

SE-EPPC Board of Directors Meeting

September 10, 2013 – 10:00 AM EST

ATTENDEES: Brian Arnold (President), Karen Brown (Secretary), Karan Rawlins (GA), Jim Burch (FL), Ben Powell (SC), Jessica Spencer (USACOE Liaison), Nancy Loewenstein (Past President), Jim Burke (NC), Stephen Enloe (AL), Aaron Hayek (MS), Nancy (Fraley) Dagley (NC). TN-EPPC not represented.

President-elect: Karen motioned that Stephen Enloe be elected as President-elect, Karan Rawlins seconded – unanimously approved by the board.

NA-EPPC Liaison: Nancy Loewenstein has been serving in this capacity. The bylaws were checked and this is an officer position. Since Stephen Enloe is now President-elect, Nancy is no longer an officer as past president so she is free to accept the NA-EPPC Liaison position. Karen motioned that Nancy serve as NA-EPPC Liaison; Karan seconded – unanimously approved by the board.

Treasurer's Report: Lee Patrick was unable to send a report. He would like to have a budget meeting in October: Brian Arnold, Lee Patrick, Bob Parrish (?), Stephen Enloe, Karen Brown, Jim Burke volunteered to participate. Nancy L. motioned to reform the budget committee as above; seconded by Stephen Enloe; unanimously approved by the board. Brian will contact Lee with this information and ask him if Bob Parrish is still serving (he recently retired from his job, according to Nancy Dagley). Karen sent an email to Lee asking if he sent the final invoice to USDA-FS for the grant we received (an item from the previous minutes).

Secretary's Report: Karen sent the minutes to the board yesterday afternoon and asked if there were any changes to be made. Nancy motioned to accept the minutes of the last board meeting; Ben seconded – approved. Karen will submit the approved minutes to Chuck Barger for posting on the website.

FLEPPC/SE-EPPC SYMPOSIUM REPORT – Karen reported on the 2013 annual meeting. FLEPPC/SE-EPPC Symposium PowerPoint presentations are now online at FLEPPC and SE-EPPC websites as pdf files. Program and abstracts are also online. There were 108 attendees (FL – 78; AL – 4; GA – 8; KY – 1; MS – 1; NC – 2; SC – 4; TN – 1; other attendees from CA, LA, TX, IN, DE, DC [some were vendors] were added to the FLEPPC roster to receive Wildland Weeds as registration included an annual membership). Profit was \$1,451. 60% due to SE-EPPC is \$870; 40% due to FLEPPC is \$581.

Next annual meeting: GA-EPPC is willing to host the 2014 meeting; this was decided at their last board meeting in which Brian Arnold participated. Karan says timing might be an issue as their annual meeting is in November. May is a difficult time due to active burn season, heavy work schedule, etc. Possible venues include St. Simon's Island (Methodist camp that prohibits intoxicants but provides a shuttle into town). Karen suggested bumping it up to October 1 to shorten the time between meetings but the federal budget fiscal year end is October 1st so that would not be a good substitute. November 4-6, 2014 would be a possible date. NAA conference is usually in early October so we would not conflict with them. FLEPPC conference is in May so that would not conflict. Much discussion ensued about changing the date by six months. Karen thinks we should defer to the hosting state. Aaron Hayek agreed;

