

**SE EPPC Teleconference
September 11, 2008**

Participants

Chuck Bargeron, *President*
Joyce Bender, *Vice President*
Kristen Allen, *Secretary*
Lee Patrick, *Treasurer*
Brian Bowen, *Coordinator*
Tony Pernas, *Past President*
Karen Brown, *FL*
Johnny Randall, *NC*

Nancy Loewenstein, *AL*
John Bruebaker, *SC*
Nancy Fraley, *TN*
Alix Cleaveland, *USFS Liaison*
Jim Copeland, *MS*
Connie Gray, *GA*
Steve Brewer, *MS*

Chuck suggested that this be an abbreviated meeting to determine a good time for a strategic planning face-to-face meeting. January 13 & 14 was finally decided. Chuck will find a place in Athens. Will plan to meet at 9:00 am on Tuesday (to end when people get tired) and continue until 5:00 on Wednesday. Alix suggested that it would be useful to travel the day before so that we have two full days.

Chuck referenced his emailed list of discussion items to be researched before the meeting. Items were further organized into the following list by Karen. Board members were instructed to volunteer for various items. Volunteers will not necessarily be chairing the committee, just gathering information to help others chair.

Structural Committee: historical information (i.e. officers from beginning, dates, nominations), by-laws, future of officers, strategic plan, coordinator position – *Joyce Bender, Brian Bowen and Kristen Allen*

Discussion

John does not consider that it should serve as the driving force for a new set of Bylaws. Johnnie: It's important to know where we've been to know where we're going; Alix: We need the context for each item; Chuck: Need to put together committees with clear pictures of what they need to be doing; Have certain things to discuss and need to be prepared with the background to discuss them; The volunteer can make a short presentation to brief everyone before discussion. Brian: Should also revisit the strategic plan. Let's see what other folks are doing. We should send something out ahead of time so people can see something beforehand. Will also put together a nominations committee.

Fundraising/budget/grants (both giving them and looking for them) /**membership** (keeping track of) – *Lee Patrick, Tony Pernas*

Legislative Policy (Increase political activity) – *Connie Gray, Jim Copeland, Steve Brewer*

Symposia Planning - figuring out how to do things in the future to alleviate past problems – *Tony Pernas, Brian Bowen, Johnny Randall*

Research: How EPPC could foster and support research in this field - *It was decided that this committee would be addressed later.*

Discussion

Johnnie suggests that EPPC isn't ready for this arena; Chuck suggests it would be useful to compile existing research; Johnnie says that this is already being done by Barry Rice in Invasive weed digest, which is very comprehensive; Chuck: maybe this committee would work to ensure all research is getting into it and that the publication is promoted and we are all getting it; Karen: Should this also work to provide small grants to researchers? GA and NC have done this and like the idea; Brian: Is it just a question of making the link more available (putting it on our webpage)? Karen already looks for related research and puts it in internodes;

Formation of CWMA's – Getting EPPC more involved with fostering this - *Jim Copeland* (ties into the legislation); *Nancy Fraley*; *Alix Cleaveland*; *Chuck Barger*, *Christopher Groen* (volunteered by Nancy Fraley)

Early Detection and Rapid Response: *John Brubaker, Rick Iverson, Johnnie Randall, Nancy Fraley, Chuck Barger*

Education/Outreach/Communication (Wildland Weeds, Website, publications, membership with relation to other EPPC's): What information we are/should be providing, how to provide it, how to boost membership - *Karen Brown, Brian Bowen, Kristen Allen, Nancy Loewenstein*

SE relationship with NA EPPC – Chuck Barger and Tony Pernas

Alix volunteered to help Chuck develop the structure/agenda for meeting; John would like to be a part of that as well and Brian will contribute as needed;

Bob Parrish should be a part of the financial discussion.

Karen suggested that everyone should send Chuck any problems that should be solved.

John suggested that these committee reports be sent to Chuck and a comprehensive briefing package be sent out to everyone before the meeting; Information should be sent to Chuck by close of business December 19th.

In the past, Exec Committee has approved travel requests between meetings; As president, Chuck is not comfortable with this; Joyce has made a request that SE EPPC share her travel expenses with KY EPPC; Motion: Chuck; Second: Connie; Lee would like to discuss these more for future requests; Approved unanimously; John thinks any question could be handled by email to entire board.

Symposium Update- John Brubaker

Plenary speakers: Daniel Simberloff - Gore Hunger Professor of Environmental Science, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology University of Tennessee Knoxville; Debbie Mann – NRCS; Doria Gordon - Florida TNC Senior Ecologist and Associate Director of Conservation Science, Gainesville

Start at 1:00 on Wednesday, 2 plenaries followed by breakout sessions and poster session

Thursday will be field trips or alternative elective indoor workshops/concurrent sessions followed by low-country-boil at Belle Baruch

Friday – one plenary speaker and panel discussion

Will get CESU credits for participation

Upcoming NA Conference – Brian

Programs are ready to go to print

Concern is registration with economy

It is currently around 300; Will send out an email again soon;

Doubletree rooms are gone

Average registration in the past has been variable, but has been 400-600

Socials two nights; Field trips on Thursday; Banquet at Ryman

Next 10 days very critical because hotels will fill up.