SE-EPPC Board Meeting
10 am EST – Wednesday, September 14, 2016
Hampton Inn & Suites, Bluffton, South Carolina

MINUTES APPROVED BY BOARD VOTE AT JANUARY 17, 2017 BOARD MEETING CONFERENCE CALL.

MINUTES taken by Karen Brown, Secretary

Participants: Anna Greis, Lee Patrick, David Jenkins (SC), Rob Emens (NC), Nancy Loewenstein (AL; NA-IPC), Christen Mason (FL), Stephen Enloe (SE), Karen Brown (SE-FL), Brian Arnold (Past President-GA-EPPC), Bill Steele (SC); Sudie Thomas (SC-NRCS); Lauren Serra (SC); Rook Cleary (Editor); Rebekah Gibble (FWS liaison)

President Stephen Enloe opened the meeting. General discussion ensued on what we, as a regional organization, can do to be useful to stakeholders and chapter members.

Bill Steele recommended coming up with a SE-EPPC certified native plant logo and getting it out to big-box stores. Bill says orders come from regional offices according to the local Lowe’s staff. Nancy noted that CAL-IPC is working on the PLANT RIGHT program. Also, sustainability can be checked off with Jay Pruitt’s program at OK-IPC. Damon Waitt has not been working on anything similar in NC according to Rob Emens (when queried by Stephen). Brian says the Georgia Green Industry (GGIA) “Wintergreen”, an annual tradeshow for the Green Industry, invites GA-EPPC to conduct a workshop. A booth in the trade show was offered at no cost and they were very welcoming. Wintergreen has a lot of growers and nursery people. Not working on anything like a no-sell list. Southern Nursery Association (SNA) “SEGreen” conference was held in Athens. It has both tradeshow and research conference components. GA-EPPC was asked to provide a presentation for an educational session. Brian made a presentation.

SNA was very accommodating and appreciative of Brian’s participation. Brian sensed message received well, though was some possible animosity from breeders-growers.

Nancy mentioned the huge pushback from growers/green industry on the ASTM effort. Brian is learning that growers/green industry are very united but also segmented – landscape contractors are open to the invasives message; nursery people also a little more open; breeding and commercial growers definitely demonstrate pushback. Karen suggested trying to change the buyer’s market to want friendly landscaping, wildlife friendly, habitat enhancing. Christen suggested a SE-EPPC certified yard. Lee suggested that Garden Clubs of America are really active now. Possibly form a coalition. Regional level Weed Wrangles have been hosted in Northern VA, Seattle, Tennessee, New Orleans and more. Master Naturalists have to do 20 hours per year of volunteer service. Boy Scouts of America has a sustainability badge and Bill Steele has several scouts working on invasives. Stephen suggested a section of our website that links these together. Lee suggested we need big names (Damon; Simberloff; Doug Tallamy). Add links to NA-IPC site. Rob says NC-IPC doesn’t think regulatory will work so it has to be market-driven. How do you educate the market? And where do you find the time and personnel? Perhaps a road-map that aligns well with our mission to provide support. Anna suggested SE-EPPC offer letters of support for grant projects. Agencies offers grants and we can add a letter of support. Sudie suggested the Audubon Society. SC Audubon having a meeting next week pushing what’s good to plant for birds. Bill Steele said they partner with Native Plant Society. Karen mentioned Stephen’s new task of
Nomination of new officers: Stephen’s term is over. Karen Brown offered to be president but we’d need a secretary. Stephen asked for other ideas. Rook suggested putting out a call for nominations. Stephen thinks it would be most appropriate to place a call for nominations for the next quarterly board meeting.

Secretary report – Karen asked for approval of February minutes. Nancy/Bill Steele motioned/seconded. Approved.

Treasurer’s report – Lee Patrick – needs final reports from chapters by October 30th to file 990 for 2016. $1,500 coming in from 2015 NC-IPC meeting. $600 will be going out for student prizes. $640 will be going out for 990. Karen recommended sending requests for annual reports to chapter board members, not just the Treasurers.

Secretary’s report – Karen Brown – Please let me know of any board changes within chapters so websites can be kept up-to-date.

NA-IPC Liaison report – Nancy Loewenstein – minutes from most recent meeting went out. Terri Hogan, Invasive Plant Program Manager Strike Teams for NPS in Colorado, wants more ways to interact with EPPCs/IPCs. She spoke with FICMNEW – 16 federal agencies (including NPS) and they’re interested in NA-IPC.

Wildland Weeds Editor’s Report – “Rook” Cleary – would be happy to have an annual chapter update rather than for each issue. He would not be worried about SE-EPPC having a quarterly or semi-annual newsletter. Rob said their chapter talked about it to have more communication with their members. Karen said a SE-EPPC newsletter could be sent to chapter members to foster this. Thinks we can do two issues per year. Stephen suggested that if Extension people are on boards, they can write something that can count toward their accomplishment goals. Christen stated that approaching someone who gives a good talk and asks for an article works. Next issue will be pretty full; hopes to have it out by end of September (either a draft or a final). Stephen and Karen are reviewers; others welcome.

Annual Conference report – David Jenkins

- Chapter Update presentations 4:30 Weds.
- Field Trip: will combine into one since attendance is low; aquatic ID session will be set up during presentations.
- Registrations: approximately 40; 5 may come for a day
- Vendors: NRCS $1000, USDA-FS $2,500, Dow $500, Nemours $100, SCFC (in kind-mugs, printed programs, beer glasses)
- Student Competitions: judges have been assigned
- Local Arrangements/Moderators/AV: moderators have been assigned
- Social (5:30 – 7PM): posters will be set up and judged Wednesday evening
- Banquet (5:30 – 9PM Thurs) – meet at Maritime Center for Evening Social: Low Country Boil
- Silent Auction: concludes at banquet Thursday
- Awards presentations: at banquet
- CEU/Pesticide Credits: Attendees must sign in each day to receive.
SE-EPPC General Membership (Annual Business) Meeting: will consist of chapter updates.

Liaisons:

- National Park Service – Nancy Dagley, Nancy_Dagley@nps.gov, did not call in
- USDA Forest Service – Anna Greis, algreis@fs.fed.us on call but nothing to report
- USFWS – Rebekah Gibble, Rebekah_gibble@fws.gov, on call but did not contribute
- The Nature Conservancy – Malcolm Hodges, Malcolm_Hodges@TNC.org did not call in
- US Army Corps of Engineers – Jessica Spencer, jessica.e.spencer@usace.army.mil did not call in

Board Members at Large (as reported on SE-EPPC website)

- ALIPC – Jacob Hodnett – asked Sarah Jean (SJ) at UGA to change to Michelle Isenberg
- SC-EPPC – Lauren Pile – asked SJ to change to Bill Steele
- FLEPPC – Sherry Williams – asked SJ to change to Christen Mason
- TN-IPC – Kitty McCracken
- NC-IPC – Rob Emens
- KY-EPPC – Jody Thompson
- GA-EPPC – Bodi Pennisi

Meeting adjourned at noon.