

**SE-EPPC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
CONFERENCE CALL, APRIL 6, 2011**

Draft minutes submitted to board on 4/6/11.

Approved at board of directors meeting, 5/11/11, Lexington, KY.

ATTENDEES: Nancy Loewenstein (AL), Joyce Bender (KY), Karen Brown (FL), Karan Rawlins (GA), Chuck Bargeron, Alix Cleveland, Brian Bowen, Lynn Ann Welch (TN-EPPC), Jimmy Cobb (AL), Bill Kline, Bill Thomas, Rick Iverson (NC).

- Approval of Oct 2010 minutes – Rick moved; Karan 2nd.
- **Treasurer’s Report** – Lee absent. No activity in last quarter.
- **Secretary’s Report** – up-to-date with minutes; tracking position applications.
- **Wildland Weeds Update** – Karen Brown – late producing the Winter and Spring issues and will combine to one. Needs to transition to no advertising. Not sure who is still on board for ads. Could use articles, help with editing and proofreading. Lynn Ann Welch offered to help. Rick said thanks. Karen asked Chuck to post link to WWs on each chapter’s home page and he agreed (again). Brian submitted an article on NA-EPPC for the next issue. Karen will catch up with Wildland Weeds changes, billing information, and chapter correspondence and report back to the board shortly.
- **SE-EPPC Annual Conference Update** – Joyce Bender – thanked Bill Kline for his efforts. Sponsorships - \$4800 (majority from DowAgro, USFS, & others). 56 people registered. 32 speakers have not yet registered, so that will increase registrants. EDRR Workshop – Randy Westbrooks looking for more attendees; wants representatives from entire region. Early registration extended to 4/11. CEUs will be available; will be posted on website. Agenda online. 26 posters, 39 speakers, 3 keynote speakers. Bill Kline would like to know of more potential sponsors. Sponsorship includes comp exhibit space, registrations (1-2, depending on level of support), can sponsor a conference function. Bill will call Laura at UKY re: details of sponsoring a function. Needs an easel to display sponsors – will check with Laura. Board meeting will be the evening of May 2nd over dinner. Reps: FL, KY, AL, GA, TN will be present for board meeting. Business meeting: lunch 4th. Provide chapter updates. If not attending, please submit an update from your chapter to Nancy. Contact Mary Carol Cooper for silent auction: 859-552-3552. Joyce will submit an e-mail for the list-serve soliciting silent auction items.
- **NA-EPPC and NAA Conference Update** – Chuck Bargeron – had a NA-EPPC board meeting yesterday. Janet is contributing a lot, including “Policy Notes.” Position will run out soon; hoping to work with the SE-EPPC position that is currently being advertised. Asked all to participate in NA-EPPC/NAA annual meeting. Applied for federal resources to help people attend (EPPC people). Nov. 1-4th 2011, Tallahassee. Jim Miller, Plenary Talk (Tues); Weds (talks); Thurs. (1-day cogongrass summit); Friday (two full concurrent sessions); Biofuels session. Nancy offered to help. Brian visited the facility: near campus, near downtown, expensive to fly in to. Expecting a lot of attendees from Florida. Karen asked if Janet Clark could write a response to recent NYTimes article. Karan thinks Mid-Atlantic sent a response. Chuck will check with Executive Committee and ask Janet to craft a response that fits NY Times guidelines (<150 words). Large response on ALIENS list-serv.