volunteers are hard to come by. Ben stated that federal employees might not be able to attend two meetings within the same fiscal year. Karan Rawlins said having it in the spring would drastically shorten the planning time and many of their board members have stated that they would not be able to attend. PROS: GA would have more lead time; board members could attend; volunteers are hard to come by; active work time for GA folks. CONS: Feds can't attend two meetings in one budget year; traditionally SE has their meetings in the spring. Karen motioned to have it in November but Ben amended the motion to make it a permanent change. Karen rejected the amendment and requested a vote during the meeting since there was a quorum and good representation from chapters. Nancy L. was not ready to vote same day. Brian suggested an email vote of the membership. Nancy Dagley thinks polling the membership is a good idea but not until the next annual meeting when we could give the topic more time. Nancy D. would support November for the next conference in GA but not a permanent change. She would prefer the spring but, since GA has stepped up to the plate, we should do what is comfortable for them. It is very time consuming; several people have to be really committed to planning the meeting. Ben (SC) appreciates every state's accommodation to be involved in SE-EPPC, but thinks we need to consider the region as a whole and have a specific date that stays the same. Karen expressed that since the vast majority of attendees are from the hosting state, we should accommodate them. Brian asked if we should go back to the GA board and say SE feels strongly that we should have it in the spring; would someone on the SE-EPPC board volunteer to help? Nancy L. and Ben would help. Karan Rawlins reiterated that the GA board felt they wouldn't have adequate time at this point and that, at the earlier time of year, they would have trouble attending and participating. They would prefer November if possible, but they will do May if necessary but it adds to the difficulty. Ben asked Karan about their board member affiliations and she listed them; Ben stated that this mirrored many other chapters and he thought it should be an SE-EPPC meeting to meet the needs of SE-EPPC since most everyone has the same types of members and work schedules. Karen again motioned to put it to a vote; Brian said he would craft an email vote with input from Karen and Nancy and send to the board. Ben suggested it be a blind vote– not "reply all". A deadline for the vote was set for Tuesday, Sept. 10th at 5PM.

Annual SE-EPPC Award of Excellence: Nancy L. motioned that this be tabled due to lack of time remaining on conference call; Karen seconded. Karen mentioned that there is a committee for this award composed of Chuck Barger, Nancy L., Karen B., and Lee Patrick.

NA-EPPC /ASTM Update: Nancy Loewenstein/Brian Arnold – Plant List ASTM from NA-EPPC ready to go out for review. Please share within each EPPC board and return any comments (is it too onerous? Doesn't match state's methods?)

Wildland Weeds: Karen reported that she has not published an issue for 2013. The last issue went out in January and was the Summer/Fall issue for 2012. Karen said the next issue is next in her list of projects but it's difficult to pull together an entire issue for the southeastern region without more help. Ben will send something next week from his chapter. Brian will write up the Forest Service Grant results with Nancy L. Karen has several items that have been submitted but has not started working on the next issue yet.

SE-EPPC ANNUAL GRANT: Brian apologized for lateness in addressing some tasks and will do what he can to rectify. He will communicate with Nancy regarding the annual grant for up to \$1500 in matching funds for research or outreach. Karen said it's not required that we do it every year and last year's deadline for proposals was July 31st and we've already missed that deadline. Nancy said it was supposed to be initiated by the chapters but Brian and Karen said we could do more to make it known that the grant is available. Brian said there's something to be said for continuity and he would like to do something about the grant.

State Reports:

- Alabama – Fall conference in Gulf Shores, AL October 17th; Stephen sent agenda to board.
- Florida – Jim Burch thanked everyone for participating in the FL/SE annual meeting in Panama City Beach. The new FLEPPC Plant List will be ready soon. Next FLEPPC annual meeting will be co-hosted with the FL Chapter of The Wildlife Society in the Tampa area.
- Georgia – no report
- Kentucky – no report
- Mississippi – no report
- N. Carolina – no report
- S. Carolina – Ben reported that their annual meeting is next week. They want to start a community project grant; they like the AL model and would like to see other models.
- Tennessee – no report

Brian asked everyone to submit board member photos for the website if they aren't already represented there.

Liaison Reports:

- APHIS – no report
- Industry – no report
- NPS – Nancy Dagley – they are still operating.
- USACE – Jessica Spencer is taking Jon Lane's place as Corps liaison
- USFWS – no report
- USDA FS – we need to get in touch with one of Alix's new appointees. Nancy L. will speak to USDA-FS representative Anna Greis at the upcoming AL-IPC meeting as she is giving a presentation there.
- TNC – Colette DeGarady is relinquishing her role as liaison, per Ben (SC). Karen offered to try to find a replacement since she knows several TNC people.

Karen motioned to adjourn; Ben seconded – Adjourned at 12:05.

ADDENDUM – DATE OF 2014 ANNUAL SE-EPPC MEETING COHOSTED BY GA-EPPC

Board:

During the Sept 10 SE-EPPC Board of Directors conference call, the date that our Annual Meeting is held was discussed at great length. Among those that participated in the call, there are opinions that differ significantly, with arguably good points on both sides.

