Recorded Minutes
FLEPPC Board of Directors Meeting and Conference Call
January 27, 2017, 1:30 p.m.
Crowne Plaza Melbourne-Oceanfront

Administrative

➢ Call to Order: 1:33 p.m.; Attending: Karen Brown, Kris Campbell, Ruark Cleary, Aimee Cooper (recorded minutes), Gary Knox, Jimmy Lange, Sarah Laroque, Deah Lieurance, Greg MacDonald, Christen Mason, Mike Middlebrook, Cody Miller, Gregg Walker, Sherry Williams, Mike Renda; Not attending: Gwen Burzycki

➢ Chair Activities/Correspondence – Christen Mason
  o A representative from the National Wildlife Federation reached out to FLEPPC and other organizations to discuss Florida’s regulatory process for exotic bioenergy crops that included a discussion around NGO’s role in assessing risk and preventing future invasions. Deah Lieurance helped organize the roundtable and spoke on behalf of FLEPPC.
  o Lake Worth Tree Board reached out to seek support on educating the public on invasive species and clean up a small local park.
  o A letter of support was sent to encourage release of biocontrol agents for Brazilian pepper.

➢ Treasurer’s Report – Karen Brown
  o BANK BALANCES:
    • Checking $19,941.
    • Savings $20,259.
  o EXPENDITURES:
    • 9/12/16 $2,500 Crowne Plaza deposit
    • 11/8/16 $2,000 MPG Consultants (meeting planner)
    • 1/19/17 $61.25 annual state corporate filing fee
  o DEPOSITS:
    • 12/22/16 $143.98 checkcard 1221 Amazon Marketplace
    • $90 Three new memberships

➢ Editor’s Report – Ruark Cleary
  o Rook is still working on the next issue; he may truncate it into 2 issues. He is working on the design and layout.
  o SE-EPPC Editorial position will hopefully be figured out by our next FLEPPC meeting in April. Karen is proposing to the SE-EPPC board that it be a SE-EPPC committee since Wildland Weeds is a regional publication that goes to all chapters.

➢ Secretary’s Report – Aimee Cooper
  o The minutes from our November 9, 2016 meeting were approved by the BOD via email. These minutes were drafted into our Fall 2016 FLEPPC Newsletter that was distributed in January 2017 and uploaded to the website.
  o Please remember: any success stories, upcoming projects, ongoing projects, events, news releases, photos, memorials, etc. that you would like to see in the newsletter, forward them to me at aimee.lz.cooper@gmail.com.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

➢ Bylaws – Mike Renda ANTICIPATED VACANCY
  o We need to add a bullet item to the Research Grant Committee’s SOPs to read as follows: “Coordinates with the Treasurer to provide a list of winning students together with their Sponsored Research Department information to facilitate payment of grant funds.” As justification, all this has been a missing link in the past so payments were often not made until up to a year later and then directly to the student, and there is little to no history on who received what in the checkbook. Christen motioned to approve the amended SOP for the Research Grant Committee. The motion was seconded by Sherry and passed unanimously by the BOD.
- **CEUs – Karen Brown**
  - Once the program has been finalized, Karen can apply for CEUs. Abstracts are due February 17th.

- **Checklists – Sarah Laroque**
  - A conference call will be scheduled prior to the next BOD meeting to ensure we are on schedule with the timeline for the symposium. Sarah will send out an updated checklist by the end of next week.

- **Control and Evaluation – Greg MacDonald**
  - Greg and Stephen Enloe have it all under control!
  - On a separate note, a student of Greg’s will be presenting research about canegrasses and handing out a publication funded by the FLEPPC Education Grant at the symposium. Greg and Jimmy Lange will coordinate with one another so that there isn’t repetitive information being presented during the grass identification workshop.

- **Finance – Ruark Cleary**
  - Ruark will distribute budget requests in the same manner and on the same timeline as last year so that the budget can be approved by October 1, 2017, which is the start of our fiscal year. Rook stated that the board can adjust the budget any time, even after it has been approved.

