

**Board Meeting – Teleconference
November 1, 2007**

Participants

Tony Pernas, Presiding
 Kristen Allen, Recording
 Karen Brown, WW Editor & FL EPPC
 Brian Bowen, Past President
 Chris Furqueron, NPS
 Chuck Bargaron, Webpage & GA EPPC
 Lee Patrick
 Damon Waitt, Texas
 John Brubaker, SCEPPC
 Steve Brewer, MS EPPC
 Nancy Fraley, TN EPPC

September minutes were unanimously approved (Brian motioned; seconded).

Correspondence

Letter from Terry Killifer with NBII. They are interested in partnering with SE EPPC and wanting a spot at the 2008 Symposium for roundtable discussion. Chuck met with them and didn't think they could help with much at this point.

Treasurer Report – Lee Patrick

Checking Balance Sheet as of 30Sept07

Starting Balance	07/01/07	\$11,417.68	
Deposits		\$300.00	EDDMapS Workshop
		\$210.00	Memberships
		\$5764.87	2007 Symposium
Total Deposits		\$6,274.87	
Expenses	07/23/07	\$116.23	Brian Bowen (EDDMapS
Reimbursement)			
	08/21/07	\$1125.00	Newsletter Editor (4/1-6/30/07)
	09/01/07	\$500.00	David Ellis (IRS Return)
	09/10/07	\$49.28	Chuck Bargeron (EDDMapS Reim.)
	09/10/07	\$600.00	Chuck Bargeron (Web Design
	Annual Fee)		
	09/19/07	\$80.00	NAA (Reprint of SE-EPPC Article)
Total Expenses		\$2,470.51	

Ending Balance	\$ 15,222.04
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Savings Balance Sheet as of 30Sept07

Starting Balance	11/30	\$10,035.82	
Deposits		\$25.28	Interest (3 months)

Ending Balance	\$10,061.10
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- Budget committee met
- We are continually working at a deficit, so we need to do something to better balance our budget. Budget was set at around \$10,000 and we are only bringing in around \$6500.
- Past two conferences have been great, but have been very expensive.
- Brian, Steve and John will plan to talk soon about the infrastructure, etc. of the upcoming conference.
- Motion to approve: John, second: Steve

2008 NAEPPC/NAA Conference – Brian Bowen

- Lisa Smith is the program chair.
- Planning is coming along nicely; committee is meeting in two weeks
- Invasive species topics include EDRR, prevention, management (6 concurrent sessions within 2 days, as many of 144 sessions; One plenary speaker is Dan Simberloff ; hoping to get Al Gore as another)
- Expecting 600 + in attendance;
- This has the potential to be a big conference with “heavy-hitters” as speakers.
- USFS will be sending all botanists (around 60 people) to conduct a meeting at the same time.
- Planners have come to an agreement that they would like to raise 5-7,000 through EPPC sponsorship for travel and plenary for the Invasive species related speakers. There is \$1000 earmarked in the 08 budget for sponsorship. With all SE EPPC’s, Brian suggests that we contribute \$4000 (\$500 per EPPC on average); MidAtlantic has put up \$1000, and CA, New England, Midwest may also be contributing.
- Discussion:
 - Chuck: we should ask the states to do this, so that they are more likely to participate.
 - Steve: \$500 would be a huge chunk of SC’s budget, but will pitch it to chapter
 - Brian: Would be great if chapters with more revenue could give a bit more to make up for chapters that don’t have as much;
 - Nancy: Will pitch it to TN;
 - Brian: Will send a letter to chapters, but remember that the meeting is “in our back yard”; We are hosting in Nashville.
 - John: has USFS been approached for sponsorship?

- Brian: Just starting to ramp up the fund-raising, but for any one agency, there are many groups that may provide funds;
- John: philosophically, would prefer to get funds elsewhere, and not go to chapters.
- Brian: What we contribute would be earmarked for sponsorship only

Editor's Report – Karen Brown

- Fall issue went out on schedule; We lost \$800 on this issue for the first time due to lower advertising support (lost some big advertisers); Got an extra 100 copies due to increased membership.
- Working on the winter issue; Will be holding it to 24 pages to break even;
- Still made an overall profit for the year, but less than year before;
- Would like to put a bit of thought into the overall cost of the magazine and may need to increase current cost of \$5 per member in the future.
- Having trouble getting updated membership lists since Carrie has left, but chuck will talk more about this.
- Has moved SE EPPC board information to more prominent location.
- Would like to add a blurb to tell people with address changes outside of FL where to send their information.
- FL has mission and definitions listed; Would like to either combine or add SE mission and definitions;