Though we had a quorum participating in the conference call and therefore could have voted on the respective item, we concluded that due to the significance of the decision, we should provide a means for all voting members to consider the item and cast their vote. Also, allowing more time to consider all the ramifications of a potentially significant change seemed prudent.

Background

The GA-EPPC Board of Directors has offered to host the 2014 Joint Annual Meeting. However, due to busy work schedules and time limitations in the spring, some Board members indicated that they would be unable to contribute significantly to planning, or even attend a spring meeting. Therefore, the GA Board desires to host the Joint Meeting in early November, which is when GA-EPPC typically holds its annual meeting. GA is willing to host the meeting in May if required, but significantly prefers November so as to allow more time for planning (GA is currently working on its 2013 November annual meeting).

Points discussed during conference call

Cons of changing date

- Loss of consistency and the SE-EPPC Annual Meeting is typically held in the spring
- Some SE-EPPC members (especially Federal employees) may not be able to attend two meetings within the same fiscal year (which could happen if meetings fluctuate between spring and fall)
- If hosting chapter can choose date and meetings end up fluctuating between fall and spring, going from a fall to a spring time frame will allow the organizers of the following year's meeting less time to prepare
- Most of the attendees are typically from the hosting state so changing the date to spring may attract fewer attendees since they will have just had an annual meeting in November.

Pros of changing date

- Volunteers are hard to come by so we should try to accommodate them
- Allows for more GA Board Members to assist in organizing meeting and allows for them to attend the meeting
- GA membership will have their annual meeting at the same time as always

Possible Motions on the matter may include but are not limited to:

- A. No change (annual meetings to be held in spring)
- B. Change for 1 year only
- C. Allow hosting chapter to determine date of annual meeting

D. Permanently Change annual meeting date to the fall

Please consider this matter and let me know your preference(s) along with your comments.
Please send to me at: brian@songbirdlc.com.

Karen Brown, Nancy Lowenstein and I will review the responses and present to the board. We will need to settle this issue by end of business next week, so please reply with the above by Wednesday Sept 18 at latest.

Thank you.

Brian Arnold

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VOTING RESULTS:

September 20, 2013:

The motion (by Karen Brown) and second (Aaron Hayek) is to:
take a final (second) vote using the same criterion as put forth before, namely:
The SE-EPPC Annual Meeting for 2014 shall be jointly held with and hosted by the GA-EPPC as follows
(select your first and second choice using the letters provided):

- A. No change (annual meetings to be held in spring)
- B. Change for 1 year only
- C. Allow hosting chapter to determine date of annual meeting
- D. Permanently Change annual meeting date to the fall

LEE PATRICK	C	
KARAN RAWLINS (GA)	C	
AARON HAYEK (MS)	C	
BEVERLY JAMES (KY)	C	
JIM BURKE (NC)	C	
KAREN BROWN	C	
DENNIS GIARDINA (FL)	C	
MARIE KERR (TN)	C	
9/27/13:		
NANCY LOEWENSTEIN (PP)	A	B

From: Brian Arnold [<mailto:jb.arnold11@gmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 12:13 PM

To: Aaron Hayek, MS-EPPC President; Beverly James - KY-EPPC President; Ben Powell; Jim Burke; Dennis Giardina; Karan Rawlins; Enloe, Stephen ALIPC President; Marie Tackett; Lee Patrick - Treasurer

Cc: Brown, Karen P; Loewenstein, Nancy

Subject: Fw: Annual Meeting Date - IMPORTANT

Board: the vote at end of business yesterday (voting deadline) was 8 in favor of allowing chapters to decide Annual Meeting date for 2014. Because 8 votes exceed the number required, this is the option that we've now adopted. There was one vote for A (no change).

Obviously, this is an item that most of us are a bit passionate about. A survey of the membership, as mentioned during recent conference call, may be useful in our long range planning. We can address this at next Board meeting.

Thank you all.

Brian Arnold
SongBird LandCare
770-880-5041