Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council

Board Meeting

June 29, 2017

Participants:

Timothy Daly         Gary Dye
Eamonn Leonard      Bodie Pennisi
Brian Arnold          David Coyle
Malcolm Hodges       Karan Rawlins

The GAEPPC Board met by conference call on June 29, 2017, at 9:15 am

The minutes from the May 4, 2017 GAEPPC Board meeting were read. David Coyle made a motion to approve the minutes, and Bodie Pennisi second it, and the motion was passed.

Financial report by GAEPPC Treasurer Eamonn Leonard: Bank Account Balance: $3,749.22 (Deposit $118 to cover fees from wire transfer issue, check for $300 to Cal-IPC to support NAIPC). PayPal: $3,606.49 no activity since last meeting.

2017 Annual Conference:

- It will be held in at the UGA Campus in Griffin, Student Learning Center, on October 30. Please see proposed conference schedule.
- Confirmed speakers: Dr. Dayton Wilde, UGA Dept. of Horticulture, Dr. Deah Lieurance, University of Florida Center for Aquatic and Invasive Species, Dr. David Coyle, Southern Regional Extension Forestry, Dr. Shimat Joseph, a new professor who will be coming to UGA Griffin campus in August, and Mincy Moffet, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources.
- We are looking at some hands-on activities in the afternoon from 12:45pm to 2:15pm. The presentations will be 30 minutes and we will rotate the participants from station to station. They are as follows:
  - Foliar applications of herbicides to control invasive plants – Eamonn Leonard
  - Physical removal of invasive plants – Malcolm Hodges
  - Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS) and Southeast Early Detection Network (SEEDN) – Mapping of the range of invasive species – Karan Rawlins
  - Identification of Invasive Plants – Brain Arnold and Mincey Moffett
- Bodie will contact grounds maintenance on the Griffin Campus to let them know of our plans.
- We will have Chick-Fil-A boxed lunches ~ $10
- The proposed fee for the program is $70. Students can register and pay only the lunch fee of $10.
The funds after expenses will be used for grants such as the one given to the Blue Heron Nature Preserve in Sandy Springs, GA, and the Coweta County Master Gardeners.

Bodie will apply for the pesticide and arborist credits. Karan will send Bodie a description of the hands on sessions to help get the credits.

First Detector Workshops
- Karan Rawlins has to fund for the First Detector workshops and will be offering several.
  - Forsyth County, August 31 as part of the Master Naturalist program.
  - Ellijay on September 20
  - Blairsville, September 21
- Looking into online training as part of the workshops in 2018.

National Association of Invasive Plant Councils (NAIPC)
- Karan Rawlins participated on the quarterly conference call with the organization.
- They are developing a diagnostic tool for each state group to assess plants as their invasiveness.
- USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) has already developed a tool and have the plants listed.
- Take our list, check with to see which ones have been assessed by APHIS. The ones not on the list should be assessed with the NAIPC diagnostic tool. Karan will divide the list of plants and assign to board members.

Bodie Pennisi and Ellen Bauske, who is with the UGA Center for Urban Agriculture, are part of a national environmental committee for consumer horticulture. The committee is part of a national initiative to raise the awareness of the benefits to homeowners of horticulture. Bodie will represent the GAEEPC to help promote the threat invasive plants pose.

Plant Right Plant Risk Evaluator – The goal of soliciting industry feedback on PRE-beta is to develop PRE’s plant screening process into a widely-used and valued resource that equips every horticultural professional with the knowledge to prevent new plant invasions in regions where they (and their customers) grow, market and sell plants. A few members of our board are assisting in this endeavor in reviewing plants for their invasive potential.

Timothy Daly discussed the Wildland Weeds journal published by the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council (SEPPC). Currently he is working with other members of the organization to begin publishing it on a quarterly or semi-annual basis. One idea is an article on the use or river cane, a low growing native bamboo that is planted in areas along riparian zones that were cleared of privet that the South River Watershed Alliance (http://www.southriverga.org/) has been doing at Panola Mountain State Park along the South River in Dekalb and Rockdale Counties.

Eamonn Leonard attended a meeting on reviving the Georgia Invasive Species Task Force. Representatives from the Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources, Georgia Forestry Commission, University of Georgia, the Georgia Dept. of Agriculture and a few others were present. The group is planning to have their memorandum of agreement (MOU) signed and in place this fall.
The group’s main focus is dealing with a new invasive species and ways to combat its spread. By the spring of 2018, the group hopes to have a new list plants that are noxious weeds.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

The minutes were submitted by Timothy Daly on June 30, 2017