies:** Kurth Perttu, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

#### **1. Introduction**

Jud Isebrands welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the hosts in Montreal for facilitating the Working Party's visit. He then asked Drusilla Riddell-Black to review the formation of the Working Party and its activities to date, as many of those participating had not been to any previous WP6 meetings.

The Environmental Applications WP was proposed at the 21<sup>st</sup> IPC Session in Portland, Oregon, 2000. The Session asked those interested in forming such a WP to test the level to which such a group would be sustainable. To this end, meetings were held in the UK and Sweden in 2002 and 2003. The WP was ratified by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session in Chile in 2004 and has held meetings in Sweden & Estonia (2005), Northern Ireland (2006) and now the current meeting in Montreal. The focus of previous meetings had been phytoremediation of land contaminated with heavy metals or organic chemicals, wastewater and organic waste management. The current meeting was looking at urban amenity, soil rehabilitation and bank revetment. All the documents from the previous meetings are available on the IPC website (see below). The WP on Environmental Applications is one of the more active IPC working parties.

#### **2. Summary of actions from Business Meeting, May 2006**

##### Next Meeting

An invitation to hold the next meeting at the Montreal Botanic Garden had been extended to the Working Party by Michel Labrecque of the Institute Recherche en Biologie Végétale, At the same time, Larry Smart from the SUNY College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry at Syracuse suggested extending the meeting to include a visit to SUNY. This current meeting was the result of these invitations.

### Working party outputs – topic specific introductory guides

One of the purposes of IPC Working Parties (WP) is to disseminate information about WP topic areas, creating a route by which information flows between the research community and those who can employ the research. A suggestion was put to the May 2006 meeting that a series of topic specific information notes of about 10 pages long and targeted at a non specialist readership, be prepared by the Working Party members. No progress has yet been made on this activity

### COST Action bid

It had been agreed at the business meeting in Northern Ireland that an outline application to the European Commission's COST Action fund for networks should be submitted. Non-EU countries can participate as 'Associates'. The first submission on 31 May 2006 was not successful and it was agreed by members via email that a second submission be made at the next opportunity – March 2007. However, members became aware that another bid was being prepared which sought to cover some of the same subject areas. Consequently, those collating that bid were contacted and it was agreed that the bids should be combined. No information has yet been received about the success or otherwise of that bid.

Actions: Drusilla will follow up to see what progress has been made and report to members via email.

## **3. Website**

Participants were reminded of the existence of the IPC website and the Environmental Applications Working Party's pages within that site. The IPC website has been considerably expanded and improved in recent months by the efforts of Alberto DeLungo and the web address reassigned, making it much easier to find: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/ipc/en/>

Members were asked once again to send material relevant for inclusion in the WP6 web-pages to D. Riddell-Black. These include

- a) details of topic specific case studies for inclusion in the web pages, using the form on the website.
- b) details of their activities for inclusion in the List of Experts, again using the form on the website.
- c) any relevant publications or web links

## **4. Poplar and Willow Book**

Jud Isebrands and Jim Richardson brought everyone up-to-date with progress on the revision of the Poplar and Willow book. The Taxonomy chapter has been completed, peer reviewed and is currently with the IPC editors. It has been a complicated chapter to complete due to the difficulty of obtaining consensus on its content. Many other chapters are well advanced and some are with the reviewers. The Environmental Applications chapter, which is multi-author, would be finished in late summer 2007. The target is to publish the book on the Web in time for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session to be held in Beijing. Translation to the official languages of the IPC plus Chinese and printing as a hard copy may take place, if funds allow and the document is of sufficient quality.

## **5. Future meetings**

Jud Isebrands informed the meeting that the next IPC Session would be held in Beijing, China, the exact date is yet to be confirmed, but it will probably be late September or early October 2008. The next WP6 meeting will be during this event.

The meeting participants were asked whether they felt that annual meetings were possibly too frequent and that now the WP was well established and many links made between individuals and organisations, it may be more appropriate to reduce the frequency to approximately every 18 months. It was suggested that the IUFRO Symposiums could be a possible time to organise a WP6 meeting. However, it was pointed out that these were long and expensive meetings and it would be more difficult to ensure that the topics covered were tightly focused to the activities of WP6. It was agreed that the theme and location of IUFRO meetings should be considered when organising WP6 meeting, but that they should not dictate when and where meetings were held.

The opinion was expressed that following the IPC Session in China, the WP should endeavour to organise a meeting in the Eastern Mediterranean or India to ensure that other topics not yet covered in WP meetings could be focused on, such as combating desertification and shelterbelts and windbreaks. It was agreed that venues should be investigated and any suggestions should be directed to the office bearers.

## **6. Adoption of willows into IPC variety registration scheme**

It was proposed by Julia Kuzovkina that an approach be made to IPC with regard to the registration of willow varieties in the same way as the IPC is responsible for poplar registration. In recent years, the system of registration for poplar has not been well adhered to and she was anxious that a robust system be put in place for willow since there is currently a significant increase in the breeding activity for willow. Responsibility for this currently lies with the *?*, who were delegated this responsibility by the Plant Registration office at the Edinburgh Horticultural Society. Ian Shield queried the role of this body relative to the European Plant Variety Registration Office which provides the legal basis for the protection of Plant Breeders Rights (PBR). However, the IPC registration is one of taxonomy and cultivar authorisation and registration designed purely to maintain nomenclature clarity, and does not impinge on PBRs.

The meeting felt that this was an appropriate role for IPC given the more general adoption of willow into its activities in recent years and Julia said she would pursue the matter with other working parties and the Executive Committee.

## **7. Office Bearers**

Jud notified WP participants that the posts of Chair, Vice Chair and Technical Secretary would become available at the IPC Session and anyone interested in becoming an office bearer should notify the Technical Secretary in order that the appropriate action could be made to hold an election at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session.

Jud Isebrands thanked everyone for attending the business meeting.

*Prepared by:*

*Drusilla Riddell-Black*

*Technical Secretary, Environmental Applications of Poplar and Willow Working Party  
11<sup>th</sup> June 2007.*