

**Revised Minutes - NC EPPC Board Meeting – UNC Botanical Garden, Raleigh, NC.  
March 15, 2010**

**Board Members Present:**

Margaret Fields, Bridget Lassiter, Rob Richardson, Rick Iverson, Johnny Randall, Rob Emens, and Charles Yelton.

**Guests Present:**

Debbie Crane (*The Nature Conservancy*) and Randy Westbrooks (*USGS*)

**Meeting Called to Order @9:45 AM.**

**Old Business**

*Secretary's Report:* Rob E. noted a few changes, and a motion was made and passed to accept the minutes from the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. These minutes will be posted to the NC EPPC website (★ by Margaret and Chuck Bergeron), as will all subsequent minutes reports from board meetings.

*Treasurers Report:* The finance summary from the annual meeting shows that after expenses we have a little over \$1,734 dollars left. In our Savings account we have \$5,043 and \$275 in the checking account. One additional vendor donation from Steve Manning still has to be accounted for, which amounts to \$500 plus 5 or 6 registration fees. There are 85 members currently on our members list. ★ A motion was made and passed to add Johnny Randall as an authorized user of the bank account, in addition to Rob E. to provide capability of executing checks or other business in the absence of Rob Emens. ★ A stamp was suggested as a means to streamline check deposits. It was agreed by the board that Rob E. will order one from the bank. A motion was made and passed to accept the treasurer's report.

*Scholarship Committee:* Bridget made a report on the status of the 2010 scholarship. The application has been sent via-email to department heads and major advisors involved with graduate student education in the area of invasive weeds. The application has also been shared with various list-serves that cater to the sciences. A motion was made and approved to form an *ad hoc* committee to review applications and choose a scholarship recipient. Applications should be received by May 1<sup>st</sup>, and the awardees will be notified by July 1. ★ Bridget will send out the application one more time before the deadline to remind applicants about the opportunity. ★ The members of the scholarship selection committee (Rick, Johnny and Charles) will review digital copies of each application (sent out by Bridget) and report back to the board about their decision at the next meeting.

*Board Member Descriptions:* ★ Rick reminded the board that he would like a one paragraph description of each position to pass on to the next group of officers. He also reminded us that we represent a certain clientele, and that we should be bouncing ideas off of our co-workers in order to be able to present a well-balanced opinion in meetings. Board member participation was also discussed, and the need for each board member to attempt to be present at each meeting. Because of differences in locale, the board will attempt to arrange for a conference call (★ Johnny through UNC) during the next meeting for each board member who cannot attend in person.

*2009 Annual Meeting:* A motion was made and passed to offer an honorarium (\$150) to Marika in order to cover her travel costs to attend the annual meeting, where she participated as our keynote speaker. ★ Rob E will make sure that she receives this via postal mail.

**New Business**

*2010 Annual Meeting:* NCVMA has approved to join NC EPPC for a joint annual meeting in December of 2010 in Raleigh. The only questions that now need to be answered are how to handle the registration fees for the two separate groups, and scheduling of concurrent sessions so both organizations could hold separate business meetings and provide speakers of interest that may be of interest only to the separate groups. It was proposed to set up a common fee for the meeting, and then a separate society fee that attendees could select *a la carte*. It is estimated that attendees from NCVMA will attract approximately 200, that hail from the utilities, aquatic and forestry sectors. The meeting will be held in the first or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December in the downtown Sheraton in Raleigh. Discussion about format by the board

members resulted in a consensus that the meeting should last for 1 ½ days, and that 1 day would be generally structured so that everyone would attend all of the talks, and that ½ day would be break-out sessions. ★ Rick asked board members to think about topics that they would like to see at the annual meeting, and possible speakers. Include 1-2 topics for the general sessions, and several topics that could fill 4 hours of breakout meetings. A board meeting for each separate society could happen during lunch of the 1<sup>st</sup> day. Some thought needs to be given to the question of how to divide up the vendor fees for each group.

*EDRR Plan:* Randy Westbrook joined us to review documents and ideas to formulate an official EDRR work plan for NC, and for assisting other states with organizing their own work plans. Randy has been working closely with Les Merhoff to post committee work plans online in an effort to coordinate efforts between various groups who are working with invasive plants. It was noted that IPANE has done an outstanding job with ED, and has reported over 12,000 field records. Documents were reviewed from a Feb 2010 workshop in SC that was moderated by Randy. Randy also noted that he gave a seminar to the NC Environmental Professionals group, and that they were excited to help formulate and carry out EDRR plans. Randy is also planning a Train-the-Trainer workshop sponsored in part by the Cape Fear Arch Conservation Collaboration to be held in Wilmington. Johnny noted that Bob Peet (UNC) participates in extensive NC Vegetation Surveys, and that this information is available and might be incorporated into current EDRR plans. ★ Rick tasked the board with looking over all of the documents that Randy handed out, and examine the Target List Species for any missing species (species on the horizon, and species that could be eradicated if found). ★ It was also noted that a risk assessment is needed for Wavy Leaf Basketgrass and Crested Floating Heart. The SC EDRR list will also need to be examined for any species that could be possible for inclusion on the NC lists. Rick is coordinating these efforts.

*Outreach:* Debbie Crane joined the group in order to stress the importance for an 18-month plan for outreach. Debbie is a communications specialist, and has worked closely with some in the group on invasive species issues. The overall goals of outreach for NC EPPC include: 1) raise profile of the organization and 2) get the word out about invasives. Debbie pointed out that an effective plan would have designated actions during the year. Debbie has volunteered her services to draft a sample plan for the group, which would get us started on this project. She will forward the plan to ★ Rick who will then forward to all members of the Board and to anyone of our members that might have an interest.

*2010 SE EPPC Meeting:* Johnny is our local representative to the parent organization, and usually attends the annual meeting. This year he has a travel conflict, and cannot attend. The travel expenses have been supplemented by the board in past years (1/2) paid EPPC, the other ½ paid by someone else. The meeting will be held May 11-13, and the invitation was posed to the whole group. It was noted that Steve Manning will be attending the meeting already, and may be able to report back to us about the meeting. However, it would be great if another board member could attend. ★ Rick indicated some interest in attending if he could figure out another source for funding his trip, however, he will contact board members who were not present at this meeting first to determine their interest.

*Etc:*

- Randy brought up a question that had been posed to him from Robert Smith of the Arbor Day foundation in Nebraska. The question was if Sawtooth Oak should be planted in large swaths in native forests by foresters and wildlife biologists. This tree is a prolific producer of acorns, which is favored by wildlife. No consensus was met by the group, and it was agreed that this could be a topic fraught with controversy.
- The NC Nursery and Landscape Association are examining the assessment model for invasive nursery stock that was prepared by Joe Neal and his graduate student. ★ Rick tasked the board members to examine the tool before the next meeting in order to bring feedback about the model to the next meeting. A website reference to access the model will be forwarded by Rick to the Board.

**The next board meeting will be held at 9am on Monday June 14th at the Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill.**

**Meeting Adjourned @ 12:20**

**Minutes Prepared by Bridget Lassiter**

Note: Items that are starred (★) are tasks that need to be addressed before the next board meeting.