

Board Meeting – Athens, GA December 7, 2006

Participants

Tony Pernas, Presiding	Chris Evans, Symposium
Joyce Bender, Vice President & KY EPPC	John Brubaker, SCEPPC
Kristen Allen, Recording	Nancy Fraley, TNEPPC
Lee Patrick, Treasurer	Karen Brown, WW Editor & FLEPPC
Brian Bowen, Past President	Nancy Lowenstien
Chris Farqueron, NPS	Robin Mackie, USFS
Connie Gray, GA EPPC	
Chuck Bargaron, Webpage	

September minutes were unanimously approved with the correction of one spelling error (motioned; Nancy seconded).

Treasurer Report – Lee Patrick

- Current balance:
 - Checking: 16,056.96
 - Savings: \$10,009.00
- Working on tax return; Secured a CPA to do filing for \$500;
- Still waiting on GA, TN and KY for Wildland Weeds Reimbursement check.
- 2006 Symposium - \$16,229.00 gross income; \$418 for credit card processing; \$4863.00 for food and drink; \$4300 on speakers; \$1166 for labor (paid botanical garden people for putting conference together); \$650 for facility (paid out of SE EPPC account before conference): Net income: \$5273 (60% to SE EPPC)
- Went really well; But our income doesn't even cover this year's expenses; So, Georgia might need to think about how not to repeat this pattern in 2008.
- In past years, SE EPPC board had some oversight on the budget of the Symposium, but the last two years it was not carried out. We need to re-visit this strategy to ensure everyone is on the same page.
- GA was planning to cover only one keynote speaker (\$1000). Georgia center is a bit more expensive, but will cover labor (registration, credit cards) and food and is a nice facility; Also, GA has already begun advertising the 2007 meeting. (Advertised in WW and Newsletter) so can hopefully boost attendance.
- 2004 taxes – problem due to accountant checking the “school” box; Had to re-file, but accountant passed away; Had to get an extension, but Tony's Aunt did for free is okay now.

John motioned to approve the treasurer report.

Brian seconded.

Report unanimously approved.

Editor's Report – Karen Brown

- Winter magazine went out this week with CD containing Brazilian Pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) and Chinese Tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*) Management

- Plans (produced by the South Florida Water Management District); However, many of the bulk magazines did not have one as there were not enough produced.
- Meeting and photo contest were advertised with full color ad.
 - Have been having plenty of articles from SE EPPC, so keep them coming but don't worry about soliciting more.
 - Those wanting to advertise have to contact Karen (contact info in magazine and on webpage)

Connie motion to approve Editor's Report

Chris Seconded

Report unanimously approved

Coordinator's Report – Brian Bowen

- Newsletter is done, but will go out next week. Next newsletter will go out in April, then July, and October.
- *NAEPPC Legislation:* (requesting \$15 million for establishment of Cooperative Weed Management Areas (see letter on website)); NA EPPC would like to use NAWAW to begin lobbying and needs to have support of all member organizations, so if your board has not approved/agreed to support, please do so. Brian will send an email out, and each chapter should respond reporting on the status of this approval and identifying key legislators to send letters to;
 - This legislation was selected because it was one that most people would agree with, and so would be easy to achieve unanimous support.
 - Concern was expressed on conflicts of interest on state boards as far as supporting legislation, however Brian and Tony pointed out that that is the point of establishing an EPPC organization in which people could take a stand outside of their career positions; People within state boards that do not want to vote on such things could abstain and the vote could be among those that can vote. Or maybe this should be addressed before people join the board as active, voting members. Or official opinions, etc. could be from the president of the organization rather than members.
 - Brian: We have the opportunity to get involved in creating these. Kate Howell can set up a web-conferencing introduction for boards if necessary. Areas could be based on distribution maps.
- Brian was contacted by Kate Howell of MWIPN who would like us to consider working with them and New England EPPC to develop a Pocket Naturalist Guide (laminated with fold out map; 70-80 species; drawn pictures of plants). If we produce at least 10,000 copies cost is \$1.50 per copy; They have been big sellers and sell at a large mark-up: \$5.95. Could distribute through SE EPPC;
- We can decide how many we want and cost would be proportionate to that. Species highlighted would be negotiated, but would be a lot of overlap between the three regions;
- Discussion followed:

- Karen suggested that we would need to find out if cost includes any distribution to bookstores. This is a big job with many considerations: Have to house product, and collect money (plus shipping and tax);
 - Chuck: Cost seems a bit high per copy. Lamination may increase the cost; Could probably do ourselves for same price; But Brian is hoping it won't require a lot of work with everyone collaborating.
 - Joyce: Kentucky is already working to distribute a guide they developed and wouldn't want to distribute another one;
 - Could avoid shipping costs by just selling them at meetings; Brian suggests exploring it and getting questions answered before turning it down. Maybe, instead of looking at it as a money maker, look at it as something out there that looks nice and has our name on it. And is a nice collaboration with regional EPPC organizations;
 - Robin: need to look at who you're marketing to; I wouldn't take in the field... too limited. Brian: would be more for people that know very little about plants; John: Likes the idea of guides, but would like to support one that is specific to our region; Chuck: not that big a deal to create a guide; So if publisher doesn't put guide in Books-a-Million next to audobon guides or in NPS visitor centers, then maybe we should walk away (hardest part would be agreeing on species, etc).
 - Karen: is a big deal to put guide together;
 - Brian: Communications committee (Chuck, Karen, Kristen, Brian, Chris) should to look at this proposal and others;
- Communications Committee should also come up with an up-to-date SE EPPC membership brochure. There was a discussion on whether individual states should have own brochures instead of a regional one; For example, key Georgia species are on Georgia's brochure; Brian suggested that we can have both a state and regional; Will have ready by 07 Symposium.
 - Chuck: need another 2 or 3 people to round out the communications committee. Tony would like to nominate Chris Ferqueron. There will also be an oversight committee to make sure things are consistent and we're sending out a united message; Nancy would like to nominate Carrie Miller (is active on TNEPPC for publications, etc.)
 - *Executive Director:* We need to get a committee involved at this point to move forward; Brian started looking at what position would entail and is too much to have entire board look at; Tony provided background for those that had not been there for past discussions; Brian envisions Cal EPPC being a good model: they have 3 funded employees; and Symposiums are always cost efficient; Grants are pursued and received; There is an education and outreach position that is grant funded;
 - We should set up a committee and establish a timeline for bringing in director (include CalEPPC director initially for advice); Chuck: may cut costs to find someone who is already at a University or something similar and is grant funded, that way benefits and office expenses are covered already. Karen: might also want

to talk to Janet Clark (in Montana Invasive Plant Council) who is also a paid position. Brian will chair committee; Members: Tony, (Will call Doug Johnson, Janet Clark, Faith Campbell) Joyce, Keith Douce; Committee will meet before next meeting;

- We should provide a director's manual for board members to keep everybody coordinated on; by-laws, strategic plan, current budget, officer responsibilities and all positions; Can replace things as they are out-dated, but could be handed to new board members; Should also include committees and their chairs; Contact information for everyone; SOP's for committees (mission, goals and objectives)
- Tony and Brian will send out an email with all up to date email addresses (webpage is correct); Please get on listserv
- There will be a SE EPPC article on NAJournal (provides history and what we're doing)

Athens Symposium – Chris Evans and Elaine Nash

- Call for Papers was advertised in WW and Newsletter; Getting a lot of response;
- Need to get registration information out, but have to nail down costs.
- Theme is Cooperation.
- Elaine has had a difficult time determining numbers, but included 100 rooms at GA center (facility is \$25/day per person, but includes 2 breaks and coffee in morning);
- Other costs are as follows: \$6100 for food; \$1000 per ticket for drink or cash bar for no cost; Cars will pay their own parking to decrease cost; \$35 per table for poster board displays; \$5 for boards for posters (would be donated) \$125 per vendor table but we would charge them \$300. Buses are \$55 each, but could use some vans from UGA to cut these costs (will pursue this).
- Sponsorship should be in-kind, and other expenses should be rolled into registration.
- Photocopying will not be included in GA Center costs. Speakers will need to get hand-outs in ahead of time for copying.
- Can save \$500 by bringing our own laptops and projectors; Projector will be supplied in big room only;
- Need to have Registration at \$105-125 to cover expenses.
- Have a donation for one boxed lunch;
- Policy is that registration covers expenses and sponsorship is revenue, so we should adhere to this;
- Should have a cut-rate registration fee (\$95) that ends on January 15th, then it goes up to \$135; That way we know who is coming early;
- Need to aggressively pursue sponsorship; Should ask UGA and College of Charleston; Need to contact chemical companies (need numbers); Tony will call USFWS;

- Should charge \$15 for field trip to cover bus; Elaine will get a per person cost to see exactly what we need to cover all expenses without sponsorship;
- Need a registration form by next Friday. Chris will send out registration form by email on a monthly basis. With brief outline of meeting;
- If anyone knows any good speakers, send along to Chris.

