

MINUTES
Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council
Board of Directors Meeting
Chattanooga - 9AM - 11AM May 11, 2010

Attendees: Tony Pernas (NPS Liaison), John Brubaker (SC-EPPC), Alix Cleveland (USFS Liaison), Steve Manning (proxy for Rick Iverson, NC-EPPC), Jim Burch (FLEPPC), Nancy Loewenstein (AL-IPC), Bill Kline (Industry Liaison), Joyce Bender (KY-EPPC), Lee Patrick (Treasurer), Lisa Morris (KY-EPPC Treasurer), Chuck Bargeron (President - phoned in), Karan Rawlins (GA-EPPC but proxy not established prior to board meeting); Chris Bryan (MS-EPPC - phoned in), Terri Hogan (TN-EPPC).

AGENDA ITEMS:

Approve minutes from last board meeting (March 2010). Motioned to approve by John B., Tony seconded. Unanimously approved.

Officer's Reports:

President (Chuck Bargeron) - no report

President-Elect (Nancy Loewenstein) - no report

Treasurer (Lee Patrick) - \$15K in checking; \$10K in savings; no money spent this past quarter; all tax info from chapters received. Teresa Whaley, accountant - no response regarding review of potential tax responsibility due to Wildland Weeds income. Lee will follow up with her. He is willing to stay on as Treasurer unless it gets more complex.

Secretary (Karen Brown) - all is up-to-date (minutes, board e-mail list updated recently, possible list-serve for board activities suggested by Chuck).

NA-EPPC Liaison (Brian Bowen) - Next meeting in October in MO. Looking for Chair and Secretary nominations until May 17th. Voting will close at 5PM May 31st. Conference call June 2nd. Brian will remain as Treasurer. Doug Johnson is not interested in becoming Chair. Each chapter president gets one vote. Call for NAA papers for October conference due Friday.

Annual Meeting Update (Terri Hogan, Chuck):

Program: one talk cancelled, one poster cancelled, one new poster.

Field Trips: everything scheduled.

Registrations: 110 as of Monday night, 20 as SER (29 including students).

Five withdrew; more have registered in last few days.

Vendors: setting up this afternoon.

Local Arrangements/Moderators/AV: all is in order.

CEU/Pesticide Credits: TN pesticide points available at registration.

MOU with SER-I: 35 attending SER-I luncheon; 65 attending SE-EPPC luncheon. Terri expects registrations to cover all expenses. Sponsorships will go to specified orgs (SE-EPPC vs SER).

General business meeting on Weds: discussed an agenda.

- 1) Bylaws changes.
- 2) Chapter reports.

- 3) NA-EPPC report.
- 4) Report on Wildland Weeds.
- 5) Describe committees and ask for volunteers, or circulate a sign-up sheet for any or all committees.
 - a. Bylaws
 - b. Communications/Outreach
 - c. Award - Career Achievement Award

Alix asked if any states were involved with ARRA (federal Recovery Act) and received funds. Joyce - felt that funds were very guarded in KY. John B. - ditto in SC; disappointing. Jim Burch and Tony Pernas - submitted grants but didn't receive anything. Was anyone involved in the process? Nancy L. said AL wasn't that bad; they were involved (Jim Miller and Stephen Enloe were asked to participate); probably because of MOU with Cogongrass Task Force. Chuck and Dave Moorhead were involved once money was allocated to US Forest Service. Pays support staff salary (edu/outreach position) at UGA. Robin Mackie (USFS) received funding.

Committee Reports:

Awards - Committee members are President, Past President, President-Elect. Recipient chosen for first Award of Excellence - Jim Miller. Plaque is in hand for presentation during opening session of the annual meeting. Tony Pernas will present the award. Chuck is to be reimbursed for plaque expense.

Bylaws - John Brubaker, Bob Parrish, Chuck Barger, Joyce Bender, Karen Brown. Discussion regarding bylaws changes. Students being non-voting members was discussed.