Coordinator's Report – Brian Bowen

- Trying to get newsletter out quarterly, but is usually running 1 month late trying to get submissions in a timely manner; Needs an announcement for upcoming Symposium; Lee and Chris will do a write up of the Cogon grass conference with a 1 week turn-around. Once he gets those things and the newsletter will be ready to go.
- Johnny sent information on a new president from NC EPPC (Charles Yeltson); Alix Cleveland will be taking Robin's place as USFS Liason and was one of the founding members of Michigan; Chris accepts the Liason position for NPS (Liason is a non-voting member) and he will find someone in Atlanta to represent USFWS.
- The relationship with Michigan will dissolve in December; Brian will get with IRS to figure out how to do this;
- Would like to sit down with EDRR committee and set some goals for the coming year. How to follow up on the Chattanooga meeting (Chuck would like to sit down with state reviewers)
- Would like the organization to be one that can do weed risk assessments, as a way of being useful at the regional level; Several board members commented that they agreed.
- TN EPPC committee put together a revised species listing; This could be sent out and review by SE EPPC
- Executive Director discussion is at a point where the committee needs to get together from here on out on a fairly regular basis. We have a model for this position, but what it is going to come down to is fund-raising. We need to have a

- year's worth of salary and benefits put away before we can think about hiring; Similar position was advertised as \$60,000 plus benefits.
- Need to work harder on fund-raising around symposium; NAA is very successful at this and raises typically around \$40,000 per Symposium.
 - Perhaps the chapters contribute a bit toward supporting the Exec Director; This may change the dynamic and have the chapters pay more attention to what SE EPPC is doing;
 - Committee should meet and put together a plan to raise \$60,000-75,000 by 2011, and report at next meeting.
 - John recommends putting together a good job description and salary rate that could be circulated through chapters to suggest ways to raise funds. John will join discussion with committee.

Website/EDRR – Chuck Barger

- Detailed article on EDDMaps in newsletter;
- Chuck has given several presentations (MidAtlantic EPPC, etc.)
- Add calendar to webpage that works well to keep track of events/meetings; Could have everyone be able to go in and make entries, or could limit it to only certain people;
- Would like to add a blog application to website; Board thought this sounded like a good idea to try it out.
- Will be submitting a letter of intent to fund EDDMap project to include area of SE that is not already included in the MS State and the states in the MidAtlantic.
- Will be getting membership database from Carrie next week and will put it up on webpage; At that point, individual states will keep up their memberships. Will add a column so that states can enter a date for when each member joined.
- Will add a bit of color to advertise EDDMaps.
- Chuck will work on website for 08 conference (much appreciated)

2008 Symposium Discussion- Steve Brewer

- John Madsen has sent announcement and call for papers for inclusion in the next Wildland Weeds publication and for posting on the SE-EPPC website.

Hotel Information:

- MS-EPPC BOD decided in favor of the Imperial Palace Casinos proposal.
- The theme relates to disturbances and restoration and given the impacts of Hurricane Katrina, the Gulf Coast would be an ideal location. Also, the variety of field trip possibilities was simply greater for the Gulf Coast than elsewhere in the state, particularly given the interest in cogongrass. The MS Gulf Coast Visitor's center said that due to Katrina only two locations would have sufficient space for the meeting, and IP reduced the room rate to \$94/person regardless of whether you are government or not.
- Reservation information is as follows: 1-888-946-2847 or IPbiloxi.com. Attendees should enter the following code S08620 to get the agreed upon rate of \$94 (government rate).

- There is a regular shuttle to and from the airport that costs \$12 one-way or \$22 round-trip.
- Two large conference rooms have been reserved, one for two full days and the other for all of Tuesday and half of Wednesday. Lisa Yager is seeking additional information regarding spacing and arrangement for posters and exhibits. She will also ask about need to create signs for the meeting.

Field Trips:

- Steve Brewer will take the lead in organizing a field trip to Crosby Arboretum. This trip will be a little more expensive than the other two. It is a longer distance (Biloxi to Picayune, 1.5 hrs one way), and the entrance fee is \$4 per person. We will bring sack lunches in coolers and dine at Crosby. Pat Drackett, the landscape specialist at Crosby Arboretum, will lead the tour.
- John Madsen has asked John Byrd to set up a cogongrass tour. Patty Rogers will assist. This tour will visit problem areas and treatment areas.
- Patty Rogers is getting cost information on McCoy Swamp Tours. Lisa Yager will be the point person for the tour at the meeting. This tour focuses on the Pascagoula River.
- John Madsen is getting information on vans for transportation.

Registration Information:

- Patty Rogers of RC&D will handle registration and develop form once we have information on costs of field trips. Registration fees agreed upon are \$120 for early-bird, \$140 for late registration, and \$75 for students.
- Exhibitors will be charged \$150 per booth space.

Keynote Speaker:

Lester Spell will be invited as the keynote speaker pending the elections (November 6). He is the current Agriculture Commissioner for Mississippi and has played in key role in getting Mississippi established as a Weed Management Area.

New Agenda Items

Chuck: We tabled this discussion in Chattanooga, but should Karen be added as a voting member of the board. There was some discussion, but it was decided that this should be discussed by the executive committee and recommend a proposal to board.

Next Meeting:

Atlanta: January 29 (Connie will look into exact location)

Adjourn