- **Annual SE-EPPC Award** – several nominees received; decision pending. Chuck will have the plaque made.
- **NISAW Update** – Brian Bowen – DC event; different format, now all taxa, Brian’s travel funded by SE-EPPC. Chuck and Janet participated in Tuesday function, which was most important. FICMNEW people attended the main social at the National Aquarium. Panel discussions were good, but concurrent and heavily loaded – a shortcoming. Might be better to spread the agenda to provide more opportunities for folks to attend. Second year of all taxa event. Might not be worth attending next year unless program changes. Alix says NA-EPPC might reassess the national scene and what their role is; important not to walk away but to reconfigure based on current scene. Janet trying to get NA-EPPC to step up and do something – both from state EPPCs, EDRR, CWMAs, CISMAs, PRISMs – needs more and better communication. Chuck says this is unlikely to happen. NA-EPPC might step up to help with that. Maps have been added to the NA-EPPC website and other links. Brian confirmed and said Janet and Chuck have played significant roles. Things may shift and plant focus might fall to the side so NA-EPPC should fill that role. SE-EPPC is a major player (per Alix) so important to make sure that NA-EPPC knows environment has changed, embrace those changes, work together with other issues, but emphasize how plants are different, part of landscape, owner-management structure, as opposed to other taxa. Karen asked about Janet’s funding for NA-EPPC. Mostly from UCS – a non-recurring gift. Janet leaving the invasives arena this summer. Nancy asked if NA-EPPC would raise money to support this position. Monthly NA calls since Janet has been onboard so Chuck will get more info.
- **Hiring of SE-EPPC Invasive Species Specialist** – Nancy Loewenstein – 11 applications received. Two outside of region. Since there were plenty within the region, she suggested we not consider those outside. Nancy can send out entire packet (76 pp.) to voting members of board for ranking. Another option is for officers to pick top three and send those out to voting members. Karan suggested the second option; Rick agreed; Joyce and Lyn Ann concurred. Officers will choose top three and send to board. Alix stated that this is why there was an Executive Committee. One officer, Brian, applied for the position so he is recused. Karen, Chuck, Lee will evaluate. Applicants: Margaret Fields, Rosalind Rowe (FL), Brian Bowen (TN), Art Miller, Linda Duever (FL), April Bisner (SC), Tom Erwin (MS), Janet Clarke (MT), Amy Ferriter (ID), Kevin Willis (TN), Sara O’Sullivan (AL). Chuck mentioned that some have full-time jobs; some are students; some have part-time jobs - was there an advantage or disadvantage? Rick Iverson said some already full-time would give us the benefit of their other (material) support. If not working full-time, the person could devote their full attention but might also be looking for more permanent work. Alix seeking a well-connected professional in the arena. Hoping they can help to build and foster relationships, and not just work on a list of tasks. Hopes they facilitate in keeping the group tightly bound and strengthen its mission.
- **Chapter Grants Program** – Johnny Randall and Nancy Loewenstein – tabled, no follow-through since last meeting; will pursue at next board meeting. Rick asked if grant might support chapter representatives’ travel. Karen pointed out that it was originally developed as a Scholarship / Research grant. Rick used grant money once to attend CWMA meeting and it was helpful. Chuck said state chapters should support their rep’s travel. SE-EPPC might be different. Karen and Nancy will recapture past discussion and create an agenda for the KY board meeting. Brian brought up

previous idea of support of banners for each chapter. Nancy feels they can purchase their own; AL-IPC bought a velcro banner for \$150. Lyn Ann said board of TN-EPPC couldn't agree on what they want. Karen sent info to board via e-mail: <http://www.displays2go.com/Category.aspx?ID=1897> \$275 - \$350 each, including graphics. Chuck has the graphic and could easily insert a different logo. Find SE banner and make sure it's in KY for annual meeting.

- **Liaison Reports** –Bill Thomas (USFWS) is concerned with work furloughs, federal budget, bleak response to call for proposals; strike team budget in FL and SE looks bad but a few NWRs have dedicated funding (Archie Carr, Loxahatchee). Travel and site visits and work on other projects could suffer. NPS strike teams may also be affected. CISMAs participated in co-events with NISAW but low results on python captures in south Florida. Small amounts to support UGA / Barger work are hard to come by.
- **Nominations for President-elect** – needed soon. Chuck clarified that position includes one year as President-elect, two years as President, and one year as Past-President.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11 CT.

Next board meeting will be held at annual meeting in KY, evening of May 2nd.