Alix questioned the removal of the Executive Committee from the bylaws; all boards that she is on have an Executive Committee. Chuck responded that electronic voting removed the necessity of an Executive Committee. It also encourages the board and state chapters to be more involved. Much discussion ensued re: relevance of having an Executive Committee with Alix, Karen, John, Brian, Chuck contributing. Nancy L. motioned to have a board vote on retaining the language of Art. VI, Sect. 1 re: Executive Committee. This would enable the board to reactivate the committee in the future if desired. Joyce B. seconded. YES votes: Chuck, Nancy, Joyce, Tony, Steve, Brian, Chris, Nancy representing Jimmie Cobb (AL-IPC - unapproved proxy but on record and this vote did not influence the outcome)

NO votes: Lee, Karen, John, Jim

8 - YES; 4 - NO

Chuck motioned to pass these damn bylaws with the retention of Art. VIII. Committees, Section 1. Brian seconded. Should we strike last sentence in Article III. Members, Section 1a, regarding whether or not student members should have voting privileges? Chuck revised motion to include striking this last sentence; Nancy L. seconded. Discussion suggested that student members could pay the full membership fee to become individual members if they desired voting privileges. John B. was against the motion. All others were in favor. Motion passed. Joyce Bender thanked those who worked on the bylaws revisions as she was unable to do so.

Communications/Outreach - (Banner, brochures, website) Chuck/Karen.

Wildland Weeds - Karen Brown. Karen was unable to gather data together to hold a strategic planning meeting due to time constraints. Chuck volunteered to provide conference call or WebEx for a meeting later in the summer. The spring issue of WWs has been printed and mailed and multiple copies were available at the meeting.

Finance - FY budget a function of the Finance Committee. Next board meeting will need to initiate budget process, per Lee Patrick.

Liaisons:

NA-EPPC - Brian Bowen - most info covered in previous minutes. Looking for new president and secretary. Call for papers for NAA extended. Board meeting scheduled for end of May. Not a non-profit organization. Finances handled by Cal-IPC. Finances include profits from NA-EPPC/NAA meeting in Nashville. Currently around \$4,700. left from about \$5,000.

National Park Service - Chris Furqueron (not present)

Southeast Exotic Plant Management Team - Nancy Fraley (not present)

Industry - Bill Kline - nothing to report. Volunteered a year ago but wasn't aware of anything he should be doing. Needs direction. John B. said it was partly to bring intellect to the group and help in making informed decisions. John said he would like to invest liaisons more in decision-making, too, but they aren't currently voting members. At FLEPPC, Bill Kline is Vendor Chair and had direct responsibility. Alix feels you don't need to be a voting member to add input but she also doesn't feel she has a specific role. Steven Manning said he thinks the Industry Liaison role should be to add perspective from the industry side of things and to assist where possible, such as letting the group use their Webinar set-up; leaning on industry to provide business expertise and ideas; Lee says looking for money is a lot of the work. Karen thinks the Vendor chair is a different role than Industry Liaison; the vendor chair is to drum up support and sponsorship for the annual meeting, whereas the Industry Liaison is to provide relevant information from the management industry re: new formulations, new equipment, legislation affecting management, etc. Whoever is holding the annual meeting could contact the industry liaison for help; contacting vendors could be part of the industry liaison responsibility because this person would typically know others in related business fields. Steve M. cited his other interactions with other groups; he has a lot to put on the table but any money spent on SE-EPPC currently is a donation because there is no tangible return to his company. Steve suggested that by sponsoring actual activities, they can promote both their own company and the council because there are tangible results. Chuck said Steve and Bill Kline should help develop things that SE could do to justify involvement. Steve said they put together a notebook of materials that they offer for University of Oregon Sponsorship opportunities. One possibility is a link off the website that links to sponsors for the year. Bill and Steve agreed to be a sub-group to discuss some of these ideas. Liaisons should report on what's going on with their agency and how we can partner, new initiatives, funding. Liaisons could put updates on their respective agencies in WWs, can prepare reports for board meetings, tell us how we can do what we do better. This ad hoc group (Steve and Bill) is to meet before next board meeting. Alix specified that certain items could be of interest such as NPDES permitting developments, which Bill Kline thought was an excellent idea.

