

MINUTES
SE-EPPC Board Meeting – May 19, 2008
Biloxi Mississippi
Recorded by Karen Brown

Present:

Alix Cleveland (USFS)
Chuck Bargeron (GA-EPPC)
Dan Clark (FLEPPC)
Karen Brown (Editor)
Nancy Loewenstein (ALIPC)
Tony Pernas (NAEPPC)
Lee Patrick (Treasurer)
Dave Moorhead, GA-EPPC
Carey Minter (GA-EPPC)
Steve Brewer (MS-EPPC)
Terri Killeffer (NBII-SAIN)
John Brubaker (SC-EPPC)
Brian Bowen (phone in) (Coordinator)

Not present: Vice president (Joyce Bender), Secretary (Kristen Allen), chapter representatives from KY, NC, TN.

Minutes – taken by Karen Brown.

Changes to previous minutes – Nancy Loewenstein requested change of affiliation name in the previous minutes to ALIPC.

Note: items highlighted herein are action items needing attention prior to the next board meeting.

Approval of minutes – John Brubaker motioned; Nancy seconded.

Correspondence – none.

Treasurer's Report (Lee Patrick) – see attached report. New budget year starts in August. Bob Parrish (TN-EPPC) and Brian Bowen are on Budget Committee. IRS forms – Michigan chapter needs to be deleted and Texas and Rocky Mountain chapters added for IRS purposes. No one has been reporting this info to the IRS for 2-3 years. **Brian is to send standard forms to Lee to add new chapters.** Brian doesn't know why the forms stopped coming to him. Texas may not join SE-EPPC if the only advantage is to be tax-exempt as they can do that for themselves. **Chuck will contact TX and we will defer on TX until they decide.** Rocky Mtn was only going to join for a year or so until they get up and running. **Tony will provide info on Rocky Mtn. Standard form needed for Rocky Mtn IPC. Lee will get letter from Brian to remove Michigan from charter.**

It was stated that Arkansas Heritage sent \$500 to be a provisional member. Theo Whistell is the Arkansas contact.

Lee clarified a 60/40 split for next year's symposium profits.

SE-EPPC Symposium-Biloxi - 87 pre-registrants at this time; \$10,000+ from registrants; MS Forestry covering much of the cost.

Lee needs the numbers of state chapter memberships for fiscal year invoicing. Chuck will send the spreadsheet that Carrie provided in March for invoicing state chapters.

Steve Brewer motioned to approve; Nancy L. seconded.
Editor's Report (Karen Brown) - KY and TN still have not provided membership/ mailing lists since the new system came online. WWs is on schedule for delivery June 1. Updated mailing lists are needed. Carrie sent her lists to Chuck in March. Chuck divided them by chapters and put them online but never received new info from KY and TN. Brian suggested asking Carrie to help out but Chuck and Karen and Lee said Carrie was no longer participating. Chuck stated that the chapters should have to perform this function. The mailing lists need to be updated on a quarterly basis, to coordinate with the printing of WWs. Issues are mailed out Mar 1, June 1, Sept 1, Dec 1.

Coordinator's Report (Brian Bowen) – Brian needs an overview of SE symposium for his newsletter. Steve Brewer volunteered to do this.

Brian submitted a report to the Secretary of State, required annually, in TN. Brian wants to compile the chapter information for reporting purposes. TN-EPPC was the original name on the charter, but it was changed to SE-EPPC.

KY's treasurer, Thomas McClure, died suddenly last Sunday. Need to consolidate their documents.

Brian attended NIWAW meetings in DC. NA-EPPC board meeting mostly conference planning. Helped Janet Clark (CIPM-Montana) with planning CWMA-Reno meeting.

Website Coordinator - Chuck Bargeron updated the chapter websites. He will be updating Florida first, then Georgia. Most chapters are up-to-date except for KY.

The new SE-EPPC banner is finished and looks good. It's available for other chapters to use and can be shipped. We also have 1,000 copies of the new membership brochure. Each chapter should take a supply.

Chuck stated that by the meeting next year, we will have credit card payments available online.