- **Grants –**
  - **CISMA – Gregg Walker**
    - The RFP was sent out early November 2016 and proposals are due February 17, 2017. While no submissions have been received by the time of this meeting, several CISMAs are planning to apply for the grant.
  - **Education – Kris Campbell**
    - Last year there were nine submissions for the Education Grant. This year’s deadline was extended until the end of February because Kris had not received any submissions; however within the last week she has received about seven. She will send the submissions to committee members for review to assist in awarding grants.
  - **Research – Jim Cuda**
    - Jim has received four applications for the 2017 FLEPPC Julia Morton Invasive Plant Research Grant Program. This year, two proposals will be selected to receive $2,000 each to support their research. Several invasive plant researchers will be invited by the Chair to review the proposals and rank them based on established criteria. The two highest ranked proposals will be selected to receive the awards.
    - Karen thanked Jimmy Lange for his assistance in publicizing the grant with faculty members of different universities and colleges. Previously, almost all grant proposals came from UF.
    - Based on the following titles submitted, the proposals covered a range of topics:
      - Influence of soil disturbance and fire on the distribution of Caesar’s weed (*Urena lobata*) in pine flatwoods (Florida Atlantic University).
      - Roles for mycorrhizae in invasion of Florida’s coastal habitats by Brazilian Pepper and Australian Pine (Florida New College).
      - Cold tolerance and potential distribution of *Calophya latifolea*, *Calophya terebinthifolii* and *Calophya lutea* adults, potential biological control agents of Brazilian peppertree (UF/IFAS, Indian River REC and Entomology Department).
      - Potential Management of *Panicum repens* (Florida New College)

- **Membership – Gayle Edwards**

- **Merchandise – Jimmy Lange (Christen Mason, Sherry Williams, Aimee Cooper)**
  - Jimmy found a vendor with very competitive prices and he is drafting a proposed list of items for the BOD to consider.

- **Nominations – Jim Burney**
  - **Three Director Nominees**:
    - Brian Lockwood; National Park Service
    - Katharine Murray; Environmental Quality, Inc.
    - Erick Revuelta; St Johns River WMD
    - 4th nominee is available
  - **Chair Elect Nominee**
    - Christen reminded the BOD that we still are in search of a nominee.

- **Outreach – Christen Mason** **NEW CHAIR NEEDED**

- **Plant Industry Liaison – Gary Knox**
In July 2014, *Ligustrum sinense*, Chinese privet, was added to the Noxious Weed List maintained by the FDACS Division of Plant Industry. At that time, the cultivar ‘Variegatum’ was listed as an exception, and thus could continue being grown, moved and planted. As of December 2016, the Noxious Weed List has been modified to include *Ligustrum sinense* ‘Sunshine’ as another exception that can be grown, moved and planted. This resulted from a request by the nursery industry supplemented with reports from reputable sources that, to date, flowers and fruit have never been found on this clone, nor have reversions been noted. ‘Sunshine’ ligustrum has yellow to chartreuse colored foliage in full sun as well as a smaller growth habit. It is being promoted as non-flowering and non-invasive, and has become extremely popular among consumers, landscapers and the nursery industry throughout Hardiness Zones 6-10. The plant was discovered in 2002 in North Carolina, and the parent plant reportedly has never flowered, fruited or reverted. Similarly, plants nearly that old at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum (NCSU, Raleigh, NC) also have been reported (by Director Mark Weathington) not to flower, fruit or revert. ‘Sunshine’ ligustrum plants are being trialed in Florida at Harry P. Leu Gardens (Orlando; by Director Robert Bowden and Keri Byrum) and the UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center (NFREC, Quincy; Gary Knox). So far, these ‘Sunshine’ ligustrums have not flowered, fruited or reverted, though all have been planted less than four years.

- **Plant List – Pat Howell**
  - Additions to the list will be voted via email in the upcoming week:
    - Cat. I
      - *Thelypteris opulenta* – jeweled maiden fern
    - Cat. II
      - *Cenchrus polystachion* = (Pennisetum polystachion) – mission grass
      - *Flueggea virosa* ssp. melanthesoides – simpleleaf bushweed
      - *Kalanchoe xhoughtonii* – mother-of-millions
      - *Microstegium vimineum* - Nepalese browntop
      - *Platyergus bifurcatum* – common staghorn fern
      - *Sida planicaulis* – Mata-pasto

- **Scholarship – Tony Pernas**

- **Strategic Planning – Cheryl Millett/Sherry Williams**

- **Symposium Field Trips – Cody Miller**
  - Cody will forward the description of the field trips to Karen by February 17 so the program can be created.
    - Indian River Lagoon – grove restoration into a coastal hardwood hammock.
    - Sebastian River State Park – non-herbicide work; methods used are fire and roller-chopping.
    - Hack and squirt demo by Stephen Enloe and Greg MacDonald.

- **Local Arrangements – Sherry Williams**
  - All ready to go! Sherry has been coordinating with Wendy, and will continue to coordinate with hotel employees.
  - Sherry will need AV volunteers for the symposium.

- **Symposium Planning/Program – Karen Brown/Sherry Williams**
  - We’ve agreed to have a one-day registration at the student rate for now but only if someone asks. It will not be advertised as a ticket someone can buy in Eventbrite because we need to cover conference costs.

