

SE EPPC Board Meeting
Raleigh, North Carolina
May 22, 2006

Participants

Brian Bowen – Presiding	Connie Gray – GA EPPC
Joyce Bender – Vice President/KY EPPC	Johnny Randall – NC EPPC
Tony Pernas – Treasurer	Nancy Fraley – TN EPPC
Kristen Allen – Recording	Curtis Hanson – AI EPPC
Collette Degarady – SC EPPC	Lee Patrick – Treasurer Elect
Robin Mackie – USFS Liason	Ian Wipsa
Alison Fox – FL EPPC	Randy Westbrooks

Symposium Report - Johnny Randall

- Each morning, there will be two plenary talks, followed by breaks for lunch and concurrent sessions in afternoon.
- Thursday afternoon there will be field trip;
- There are fewer sponsors than hoped;
- Registration is at 135 as of the 22nd;
- NC EPPC and SE EPPC can now accept credit cards.
- Some speakers did not send abstracts or summaries;
- There are T-shirts for sale.
- Participants will receive recertification credits for many states (not GA)

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved with the condition that there would be additional discussion regarding the following issue later in the meeting:

Newsletter Proposal:

Although the minutes state that we will develop several pages in Wildland Weeds *OR* send out an electronic newsletter under the “Newsletter proposal”, Brian says his intention was to do both.

Upon later discussion, it was decided that we would strive to do both as Brian had intended.

Alison reports that Karen is happy to include anything we submit to Wildland Weeds but is uncomfortable with having a dedicated number of pages to have to fill. Regarding accompanying dollars, Alison said things are fine as they are.

Michagan Invasive Plant Council

Background: MIPC expressed interest in 2001 to use SE EPPC’s tax exemption status to achieve the same status, and SE accepted them. Several founding members have since left due to dissatisfaction caused by industry domination on board (horticultural/nurseryman association). Three years ago, the president was having trouble in this regard

but thought things were improving. He has since been succeeded by an industry professional. Recently, articles have been published, by a MIPC member, in trade magazines regarding how plants should be put on state weed lists. The article was the author's opinion, but his affiliation with MIPC and SE EPPC were included. We have since been asked to re-evaluate MIPC's affiliation. Three years ago, Brian drafted a letter from SE EPPC, addressing the issue and setting up conditions, but never sent it.

Discussion:

- Seems like we need to open up a line of discussion with them. We should go on record via a letter, however, might be more diplomatic to initiate the discussion with a phone call and follow up with a letter. Letter should state our concerns, referencing this board meeting. Could request a report on what the organization is up to, reinforcing our mission.
- This could be addressed as a "By-law issue". It is in our by-laws that we must approve their by-laws, which don't state anything about who can serve on board. But perhaps, SE should amend our by-laws to have an approved listing protocol, as the current MIPC would only allow a listing protocol that is very lengthy, including economic ramifications.

Alison Fox revision comment (07/07/06): I had forgotten that we discussed anything about amending SE by-laws related to listing protocols. This could be a very controversial issue with EPPCs in the SE so if this was a serious suggestion as a way to deal with MIPC it should not be rushed. The development of plant lists was one of the main reasons why many EPPCs were formed so SE-EPPC should not approach this without considerable discussion.

- Exception status, as far as IRS goes is completely up to us (just adding and deleting as we see fit);
- Affiliation was set up in 2001 to allow them to get on their feet, and the situation has since changed. Geography might be a good reason to encourage them to move on, with a time limit. Perhaps we suggest that since they are not located in the SE, they disassociate with us and join Mid-West fledgling organization (IPAW).
- It is also an issue that they have never participated in conference calls and board meetings, as is required of chapter affiliations in our by-laws.
- We might also think about sending someone to their meeting to document what is going on.
- Brian will draft a letter for board's review. We'll see what kind of response we get, keep in touch with non-industrial members, encouraging them to gravitate toward the IPAW. Give IPAW a "heads-up" that this is coming.

2007 Symposium: Connie Gray

- Will happen on March 19-23 in Athens at the Georgia Center
- There will be a control workshop.

- GA Board is anxious for the opportunity and will discuss more at next meeting.

Discussion:

- Concern was expressed that the timing of SE Symposium may be limiting attendance by having it too close to state chapter annual meetings. It was suggested that Symposiums after 07 be planned for winter or fall. However, these times were just as busy for other board members.
- Discussion ended when several members stated that they think there are just naturally more people in attendance from hosting state. This is not a function of timing.