TNC - Colette Degarady (not present)

USACE - Jon Lane (not present)
USDA Forest Service - Alix Cleveland
USFWS - Bill Thomas (not present)
APHIS - no response / no liaison established.
National Estuarine Research Reserve - no response / no liaison established.

Member Achievement Award - Chuck, Tony, Nancy L. - Completed for this year. Chuck will continue to chair. The award will be presented to Dr. Jim Miller.

Scholarship/Research Grants - Nancy L.
Discussion was tabled due to lack of time. Agreed to mention at lunch meeting. A post-conference email solicitation was also suggested.

Chapter News:

Discussion was tabled due to lack of time. Agreed to present chapter reports at lunch meeting.

AL	MS
FL	NC
GA	SC
KY	TN

New Business :

Next annual meeting location (2011). Alabama (Auburn)? NAA conference will be in Tallahassee in October. (Chuck is chair of Invasive Species session). NAA is typically partnered with NA-EPPC and a different type of meeting. Nancy L. could propose joint meeting with AL-IPC to her board. All other chapters have co-hosted at least once, GA (2), TN (3), NC (2). Rotation standpoint - KY or AL would be next. Auburn/Cogongrass Task Force/SE-EPPC - 160 turned out at last meeting; 350 at Cogongrass Task Force meeting. Nancy L. will take to her board.

Create a SE-EPPC Board of Directors Listserve (Chuck) for use in communicating to the board? No response from board.

Old Business :

- Publication of EPPC supported book by Gil Nelson (Karen Brown) is due out soon; Nancy brought pre-publication discount flyers to the meeting.
- Weeds Across Borders meeting - SE-EPPC rep attending? Brian? No. Brian is not on agenda.
- Steven Manning will have people at the WAB meeting and can take information. Will take brochures and WWs. Les Mehrhoff will be helping at the meeting.
- From 2008 minutes, Treasurer's Report: "It was stated that Arkansas Heritage sent \$500 to be a provisional member. Theo Whistell is the Arkansas contact." Whatever happened with this? CARRY FORWARD - TIME RAN OUT BEFORE BRINGING THIS UP.

Adjourn meeting : Karen motioned to adjourn. Joyce seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:40.

Addendum:

General Business Meeting: the annual general membership meeting was held in conjunction with a luncheon at the conference hotel. Approximately 65 SE-EPPC general members and board members attended. President Nancy Loewenstein provided an update on activities during the last year, mentioned availability of the new book by Gil Nelson that was sponsored, in part, by SE-EPPC and some chapters, and advised that a bylaws revision had been approved at the board of directors meeting. Lee Patrick (Treasurer) gave a report and asked for input on things that SE-EPPC might support with treasury funds; Karen Brown (Secretary) reported that secretarial duties were up-to-date. Chapter reports were given by state representatives present (Jim Burch, FLEPPC; Joyce Bender, KY-EPPC; John Brubaker, SC-EPPC; Terri Hogan, TN-EPPC; Nancy Loewenstein, AL-IPC). A sign-up sheet was circulated encouraging people to participate in SE-EPPC committees and Nancy L. requested people to please sign up.

The silent auction was closed and winners paid for their items. In an email received subsequent to the annual meeting, Terri Hogan of TN-EPPC suggested that TN-EPPC keep the proceeds of the silent auction (see e-mail correspondence below).

(submitted 5/20/10 and fwdd to board by Nancy Loewenstein 5/24/10):

Dear all,
Anni Self and I are going to do the final accounting for the meeting on Monday. We had a TNEPPC meeting on Wednesday PM and the Silent Auction came up. I would like to request that TNEPPC keep the silent auction money (\$1026). A GREAT deal of effort went into organizing and managing it and there was a lot of discussion on whether it was worth doing at all. Would you please pass this question on to the board and let us know?

Terri Hogan

After some discussion, President Nancy Loewenstein entered the following motions for a board vote via e-mail 5/24/10:

In light of this request I am making the following motions ...

- 1) To allow state chapters hosting the annual SE-EPPC meeting to keep all proceeds from the silent auction and to allow TN-EPPC to keep proceeds from the 2010 silent auction.
- 2) To reimburse SC-EPPC for proceeds given to SE-EPPC for last year's (2009) silent auction (60% of \$1200).

