Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council Board Meeting – January 28, 2010

Location: Gwinnett Civic Center – Duluth, Georgia

Present in Attendance: Cynthia Taylor, Meghan Heeden, Gary Dye, Chris Furqueron, Stewart Chandler, Gary Wade, Brian Arnold

Present via Call in: Mincy Moffett, Elaine Nash

Quorum present at 9:15am, at which time official meeting began

Arrived shortly after meeting called to order: Karan Rawlins, Jim Allisson (arrival indicated in body of minutes)

Financial

Elaine explained details of financial report previously emailed to board members, and pasted below.

Elaine reports that with current balance, we can afford to send a board member to SE-EPPC Conference. Designated attendee will be decided upon later.

Cynthia asked for a motion to approve respective financial report, Elaine made motion, 2nd by Chris, approved by all present – motion passed

Elaine signed off.

Financial report provided by Elaine via 01/28/2010 email:

Dear Board:

I’m not going to make it this morning. My washing machine finally quit leaving me with a mess to clean up. I had hoped to avoid a crisis mode but I’ve got to go buy a new washer this morning and get the water out of the old one.

The annual meeting was a big success at the State Botanical Garden. Thanks to all who suggested that location and the meeting services. We have 60 new members that I’ve integrated into the membership list.

I’m about to send renewal notices to others whose renewal anniversary is the first three months of the years. I’ve already sent a batch out without much response as yet.

I’ve finished up the financial recap that will go to SE-EPPC at the end of January. I’ll e-mail it to the Board when put it in the final form for Chapters:

Balance brought forward from Oct. 1, 2008 $9761.91
Total income from 10/1/08 thru 9/30/09          $1486.68  (It wasn’t an active year)
Total Expenses from 10/1/08 thru 9/30/09        $1447.95
Ending balance as of Sept 30, 2009             $9800.64 brought forward into current fiscal year 10/1/09 thru 9/30/10

Current bank balance                            $12,008.30

The 2009 Annual meeting really helped.
• There were 85 in attendance including speakers.
• Sixty new members since we included a years subscription in the meeting fees.
• GA-EPPC netted $2403 from UGA from a total of registration fees of $3480.
• There were additional expenses of $385.34 so the final net added to the bank account was $2017.66.

Normally there are travel expenses to SE-EPPC that the Council covers but that wasn’t an expense this year.

I’m going to call Cynthia to see if I can call in as I didn’t anticipate my washing machine ending it life.

Did we do a program at the Athens Nursery association meeting and do we get any revenue from that? We got no revenue in 2009.

Elaine

**Introduction New Board Members**

Due to presence of new board members, Cynthia asked all members present to introduce themselves. Gary Dye and Stewart are new to the board.

Gary Dye is with Georgia Power and manages environmental functions including collection of radioactive samples at the 2 nuclear plants, managing for protection of endangered species, and managing invasive species.

Stewart Chandler, with Monrovia Nursery in Cairo, Georgia, is Technical Manager (formerly Marty Langmaid’s position). Prior to assuming current position he was manager of Research and Development, which includes working with environmental issues and introduction of new plant material.

Other members introduced themselves.

Cynthia explained that due to having full board, Jim Allisson has been asked to serve as an advisory member.
Cynthia reports that in phone discussion with Chuck, he informed that Karan is available to serve EPPC needs.

Karan arrives

**Approval of Minutes**
Cynthia called for a motion to approve minutes of Nov. 5 2009 board meeting
Karen made motion to approve
2nd by Meghan
All present voted in favor – motion passed

**Board Members**
Gary W. reminds that he will retire later this year, and that he will need to be replaced. He informs that Matthew Chappell at UGA is a good candidate for replacement, and that Matthew is interested.
Mincy asks about representation from Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC). There is general agreement that representation from GFC is appropriate. Mincy suggests asking James Johnson for referral.
Brian states need to address issues “statewide” and new appointee should have vested concern for invasive threats to landowners such as timber companies, plantations etc. There is general agreement but question is how.
Chris mentioned possibility of having a representative from timber industry sit on board, instead of GFC. Chris stated that we can ask James Johnson for a recommendation from GFC or industry.
Mincy said the Georgia Forestry Association may have a good representative.
Chris said we could also consider someone from Cogongrass group.
Cynthia agrees to ask James Johnson for a referral from GFC or other institution.