Financial Report: Tony Pernas

- Balance – \$28,587.27
- Taxes in accountants office, envision no problems in turning over.
- Johnny motioned for approval; Brian seconded; All approved

Seamless Network – NPS partnered with Natureserv

- The southeast region of the National Park Service has partnered with Natureserv to organize and host, in each state, a meeting of all state agencies to come up with a plan to create interaction and share information.
- Johnny attended the NC meeting where there were break-out sessions to identify specific projects, such as an information blitz to educate on new invasives, etc.
- This is a pilot program to be repeated all over the country, and there is money available for some projects.
- SE EPPC could play an important role with our mapping and database initiative. Would possibly be a funding source to enhance data collection, etc.
- Nancy and Connie will be at the GA meeting, and hopefully Chuck and/or Chris can attend.

Membership rate

- FL has increased membership cost to \$30 as a result of general budget and expenditures. Now, members are joining FL through SE to get reduced membership.
- Other state chapters are not able to increase dues at this time.
- Following a brief discussion the board decided it would help alleviate the problem by changing the current on-line membership form so that the fee pops up after you choose your state affiliation, not before.

07 Goals – Brian Bowen

Brian outlined his goals, as coordinator, in the coming year:

- He will work with Karen to come up with articles and sponsorship for WW, and will edit four electronic newsletters. He will try to have Jackie send the WW mailing list to Carrie, who maintains the SE EPPC mailing list; The newsletter could be placed on the webpage, then send out a notice to the mailing list with a short description of what's in newsletter.

Alison Fox revision comment (07/07/06): In fact, our Secretary Dianne Owen, dowen@fau.edu is going to compile the FLEPPC email mailing list.

- He is working on developing funding opportunities
- He is planning for Executive Director: including developing the purpose/role of that position (would eventually turn into a work plan); funding sources; how funding much will position raise; how would they be supervised; etc.
- He is working with Chuck on mapping and database project (TN and GA were to be the pilot states to get bugs out).
- Alison suggests that it would be easier to evaluate the Coordinator position at the end of first year if we had a more formal description of what is expected. Tony will draft something up for board review.
- Randy Westbrook volunteered to come up with a work plan (to be submitted to the board in early August) to help state chapters work with professionals to input data.
- Randy agreed to serve on the database committee, and would come up with a limited list of “watchlist species” so that volunteers were able to keep up with it.
- The final workplan will be ready by October 1st.

Election of new officers

Per past meeting, board decided that SE EPPC required a paid position tied to achieving certain things, to be reviewed upon end of the first year. Brian’s presidency was up, and he agreed to take on this position as well as participating on the board as past president. Tony was nominated as the next president, and Lee Patrick was nominated as treasurer. Both accepted nominations. Both elections were voted on as a single motion with no discussion.

Tony motioned.

Lee seconded.

Positions were unanimously accepted.

NA EPPC Update

- During Weed week, there was a meeting of the NA EPPC;
- The meeting had good representation from all EPPCs with a round robin describing what different EPPC’s are doing (there are over 4000 members nationwide);
- Some action items had been set up before the meeting;
- Chuck set up a webpage portal for all EPPCs;
- Will have a face to face meeting in 2008 with SE EPPC and NAA in Nashville to share successes and failures (panel discussions), etc. (NPS Exotic Plant Management Team Liasons meeting will be there that year as well.); Will take some advanced planning in order to have heavy NA EPPC presence; TN EPPC hired Dan Brown (previous president) to organize the conference;
- By-laws had been done previously, but officers were elected at this meeting.

Miscellaneous Announcements and Discussion

- Chuck wants to meet to discuss database and mapping project at 8:00.
- Collette informs that SC EPPC is putting together some new members and a conference call this summer.

- Connie was contacted by someone who publishes pocket guides to find out if SE EPPC is interested in putting together an invasives guide (\$1 each if you print 1000). Resulting discussion included:
 - SE could come up with a template, and states could fill in their most problematic species; However, there are already flash cards that Jack Ranney created that are downloadable from webpage.
 - Could insert early detection species along with some information on entering data into the database (but would have be one tool that would fit into the larger training for those who will be entering data).
 - A brochure solicitation should not be driving what we are doing;

- Intermountain EPPC is trying to get started and approached SE for donation of a break at their first meeting. Motion to donate \$100 to them; Seconded and approved.