After (if) this is seconded, we will open the topic up for discussion, then hopefully have a vote by the end of the week.

Thanks,
Nancy

Karen Brown seconded both motions via e-mail 5/24/10.

Some discussion ensued and Dan Brown sent the following information on the 2010 silent auction preparation and suggestions for future silent auctions:

Terri,

Here are some numbers and thoughts from Margie, Nancy and me concerning the recent silent auction, and suggestions for any future ones:

First, the numbers:

- Total number of items: 54
- Total value of items: \$1787
- Total amount bid: \$1093
- Total number Conference attendees: 110
- Number of bidders: 56
- Number of people with high bids: 29
- Number of people with one high bid: 17
- Most high bids by one person: 8
- Number of bids higher than value: 1 (lady fern)

We spent about 65 hours total on the auction prior to the Conference. That includes a visit with Andrea and Brian, preparing letters and forms, contacting prospective donors via mail, email and phone, and picking up donor's items.

We contacted about 40 prospective donors, and received a donation from about 10 of those. We personally knew most of those 10 donors. Of the remaining 30, we received about three donations. We spent a lot more time following up and attempting to obtain something from those 30 (most of whom we didn't know), than we did with the people that we knew. In addition to the above 40, we also contacted each of the SE-EPPC states.

So, where did the rest of the items come from? We donated items. Anni and Jim Miller and Roberta Miller donated. The National Park Service and Big Cypress National Preserve donated. Four of the eight SE-EPPC states donated. (I'm sure that we haven't listed everyone.)

Our total income from the auction was \$1026. If the SEEPPC/TNEPPC 40/60 split is in effect, we will net \$600. Brian plans to ask SE-EPPC to give the full amount to TN-EPPC.

It is important to note that the conference attendees did have fun with the auction and enjoy it. We believe that the silent auction definitely improved the overall social aspect of the meeting. A number, and a short story, may help illustrate this. There were 225 total bids cast for the 54 items.

And then the short story: when Margie announced that the bidding was over, the plan was for her and me to begin at opposite ends of the auction item tables, pick up the bid forms, and meet in the middle. Interestingly, an unnamed woman about midway was standing over an item that she was determined to win; so when Margie announced that the bidding was closed, the woman quickly picked up the

form with her bid, and began picking up other forms, as if she was part of the collection committee.

Suggestions for future silent auctions: The Silent Auction Committee should concentrate on soliciting persons (individuals or with businesses/agencies), whom they know personally, or whom a contact knows personally.

Someone who resides in and is familiar with the host city should be appointed to make person to person/door to door solicitations in the area. Certainly, that person may want to find others to help.

Each SE-EPPC state should be encouraged to provide donations. Maybe each state could appoint someone to be responsible for this.

As mentioned earlier, the auction did improve the social aspect of the conference. It provided another venue to visit; it provided unique gifts, and bargains. A primary purpose of the silent auction is to raise money for the organization. We suggest that the philosophy of "giving to your organization or giving to a good cause" be promoted and encouraged before and during the silent auction.

If there are high value items, like the Charlie Daniels fiddle, the Gattinger book, the homemade quilt and the Howard Finster poster, maybe they should be sold in a live auction.

Dan [Brown]

Ten of twelve board members responded, with Terri Hogan recusing herself, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Chris Bryan (MS), Joyce Bender (KY), Dave Moorhead (GA), Jimmie Cobb (AL), Rick Iverson (NC), John Brubaker (SC), Jim Burch (FL), Lee Patrick (Treasurer), Karen Brown (Secretary), Nancy Loewenstein (President).

Nancy L. subsequently reported via e-mail 6/1/10: I've heard back from 10 (of 12) people ... all in favor of the two motions. So the two motions have passed. Proceedings earned through the silent auction organized by the state chapter hosting the SE-EPPC annual conference will no longer be subject to the 60/40 split. TN-EPPC will keep all proceeds from this year's silent auction and SE-EPPC will reimburse SC for last year's. (John, talk to Lee about this.)

.....

Filename : AGENDA-May2010-BoardMeeting-Chattanooga.doc (Karen Brown)