- **Vendor – VACANT NEW CHAIR NEEDED**
  - Vendor Chair Nominations
    - Norma Swann (Alligare) tentatively accepted, but declined due to out of state move.
    - Danny Leckie (Dow) is considering filling the position.
    - Sarah Laroque (Earth Balance) was “suggested” by EB CEO, but Jim had not contacted…until now. Wink, wink!
  - Todd Olson and Jim Burney can help contact potential vendors for commitments.

- **Website – Chuck Bargeron/Karen Brown (Liaison)**
  - See New Business

**Liaisons with other organizations**

- **SE-EPPC Liaison – Christen Mason**
  - A big CONGRATULATIONS (and a Woot-woot, as I like to say) to Karen Brown, the new President of SE-EPPC! Karen humbly said no one else would do it, but surely we can’t think of anyone better to fill this role with her leadership and moxie!
NAIPC Liaison – Sherry Williams

- Quarterly webinars will begin this year, the first one being held on April 20th. Visit the na-ipc.org for details.
- The following is an update from Doug Johnson, Executive Director of the California Invasive Plant Council, concerning where things stand with the ASTM standard for listing invasive plants. Their progress has stalled in the ASTM process with nursery industry lobbyists keeping it from moving forward. The ASTM team could have pushed through with their own lobbying, but it would’ve required more time and effort than most of the team have. The good news is that USDA APHIS has picked up where the team left off and will be undertaking the task of generating a standard. USDA APHIS have the expertise and the credibility, and they have all of the team’s existing work on the draft standard to build on. USDA APHIS expects to produce something in the next 18 months (they have a lot of internal review they have to go through). In the meantime, the ASTM team plans to produce a streamlined checklist of the requirements for listing invasive plants, matching the requirements in the draft ASTM standard. This should be a useful template for IPCs to use in proceeding with their listing efforts. More can be discussed on the next quarterly NAIPC call.

Operations

- Old Business
- New Business – tabled until next board meeting
  - IPMA discussion and BOD consideration to support; ask the finance committee if we are able to fund.
    - Christen will contact Jim about donating/joining (membership is $3,200 but Jim says we can contribute whatever amount we feel comfortable with.)
    - Rook and the finance committee will make a recommendation. Karen suggested $1,000.
  - TABLED UNTIL NEXT BOD MEETING
    - In an attempt to clarify roles and responsibilities and also give us a little more organization and structure within our Officer positions here are the proposed additions/changes:
      - Additions to Chair-elect SOPs
        - Shadows the Chair in all activities and correspondence
        - Fills empty Committee Chair positions
        - Participates on the Symposium Program Committee
      - Additions to the Chair SOPs
        - Copies the Chair-elect on all email communication
        - Continues to serve the current Chair for 1 year, following the completion of the two year Chair term
      - Deletions from Chair SOPs
        - Serves as the liaison to SE-EPPC
      - Change the Past-Chair Officer to the Committee Liaison. This position would:
        - Serve as the liaison to: NA-IPC, SE-EPPC, CISMAs, FLEPPC committee liaison (this would help ensure that all committees were functioning, submitting quarterly reports and getting any assistance they need).
        - In addition, we hope that we will be able to move the Editor position to SE-EPPC as a committee. If SE-EPPC accepts, our membership will need to vote in April as this is an officer position within FLEPPC and specified in the bylaws. Changing the Officer title from Past-chair to Committee liaison would also require a membership vote.
        - Discuss contracting Chuck to develop a mobile phone app for the FLEPPC website and, in particular, the plant list. Christen will send out a call for an ad-hoc meeting to discuss the website overhaul.
        - AFNN, FANN history

Task Force Reports

- Australian Pine – Tony Pernas
- Brazilian Pepper – Jim Cuda
  - Nothing new to report from the Brazilian Peppertree Task Force other than fact that field release permits are anticipated for the psyllid Calophya latiforceps and the thrips Pseudophilothrips ichinii that were both approved by the TAG in 2016.
- Carrotwood – Chris Lockhart
- Chinese Tallow – Greg Wheeler
- Dioscorea – Christopher Kerr
- Grasses – Greg MacDonald
Lygodium – LeRoy Rodgers
Melaleuca – Francois Laroche
Skunkvine – Robbie Lovestrand

Schedule next board meeting
The next meeting will be from 9:30-11:30 on April 12th, the first day of the FLEPPC Annual Conference in Melbourne.

Meeting Adjourned
Sherry motioned to adjourn meeting at 4:07 p.m. The motions was seconded by Christen and passed unanimously by the BOD.

Additional Announcements
Jimmy Lange announced the Florida Bromeliad Conservation Working Group Meeting (April 5, limited to 20 people) and the 2017 Rare Plant Task Force (April 6 with optional field trips on April 7), both being held at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. Follow the link for registration and additional information: https://boktowergardens.org/conservation/rptf/.