

SC EPPC Conference Call Notes

10-28-2014

Attendance:

Dan Hill dhill@coker.edu
David Bourgeois david.bourgeois@mwv.com
Jennifer Plunket jen@belle.baruch.sc.edu
Laurie Reid lreid@forestry.state.sc.us
Lauren Serra lauren_serra@nps.gov
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Sudie Thomas sudie.thomas@sc.usda.gov
Lauren Pile lpile@g.clemson.edu
Bill Steele billsteele@ascgreenway.org

1. Recap of Annual Meeting

There was general agreement that the meeting went well. The presenters on the community grant projects were well received. It was good that the staff of the DPI was present. Sheri Altman gave important updates on DPI.

About \$1400 received from registration, expenses \$700. Attendance was about 30.

Outcomes- Information presented about Plant Camp and the Lakeville project for teachers will help to spread the program into South Carolina.

Follow-up needed from the business meeting: increasing community grant amounts and filling board and officer positions.

ACTION: Dan needs list of registrants for membership.

2. Survey Feedback - suggestions for moving forward

Suggestions from survey include increase membership, increase visibility, secure more grant funding, bring board together more often (possibly monthly conference calls), more outreach

Re-forming committees: Prior committees were meetings and workshops, EDRR, education/outreach/website, and the plant list. Plant list and EDRR could be one committee.

Should the whole board have the membership list? Dan Hill maintains the membership list.

Lauren will put together a more comprehensive plan for the board to discuss at the next meeting.

Increasing membership: Tap into private pesticide applicators who need to earn education credits to maintain their license by offering credits at the annual meeting. Would be a very large list so might need to be localized.

Partnering with similar agencies for future meetings, e.g. aquatic plant management society, weed management society, for future meetings would build on synergy of groups.

Awards or certificates may increase interest in participation on committees.

ACTION: Dan will send the current membership list to the board members

ACTION: Board members consider nominations/membership for committees

3. New Board Member Recruiting

No representation currently from the SC DNR or forest service. An environmental educator and someone from DOT would also be good.

Proposed new members:

Dr. Bob Polomski

Dr. Jeanne Briggs

Dr. Donald Hagan

Motion to vote on new members by Ben. second by Dan. All proposed member nominations were unanimously accepted. A full vote will be taken after nominees are contacted.

ACTION: Board members will consider nominations for potential new board members.

4. Financial Update (Dan McMillan)

Dan will stay on for another year as treasurer.

Meeting registration netted \$700.

\$18,243 in budget

5. Membership (Dan Hill)

Estimated membership is about 40 members.

ACTION: Ben will send the registration list to Dan to update membership.

ACTION: Dan will send full distribution list to Lauren

6. SE-EPPC Meeting - SC representation (Lauren)

Lauren will not be able to attend. Board member substitute- Dan Hill. Board agreed to assist Dan with travel expenses. Estimated \$500 in expenses.

7. Plant List - Brochure in development (Sudie)

A few species were added. Lauren has a group of students working on creating a new design for the brochure.

The new list has been posted on the website as an excel spreadsheet and pdf.

8. Outreach - Green Gone Bad etc.

More topics/articles are needed for the Green Gone Bad articles that Sudie has been writing (running out of species). Article topics could be determined at the start of each year. Only 6 are needed for the year.

Quarterly newsletters to membership might increase participation/interest. Topics could include an announcement of community grants program, recapping meetings, current research, announcements of upcoming meetings. There are concerns over the work load of producing a newsletter. It could be limited to one-page with a paragraph on each topic.

9. Community Grant Program

Lauren proposed increasing the award amount from \$500 to \$750. Meeting attendance will need to be increased in the future.

Bill Steele proposed to increase to \$1,000 per grant. Board voted to accept proposal.

Dan Hill will participate on committee to select awardees.

ACTION: Announcements will be sent out. Application deadline: January 15, Award date: February 15th

10. Other

Ben proposed a joint meeting with the Aquatic Plant Management Society every 3 years. He will also keep the group updated on the progress of the Plant Camp program.