

SCEPPC
Meeting Notes
31 January 2007

President John Brubaker called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM January 31, 2007. The meeting began with John Brubaker welcoming the group.

The Secretary, Lisa Lord, was called upon to report. She read the August 23, 2006 minutes in full. President Brubaker asked if there were any additions or corrections to the August 23, 2006 minutes as presented by Ms. Lord. There being none Mr. Brubaker declared the minutes approved as read.

Treasurer Colette DeGarady reported little activity with the budget and that the current balance is \$6358.52. President Brubaker asked if there were any questions concerning the Treasurer's Report. There were none. Mr. Brubaker declared Ms. DeGarady's treasurer's report filed.

Randy Westbrook, Early Detection Rapid Response chair, gave his report. He emphasized the need to get nonnative invasive plants, beach vitex for example, federally listed as noxious weeds. He also believed that SC EPPC needed to write a letter stating what we collectively think as a group about this issue. Mr. Westbrook suggested his committee to assist EDRR by training volunteers and EPPC members to detect areas with invasive plant species and then find ways to treat these areas in an environmentally sound way. He believed that task forces with state and local components were vital to solving this problem. Mr. Westbrook outlined his plan for a National EDRR System in a handout.

Lori Sheridan Wilson, Education/Outreach coordinator, gave a report on the upcoming, April 12, 2007, Association of Consulting Foresters meeting that is being cohosted by SC EPPC. We have organized programs on landowner incentives. The education committee is putting together a display for this meeting. The next project to tackle is the SC EPPC website. Colette DeGarady commented that she gave a talk to the upstate chapter of the Native Plant Society and will pass the PowerPoint lecture to Ms. Sheridan Wilson to adapt and use for educational purposes.

Colette DeGarady reported on data collection and felt that data should be coordinated in a way that everyone can participate. The SE EPPC and The Nature Conservancy have databases on their websites to track invasive species. NatureServe also documents invasive species.

Matt Nespeca gave his report regarding the Privet Task Force. BASF has given a matching grant to fight privet. He has done some treatments at Mulberry Plantation and would like to get some members of EPPC to look at the treatment sites. Hopefully, the results will get other groups interested in funding future projects.

Newt Hardie presented a power point slide show to the group regarding the Kudzu control committee. Matt Nespeca will be replacing Larry Nelson as the co-chair (chemical) of the committee. Travis Rogers from DOW Agrosiences reported that there is a new herbicide,

Milestone VM, to treat kudzu. Mr. Hardie reported a new discovery that peach scale has been found overwintering on kudzu. This could have a large impact on the peach industry. The objective of the committee is now to firm up goals for the future and plan activities for next year.

Robin Mackie gave the Invasive Plant List update in the place of Sudie Daves. The 2004 list has been updated. Ms. Daves submitted the list to reviewers and received a few comments but would like more. She would also like to find a way to agree on the criteria for including plants on the list. Ms. Mackie also reported on the Cogongrass found in the Francis Marion National Forest along a service road. It is the largest infestation on South Carolina and is believed to have been present for 3-4 years. A SC Cogongrass task force is being formed out of Clemson.

John Taylor, IPM specialist, USFS, gave a PowerPoint presentation on fighting invasive plant species. He discussed program development, prevention, rehabilitation and restoration, education, and the future direction of a program that has worked well in Georgia that may work well in South Carolina. He suggested setting up cooperative weed management areas. Steve Compton, Department of Plant Industry, discussed plants on the federal and state noxious weed species list. Mr. Compton encouraged everyone to take GPS readings and report any findings.

The group discussed the amendments proposed by John Brubaker to the bylaws. Barbara Daniels made a motion to accept the bylaws as presented by John Brubaker. The motion was seconded by Travis Rogers. The motion carried with all in favor.

Colette DeGarady presented a proposed budget. There was only one change to the written copy presented the group. \$5.00 will be taken from each member's dues to pay for Wildland Weeds. This will be approximately \$120.00. A motion was made that Ms. DeGarady's proposed budget with the changes for the Wildland Weed publication is accepted by Newt Hardie, seconded by Lou Adams, and unanimously approved by all present. Ms. DeGarady also felt that membership renewal should be on an annual basis close to the time of the SE EPPC conference because there is an opportunity to join or renew associated with that event. Barbara Daniels made a motion to renew membership on an annual basis, Kathy Ellingson seconded the motion, and the motion carried with all in favor. There was a discussion regarding the date for renewal. Barbara Daniels made a motion to allow Colette DeGarady to pick the date for renewal, Kathy Ellingson seconded the motion, and the motion pass unanimously.

Clemson printed out 1,800 SC EPPC brochures free of cost. Barbara Daniels pointed out that this should go on record as an act of support by Clemson for our organization.

The group discussed creating a tribute for Larry Nelson. Matt Nespeca was in touch with Dr. Pat Layton, Chairman, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Clemson University to discuss an appropriate contribution in Larry's name. Their idea was to earmark the money for invasive work, perhaps seed money for a student project, and allow the chairperson to decide how the money is distributed. Colette DeGarady suggested \$1,000 as the contribution amount. The group also discussed using the money to create an endowment that would grow over time. Ms. DeGarady made a motion to set the contribution amount at \$1,000 and entertain other ideas to be sent to the President by February 16, 2007, that he would then take to the board to vote upon. Matt Nespeca seconded the motion. Discussion followed with Randy Westbrooks

suggesting that we try to raise more money for the donation. John Brubaker felt that it would be good to make a decision by the EPPC symposium so that the tribute could be announced. Members also felt that we should include a place on the membership renewal form to make a contribution. Bill Huslander suggested that we maintain and operate a memorial fund, and other groups can solicit us for the funds. Kathy Ellingson suggested that we amend the motion to state that \$1,000 is for the Larry Nelson Memorial Fund. Colette DeGarady withdrew the motion with all in favor. Kathy Ellingson made a motion to establish the Larry Nelson Memorial Fund and put \$1,000 from the general budget into that fund. Newt Hardie seconded the motion and the motion carried with all in favor.

Robin Mackie informed the group that the SE EPPC symposium will be held March 20-22 in Athens, GA.

John discussed the need for a Vice-President and more Members-at-Large and described their duties. Travis Rogers made a motion to identify areas where board members are needed, Newt Hardie seconded the motion, and it carried with all in favor. Robin suggested that agency personnel act as liaisons on the board because they cannot vote on financial matters. This would allow them to still participate as board members. John reported that members to vacant at large board positions would be appointed by the Board of Directors as provided for under paragraph four of Section 3 of the SC-EPPC Bylaws adopted January 31, 2006.

The next group meeting will be held Wednesday, June 20, 2007 at 10:00 am at Congaree National Park.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.