

**SE-EPPC Board of Directors Meeting  
Conference Call – April 15, 2014**

**APPROVED AT SEPTEMBER 4, 2014 BOARD MEETING.**

**Meeting called to order at 10AM.**

**Attendees:** Brian Arnold, Nancy Loewenstein, Lee Patrick, Stephen Enloe, Karan Rawlins (GA), Rob Emens (NC), Karen Brown, Sherry Williams (FL), Jessica Spencer (ACOE Liaison), Anna Greis (USFS Liaison), Johnny Randall (NC), George Morris (NC), Melanie Doyle (NC)

**Officer's Reports:**

President – Brian Arnold introduced new NC president Rob Emens and new USFS Liaison Anna Greis (replacing Alix Cleveland who is no longer regional but national). Jessica Spencer introduced herself as the new Army Corps of Engineers liaison, replacing Jon Lane.

Treasurer

- Lee Patrick explained some difficulties completing receipt of payment from USFS for the grant received in 2011. He is working on that with the assistance of USFS liaison Anna Greis and hopes to receive the final payment soon.
- He combined the checking and savings accounts into one checking account for a total balance of \$4,696.90. We were charged \$150 in service fees from Bank of America over the last 5 months because our balance went below \$3K. Combining the accounts brought us over \$3K so we are no longer being charged service fees.
- Last year we spent \$1,200 on Travel Grants but only brought in \$870 on the annual meeting.
- Our fiscal year started October 1, 2013. Accounting costs are high (\$700 per year) but completing 990s for each chapter makes it more expensive. May 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for returns. Lee will be following up again with chapter Treasurers and Presidents to get the needed information: the state chapter year end reports/financial reports to file 990s (IRS annual report). Needs year-end expenses and deposits, broken down into dues, workshops, travel, etc.
- He submitted a Profit & Loss Detail for October 2013 – Sept 2014 showing a balance of \$-1.66
- He submitted a Balance Sheet as of April 14, 2014 showing total liabilities & Equity of \$4,696.90.
- He submitted a FY13-14 SE-EPPC Budget of \$1,260., \$4,660. less than FY 10/11.

Secretary – Karen Brown needs to bring the minutes up to date on the SE-EPPC website. She will do that as soon as possible.

**Committee Reports:**

NA-EPPC Update – Nancy Loewenstein stated that the minutes sent by NA-EPPC on 04/14/14 summarized recent activities. There is also a good review of NAEPPC's ASTM Plant List efforts and other activities in the most recent issue of *Wildland Weeds* (Spring 2014). All chapters should call in or get a proxy to participate as these NA-EPPC meetings need to be attended or chapters will be removed

according to a recent change in bylaws. Karen suggested that the list-serv be checked to make sure it is up to date for all state chapters. It is a “blind” list-serv so it’s impossible to see who is receiving announcements. Nancy will check on this. The Vice-Chair position is open but Kate Howe is now serving and an e-vote will be coming soon.

2015 Annual Meeting – Rob Emens, Melanie Doyle, George Morris, and Johnny Randall from NC-IPC asked questions to enable them to choose a month, number of days, field trips, etc. Their annual meeting is usually held in Feb/Mar. This year the NC-IPC meeting was postponed from February to March due to an ice storm, but they had another ice storm in March. However, they pushed through and completed the meeting. Brian says May is the traditional time to have the SE-EPPC meeting. May would also be better for weather and field trips. Financial split is 60/40 (SE-EPPC/local chapter). They were asked to keep expenses to a minimum since we don’t want to lose money as our bank account is extremely low. Reviewed statistics regarding meetings: attendance, length of meeting, field trip timing, etc. Advised to see prior programs ([More Info](#)) on the SE-EPPC website. Need to choose a city that would attract the most NC members but is easy to get to for other chapters. Most members are in Raleigh/Durham/ Chapel Hill Triangle area. Karen suggested a rustic type setting rather than pricey hotels. Some state employees in Florida are unable to attend meetings held at resorts and/or spas. Johnny Randall says their botanical garden has an education center and there are hotels close by and shuttles could be provided. There’s also a natural history museum in Raleigh but that was difficult and expensive the last time they used it.

2014 Annual Meeting – Karan Rawlins reports that the venue is the Georgia Center in Athens at University of Georgia. Keynote speakers: Douglas Tallamy – two talks on two separate days; Chuck Bargeron; and Nancy Loewenstein. Nov. 12-14<sup>th</sup> – ½ day Weds, all day Thurs, field trips on Friday. Call for Papers is on the website but has not been sent out on list-serv yet; waiting for Florida’s meeting to commence (April 28<sup>th</sup>). Since the meeting is taking place in November, Anna Greis cannot yet apply for the annual USFS support because it’s after their fiscal year but she’s going to apply for it in October. She thinks she can work it out as an official agreement. She will ask for \$5,000 since there will be two annual meetings in FY 14/15.

Annual SE-EPPC award – discussion of plaques. Karen suggested using less expensive generic plaques from office supply stores or having a member make a plaque out of invasive species wood. Florida is doing that this year to save money and to make the plaque for outgoing president more unique.