Symposium Local Arrangements – (Steve Brewer) – Most states well-represented. 9 vendors, plus latecomers. MS-EPPC will provide an award to the keynote speaker, Lester Spell, DVM, Commissioner, Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, who has been very proactive with invasive plant species management. MS Forestry is paying a lot of the expenses for the symposium. State chapters will be presenting updates during the meeting.

Sidenote: Steve's term as MS-EPPC president ends in the Fall. Jim Copeland (VP) will take Steve's place.

Little interest in the Arboretum field trip so it was cancelled; Pascagoula River Swamp tour doing alright. Only 23% of attendees are going on field trips this year, as opposed to 60-70% last year. Dave Moorhead thinks the interaction that takes place is good. The cogongrass field trip has gotten the most interest. CEUs are not being offered this year. Karen thinks this adds to the draw for field trips. Chuck thinks having field

trips before the symposium is over builds the organization. GA and FL both schedule field trips in the middle of the presentations.

Chuck said the lateness of the registration and the program may have caused this year's lower attendance (87 pre-registered). AL-IPC gave CEU's for their recent meeting and had 150 attendees. Last year, CEUs were offered for all the states. **SC will pursue CEUs for next year's symposium.**

2009 Symposium - John Brubaker – Tony and Brian are helping to plan the SC-EPPC meeting. Robin Mackie is the program chair. Colette DeGarady will be assisting. Meeting will be in Georgetown, SC at a Quality Inn (not fancy, but adequate, with lots of family attractions.) They will be trying an outdoor classroom approach. Dates: May 13-15, 2009. Baruch Institute will be the scene of some presentations (in the field, rather than in an auditorium.) There will also be programs for people who can not or will not go in the field. This venue can only accommodate a maximum of 150 people.

Nancy L. said that an ALIPC member expressed that meetings are running too late in the year as field work starts. Steve stated that they also have to avoid academic conflicts. **Chuck is to compile some listservs to use to promote annual symposia in coming years.**

John says volunteer burnout and tardiness is a problem for symposia planners. They are evolving the idea of having a planner. \$50 per person is a typical cost and this is buried in the registration fee. They have gotten the cost down to \$15 per person. Tony and Brian have wanted to lessen the cost so that SE-EPPC won't lose so much revenue. Brian thinks it is a matter of scale and thinks 150 people wouldn't make it worthwhile. He thinks 300-400 attendees would be a minimum. Chuck thinks the idea might be good. Last year, the GA Center took care of a lot of the work.

It might be better to alter symposium dates to not compete with state meetings and to encourage more SE attendance. We need a regional draw (cogongrass; disturbed areas; etc). Terri suggested alternating state meetings with a SE-EPPC meeting. Not a valid comparison, according to Brian – there are distance issues, budget issues, size issues, length of time issues. Steve is on the board of the Society for Ecological Restoration and they have shown an interest in a joint meeting. TN, KY, FL, AL, NC, GA, SC, TN (2010?). **Chuck suggested coordinating a joint meeting with SAMAB. Brian will contact someone on their board.** Their meetings are in October but it might be OK to move the meeting dates to avoid chapter meeting conflicts. Alix thinks this would be a good way to mix up some disparate groups. Nancy Loewenstein made a motion to approach their board; this was seconded. Nancy Fraley and Terri Hogan need to be involved. Brian thinks it could be in TN, as a cooperative meeting with TN-EPPC, SE-EPPC, and SAMAB.

NA-EPPC/NAA meeting (Brian Bowen) – Oct. 14-17 – 52 sessions; 110 invited speakers; 55-60 papers; 30 posters; 13 concurrent sessions; 25 field trips (Thursday); banquet at Ryman Auditorium; plenary session on Tuesday in another historic building. Dick Mack, Dan Simberloff, Larry Schweiger (NWF) are some of the major speakers. Need funding for 9 – 12 speakers but have received good support from EPPCs. Very strong program. Big worry is the economy. \$150,000 is the budget for expenses.

Registration will be \$250. There will be a conference call next month with all the EPPCs-IPCs to discuss presentation details. Jil Swearingen is coordinating this meeting.