Website– Chris Evans and Chuck Barger

- Any comments or suggestions on improving the webpage should be sent to Chuck for discussion in Communications Committee;
- Webpage is averaging 100,000 hits per month (15,000-25,000 unique sites). We need to work on getting our site linked on some of the more imported webpages that are appropriate (NAA; NAEPPC; etc.)
- Chuck suggested that we only pay him \$600 instead of \$1000 because he is losing the difference in taxes and if he is paid less than 600 he doesn't get taxed on it. Lee will look into this.

Invasive Plant Reporting/Mapping-

- ALEPPC invited Chris and Chuck to do a series of workshops across the state; Did 3 with a total of 150 people; Presentations are available on the database system; Went into detail on mapping methodology and updated report form for AL;
- Google maps aerial photo has improved to the point that if you know where the infestation is, you can find it on the map and don't need GPS.
- Added Virginia very easily and can add other states.
- Currently, can't see county level infestation looking regionally (have to go to individual states). But Flashmaps is working on fixing this.
- In the next week, Chuck will submit a Pulling Together Initiative proposal (\$15,000) for this mapping project to supply travel and some personnel costs for Chuck and Chris, and would develop an on-line training. Is matched by UGA and SE EPPC will supply some in-kind money. Is ready but has to go through UGA.
- Chuck also submitted a letter of intent for the *National Research Initiative - Biology of Weedy and Invasive Plants* (funded through USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Services). We will know by December 20th if a full proposal can be submitted. Can request up to \$400,000 to distribute to states to implement the mapping program; We could also put some money toward the director position. Early Detection Rapid Response committee will need to have a meeting in early January if proposal is required. Anyone wanting to join should send Chuck an email.
- Nancy would like to have a presentation in Chattanooga as a pilot.
- USGS NBII/MS State got \$500,000 to start some sort of Early Detection/Rapid Response system using predictive modeling (that includes TN and AL); We don't need to compete, but should find a way to work together. Could work on developing a TNC/ Natural Heritage alliance (i.e. Naturserv), so that we don't do all this work only to be consumed by some other system; Tony will work through NPS (Greg Eckart);

- We should incorporate some more early detection and rapid response procedures. So when new species are found in states, an automated email is sent to state coordinator.
- Brian: this is a great opportunity that needs to be developed through states (i.e. get trainings going and getting people to enter data). Then this data can be used to create defensible state weed lists; States would be able to enter into an assessment with standard methodology as was done in FL.
- John: Need to consider the state economic environment when coming up with methodology, can't just base entirely on FL; Brian: There should be a standard methodology that has to do with biology and science and nothing to do with economics (should focus on number and location of infestations in natural areas)
- Mapping project will be discussed after introduction at meeting so we're really getting the word out.

NA EPPC Meeting 2008

- Tony and Brian spoke with the Natural Areas Association at their recent conference in Nashville about their 08 conference; An agreement was reached that it will be anNAA/NAEPPC meeting with a 50/50 split between the two subjects;
- Lisa Smith (MAEPPC and PATNC) will be chairing committee to put together EPPC agenda (will include all species).
- Meeting should be fairly large;

LA EPPC –

There was interest in starting a Louisiana chapter; Tony sent an email inviting individuals to the board meeting; There was a response saying someone was coming, but no one did.

Michigan IPC

- Brian proposed that we let them go based on several past discussions regarding their lack of participation.
- Brian and Tony should have a conference call with them, giving a timeline ending with them no longer receiving tax exempt status.

Joyce motioned to approve Action.

Tony seconded.

Action unanimously approved.

Strategic Planning - Brian

There had been a discussion on what we're supposed to be doing vs. what we are doing; We've come a long way, but really need to be prepared for meetings to be a bit more productive (i.e. develop plans and ideas in committee; send in agenda items)

Additional Discussion

- Brian: Any state that can meet bylaw guidelines and can be productive within the 1 year probationary period can join SE EPPC. However, there needs to be full participation at 2 face to face meetings and 2 conference calls (if can't make it, have to send along a proxy);

- There was concern among a couple board members over traveling for a half day meeting;
- Several meetings have taken full days and we could supplement at future meetings with workshops or committee meetings;
- John: Face to face meetings should include bringing in many good minds and allowing people to absorb and discuss items;
- Tony: the important thing now is to establish some strong committees to hash things out then present to board.
- Brian: We used to have a much larger board, and things were not as productive as they are now; A streamlined board works better;
- Tony: There were few agenda items, so please send in more agenda items in the future.
- John will be joining the Invasive Plant Reporting Committee.

Next meeting March 19th. (1-5pm)

Chuck motioned to adjourn.

John seconded.

Motion unanimously approved.