SE-EPPC Grant Program – Nancy/Brian said we are not awarding one this year due to lack of funds in the Treasury. We have not been getting requests from chapters as we only have awarded it a couple of times so many people do not know about it.

Wildland Weeds – Karen Brown stated that *Wildland Weeds* is now on its way to your mailbox. This is the first issue published since the Summer/Fall 2012 issue. Due to the accumulated material, she was not able to publish everything she had on file and the issue was still 32 pages. She feels this was a good issue as it covered national, regional, and state issues, two research articles, two volunteer efforts, an

invasive species profile, a new biocontrol agent, together with announcements for upcoming meetings (Natural Areas Association; Weeds Across Borders; SE-EPPC; FLEPPC).

The chapter mailing lists totaled 869 members and the cost of the magazine was \$4,905. She suggests we bill chapters the actual cost per issue rather than having a set price since she is unable to predict costs and when she can produce issues.  $\$4,905. / 869 = \$5.65$  per member. She will bill the chapters.

**Is it time to publish WILDLAND WEEDS just as a pdf file?** It will still cost to have the issue professionally designed, which costs \$60 per page (\$1,920 for this 32 pp issue) unless we find someone to do it less expensively. Karen does not have the time or skills to do this. We could save some money by printing part of the issue in black and white but it's still expensive. Karen believes more people read a hard copy but the board should decide how to proceed. It should be all or none with chapter participation because it will cost a lot more per member if only a few chapters opt to continue. Steve Manning with IPC, the PNW and Mid-Atlantic Chapters ordered 150 copies but said they will likely request only PDF files in the future. Rob said NC-IPC uses WWs as a tangible item that members will receive on their membership form. Sherry Williams receives emails asking about WWs and Karen said the FLEPPC Treasurer says they get renewals after issues go out. Lee suggested giving each chapter a vote on print vs electronic. Stephen would like to get a document in the works. Karen will get quotes on fewer pages and B&W interior pages, and will prepare a report to send to the chapter boards; she'll have the SE-EPPC board review it first to make any changes they deem necessary. It will then be circulated with a request to vote.

### State Reports

- Alabama – Nancy reported that two meetings were held last year; this year's meeting will be in Huntsville. They usually have approximately 150 attendees.
- Florida – Sherry Williams reported that the FLEPPC conference April 28<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup> will be co-hosted with the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society which deals a lot with invasive animal issues. The meeting will be in the Tampa area and the theme is **Breaking Bad in Florida: Gaining Ground on Invasive Plants and Wildlife in the 21st Century**.
- Georgia – Karan Rawlins reported that their annual meeting was in Macon. **Invasion Ecology** author Julie Lockwood was a speaker. Now working on 2014 meeting in Athens co-hosted with SE-EPPC.
- Kentucky – (Jody Thompson) not present; no report
- Mississippi – no report. Karen reported that this chapter has had no activity for some time according to Julie Marcy, Executive Secretary and Treasurer. She sent their most recent mailing list for Wildland Weeds and has money in their Treasury to pay for it. Karen suggested that Brian call them to see how we might be of help. Nancy mentioned that most of the university faculty people that are allowed to participate as part of their jobs were no longer active.
- North Carolina – meeting in March (@60); short of previous years (closer to 75-80). Tend to make money on the annual meetings more than membership dues. Had elections – new VP is Dr. Brett Hartis; new President is Rob Emens. Now officially called the NC Invasive Plant Council – NC-IPC.
- South Carolina – (Ben Powell) not present; no report
- Tennessee – Lee gave no report.

## **Liaison Reports**

- APHIS – no report
- Industry – no report
- NA-EPPC – see Nancy’s report above
- NPS – no report
- USACE – Jessica Spencer replacing Jon Lane.
- USFWS – no report
- USDA FS – Anna Greis will be at the Florida meeting.
- TNC – vacant

## **Old Business**

Liaison representatives – Brian reported that most of them have not been in touch for some time. Nancy suggested contacting them to see if they want to continue or if they can recommend a replacement.

## **New Business**

- Johnny Gentry (University of Arkansas Herbarium Director and Curator) in Arkansas is interested in forming a chapter as reported by Brian. Protocol seems straightforward in the bylaws. They would like to get a group together and see if they can get commitments from people. They asked many years ago but Lee and Karen and Nancy can’t remember why it didn’t happen – possibly geographic. Karen and Brian will put together a list of what is required and send it to the interested party. This should be run by Lee for financial and state legal requirements.
- Society for Ecological Restoration interested in joint meetings per Brian. 2010 was our last joint meeting with their Southeastern Chapter (held in Chattanooga, TN). Nancy said we could also do a session at their next meeting in 2015 and build on that. They have an MOA with us. Brian to ask them to let us know when they do a Call for Papers. We could at least do a SE-EPPC presentation; possibly a session.

Nancy motioned to adjourn; Lee seconded. Adjourned at 12:10.