EDRR Committee – Chuck is updating features in EDDMapS for EDRR. He has a project coming up in Alaska, mid-Atlantic EPPC; Invasive Plant Atlas of the Mid-South (John Madsen), Texas (Damon Waits); Forest Service-Southern Region plans to transfer their data over to EDDMapS (per Alix Cleveland). Other groups have expressed an interest. Chuck commented that he did not want to be leader on so many committees. **John Brubaker mentioned Robin Mackie as a possibility for the EDRR committee chair.** Randy Westbrook, Stephen Enloe (Auburn-Ext. Weed Specialist) would also be good for the committee.

Communications Committee – Chuck wants someone else to be responsible for this committee. Karen nominated Nancy Loewenstein, with Karen and Chuck being members of the committee.

Executive Director – tabled until next meeting as our representation is low at today's meeting. Draft 1 has been delivered by Brian.

Bylaws – John updated the bylaws using the SC-EPPC bylaws and the original SE-EPPC bylaws for reference. Increasing their number of board members to include more agencies has greatly enhanced the intellectual input at SC-EPPC. New bylaws include four officers, + immediate past president and publications editor (2), 8 chapters (2 reps each=16); Total = 22. Chuck says we need people with time and money or other resources. Face-to-face meetings may not be able to be mandatory because of travel budgets. John Brubaker says the members at large have helped encourage attendance. Brian isn't sure this would work at the regional level and would be problematic. Nancy L. thinks maybe there should be regional agency representatives, rather than state. Chuck believes that if SE-EPPC wants to do more than have an annual symposium, the states need to be more invested. Either we don't need to have board meetings, or we need to be more productive. Using an online calendar and setting meetings ahead of time is what should be done. There should be two face-to-face board meetings per year, with both state reps, one should be the annual meeting; an officer and a 2nd state rep can call in, perhaps representing the general membership, no administrative responsibilities so more available. Chuck was greatly disappointed that the SE-EPPC VP and Secretary did not attend. Extenuating circumstances will be considered for non-attendance but attendance must be kept up. Playing devil's advocate, Nancy asked if the SE-EPPC has run its course and is no longer needed. She said that she thinks SE-EPPC is important and doesn't think it should be disbanded, but feels we need to revisit what the SE-EPPC's role is and make sure it remains relevant. Karen stated that invasive plants are a regional issue and there needs to be a regional group. A different example: Southern Forest Insect group meets once a year but doesn't attempt to do anything else but gather annually. Mid-Atlantic meets electronically using email and this works well. Some other groups have held workshops for EDDMapS, demonstrating state interest in the SE product. **We should outline our successes.** There was a strategic plan in 2005 but we are disappointed. **Alix says we should reexamine the strategic plan, identify successes and identify**

disappointments and weaknesses, and reevaluate. Chuck thinks we need to revisit the strategic plan and update it. Alix says we should be adaptable; it's not a bad thing. Chuck made a motion that each state chapter identify people in their state to attend a strategic planning retreat and work on it. David Moorhead seconded. Chuck made a motion, seconded by Lee, that Editor of WWs be added as an officer of the Executive Committee. Karen nominated Chuck Bargeron to be president; John seconded. Tony Pernas called for a vote and there was no opposition. Karen made a motion to table further bylaws discussion until next board meeting; seconded.

CWMAs – The CWMA conference in Reno was well represented (Brian reporting). Nice to see east meets west. Nancy Fraley is organizing a Mountains of NC CWMA, walking thru the process and paperwork. Randy Westbrook is to talk about EDRR in August. Chris Evans is a full-time CWMA director.

USFS Liaison – Alix Cleveland says US Forest Service has put out a new USFS manual chapter (now in internal review) that will replace the one on noxious weeds; it now includes all invasive species management. Alix pointed out that a sizable grant (\$2.2 million for the next 3 years) for cogongrass control in GA, FL, AL and SC just got funded, with money from each State Forestry Commission (50%) and money from the State and Private branch of the Forest Service (50%). Alix will write this up for WWs.

SC-EPPC just completed a 2008 cogongrass survey guide, which was distributed to board members by John Brubaker.

Next board meeting – Chuck stated there should be a strategic planning meeting first, with an agenda; September 11th (Thursday) is a suggested date.

Nancy L. motioned to adjourn. David seconded.