

SC-EPPC Conference Call
January 27, 2015

In attendance: Lauren P., Dan H., Dan M., Colette, Don, Bob, Mary, David, Carrie, Bill, Sudie, Lauren

1. Community Grant Program

- a. Each applicant was rated a minimum of 4 times, each by a different board member. The Clemson Creative Inquiry application was not rated by anyone associated with Clemson. The survey was anonymous, but I was able to track IP addresses for response. Total score an application could receive was 30 points. Results in **BOLD** received the top two highest ratings.
- b. Six Applicants
 - i. Clemson Creative Inquiry
 1. Funds requested: \$1000
 2. **Avg. total score: 24.5**
 3. **Avg. overall rating (question 10): 4.25**
 - ii. Friends of the Reedy River
 1. Funds requested: \$1000
 2. **Avg. total score: 23.8**
 3. Avg. overall rating (question 10): 3.8
 - iii. Kiawah Conservancy
 1. Funds requested: \$320.00
 2. Avg. total score: 23.5
 3. **Avg. overall rating (question 10): 4.25**
 - iv. James B. Edwards
 1. Funds requested: \$900
 2. Avg. total score: 22.8
 3. Avg. overall rating (question 10): 3.0
 - v. Dataw Conservancy
 1. Funds requested: \$513.25
 2. Avg. total score: 22.4
 3. Avg. overall rating (question 10): 3.8
 - vi. State Parks
 1. Funds requested: \$1000
 2. Avg. total score: 21.25
 3. Avg. overall rating (question 10): 3.0

There was discussion on improving the application for next year including areas such as: restoration and long-term monitoring. Don Hagan discussed a need for a comments section on the review survey. David suggested that we need to address the requirements (presentation at annual meeting, article, data sharing, and monitoring) of the grant recipients in the acceptance email. Lauren S. and Carrie discussed the importance of GPS technology for long-term monitoring of invasive species.

Dan M. informed us that the bank account has \$18,678. Some of this money is allocated to cogongrass.

VOTE: The board voted to fund 3 of the top applicants: Clemson Creative Inquiry, Friends of the Reedy River, and Kiawah Conservancy spending a total of \$2320.

Herrick (attending a meeting this week, so could not be on the call):

I reviewed the State Parks and Clemson CI proposals on Survey Monkey. I also read all of the other proposals. Operating under the impression that SC-EPPC has \$2000 to award to the best proposals and that one of the goals of this investment could be viewed as a bit of an advertising campaign, I'm wondering if we can get the most 'bang for our bucks' by awarding more than two proposals this year? The Dataw and Kiawah proposals together come in at about \$833.25. The downside is, I don't think either will provide much public exposure for EPPC and both projects seem to be relatively GIS centered. My experience in the field makes me wonder just how useful a 'shoe box' data set that covers such a small geographic area really is. Why not just use EDDMapS?...it's free! The potential upshot is that both of these communities might harbor potential donors to an EPPC endowment (stress on the word 'might'). Beyond that, I really liked the FoRR proposal through and through. I thought the James B. Edward Elementary proposal held its greatest strength in its ability to reach young students. My concerns however, with the JBEE proposal is that while I'm all for educating people about the benefits of native plant species, I wasn't sure how successive generations would learn about the detrimental impact of non-native invasive species.

State Parks: Many elements lacked the specific detail that I would like to have seen. I feel this project represents a wonderful public / private partnership between SCPRT and the Germantown Community with potential benefits extending to all visitors of Hampton Plantation. However, the budget justification notes that current costs for contract services run about \$100 per acre and then says they have 10 "areas" to treat without describing how large these areas are. It's certainly unfortunate if this was a typo, but the issue could have been lessened through the inclusion of a map. The argument for impacts to critical species habitat (RCW's in particular) is valid, but I'm considering the ongoing efforts present on the surrounding Francis Marion NF as having a more significant impact with regard to habitat restoration. The SCPRT certainly has a vision for what their restoration goals are, but little to no detail with regard to how this will be achieved.

While I like the project idea, I would not recommend this project proposal for funding.

Clemson CI: This project builds on previous efforts undertaken at Clemson University and includes a detailed budget, list of species targeted for removal (including their threat status), as well as well marked supporting map figures. This project will reach a wide community of activists and students and includes volunteers, partnerships, education and outreach. The plan seems well drafted so much so that I'd like to see publications come out of this effort! I have two suggestive criticisms. Clemson University has at least two resources on campus that are not mentioned: The Herbarium and the State Botanical Garden. In as much as students will be using CVS survey methodology, I'd like to see some effort made toward the generation of voucher specimens to be deposited at the Clemson Herbarium. Further, it appears that the restoration

plan will rely mainly on the existing native vegetation as a source for regeneration. Would the SCBG not be able to provide some seed stock or something of that sort to assist in bolstering the native community?

I think this project proposal should be funded in full and that every dollar would be well spent.

2. Committees

- Education and Outreach
 - Chair – Jeanne Briggs
 - Dan Hill
 - Bob Polomski
 - Lauren Serra
- SC Non-Native Plant List and Early Detection and Rapid Response
 - Chair – Don Hagan
 - Bill Steele
 - Mary Bunch
 - Sudie Thomas
 - Herrick Brown
- Workshops and Meetings
 - Chair – Lauren Pile
 - Colette Degarady
 - Carrie Miller
- GOAL: Over the next month meet with your committees (via email, lead by the committee chair) to discuss 1 or 2 feasible goals for the next year, a plan, and division of responsibility. Be prepared to discuss on the next conference call at the end of February.

3. NA-IPC

- a. North American Invasive Plant Control is raising funds to support travel to the ASTM meeting in Anaheim in April to address horticultural trade concerns about the ASTM standard and their work on listing invasive species based on environmental impacts.
- b. Goal of \$3,000 they have raised \$2,550 so far. Contributors have been: Florida, Ohio, Pacific Northwest, California, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin, Mid-Atlantic, Alabama, and the Northern Rockies.
- c. Do we wish to contribute? Most have given between \$150 and \$300.

The board did not vote to spend funds to NA-IPC at this time.

4. Meetings and Things

- a. Kalmia Gardens Earth Day Festival – April 18th
 - i. Arts and crafts vendors and environmental exhibitors
- b. Environmental Educators Association of SC is looking for Board Members (contact Dan Hill)
 - i. Meeting in Columbia (July 23 & 24th) and is looking for a speaker on invasive species
- c. TN-EPPC annual meeting

- i. TN-EPPC at Twenty: A Look Back, A Vision Forward
 1. Friday, February 27 at the Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art in Nashville, TN
 - a. Great speakers- including Dan Simberloff
- d. SC Horticultural Industry Trade Show
 - i. February 4-6, 2015
 1. Jeanne has offered to help Laura Lee with the SC-EPPC display boards (Sudie is providing) and the booth.

Colette:

Keep in mind that our treasury holds about \$5,000 remaining from a past cogongrass grant that is ok to fold into the mix, but would be good to consider earmarking future activities towards cogongrass surveys, outreach, etc... (might be a nice additional grant RFP specified to this in the future). I'll can help with this. We've been paying small amounts for some meeting costs the past few years during cogongrass trainings.

Lauren P.: We will consider a cogongrass workshop for the spring. Don offered to participate.

I'm helping to coordinate a Prescribed Fire and Longleaf conference in Awendaw, SC on March 21st. We will be sending around fliers and exhibit info next week. Would be great to have an EPPC booth there highlighting cogongrass, particularly since a new occurrence was found last Fall on the Francis Marion National Forest. I think I could get John Brubaker to staff the booth if he's in town. I can help set-up, but I'll be busy overseeing things.