*Jim Allisson arrive 9:45am.*

**Organizational Objectives and Strategies**
Cynthia stated that we need to determine realistic objectives for the organization.
Discussion ensued about educating the public and increasing awareness. There was agreement that we should submit articles to newsletters of other organizations.

Mincy mentioned speaking at schools and possibility of a speaker’s bureau. Gary W. suggested attending state wide teacher conferences so that teachers can take message back to the classroom.

Discussion ensued regarding speaker’s bureau and the need to obtain list of EPPC members willing to be included on list of possible speakers.

Mincy stated that DNR gets many request for speakers and can forward appropriate request to EPPC.

Cynthia will manage speaker’s bureau list.

Mincy says there is a three day festival in Swainsboro, Pine Tree Festival, and that the Chamber President asked him to seek other conservation groups to participate. Festival is April 29 – May 1 with the banquet on Thursday night being a very important function. April 29 is “most important” day.

- Karan will attend and will handle exhibit.
- Gary D. may be able to attend – to be determined
- Chris available to attend and will try to attend most important functions.

Cynthia suggests that we spend necessary funds to purchase a 3 panel display.

- Mincy makes motion to spend necessary funds for respective display
- Karan second
- Approved by all present (Chris temporarily out of room)

**Newsletter & Website updates/changes**

Cynthia and Karen share that Chuck needs someone to police the website – he wants to have current information on it but lacks the resources to inspect for outdated material.

Brian will police website per discussion.

Brian discussed uncertainty of readership of newsletter and posed question of if we can have better outreach by helping the “Wildland Weeds” effort. Cynthia stated that Wildland Weeds is in need of articles.
Karen suggested that we can have one GA-EPPC newsletter per year and that it be comprised of the best articles that we have already published in Wildland Weeds or elsewhere, during the respective year. There is general agreement that this sounds like a good idea.

There is general agreement that GA-EPPC needs to have more articles published to help accomplish mission.

There is agreement to submit an article for each issue Wildland Weeds, with willing parties to “take turns”. We can encourage general membership to contribute.

Karan states that the “Center” is submitting an article for next edition of Wildland Weeds (so next issue is “covered”)

Karan says that the Center has a collection of articles, on its website, which are available for individuals not affiliated with the Center to use. Use of these articles is encouraged to members who wish to use them.

Mincy said that DNR has a newsletter and that he will look into creating a section for invasive issues, providing a link to EPPC.

Meghan, Cynthia, Karan, and Brian will work on media effort.

Brian will manage the process of requesting articles and seeking publication, and will poll the board for “media list” (newsletters of organizations).

Gary W. suggested creation of a listserv of associations we want to reach.

**List Committee**

Cynthia says she and Chuck have discussed inviting qualified people to do a “survey” that they send in, as opposed to gathering a group together and asking them to create a list. There is general agreement that a better list would likely result from this approach.

There is agreement that committee members must be familiar with invasive species.

List criteria must be established prior to survey. Much discussion centered on number of categories and criteria for each. Mincy and Cynthia suggest that fewer categories will simplify the listings and therefore be an improvement. Jim
reminds of virtues of having present number of categories. Brian desires a universal process to be used by all SE-EPPC chapters. Stewart says that growers rely on the “Watch List” more than the “Category 1” list, when determining what to grow. The committee will determine solution. The committee should include Chris, Jim, Mincy, Malcolm, and James Johnson. Others may be added. Mincy will notify Malcolm. Cynthia will ask James Johnson to serve.

Mincy signed off.

**Annual Meeting – Planning 2010**

Venues discussed. Possibilities include Stone Mountain, UGA Cooperative Extension facility in McDonough, and Zoo Atlanta. Data being gathered on venue choices and then a decision will be made. Gary W. stated that the CEU’s encouraged attendance. Cynthia says Steve Sanchez was well liked as a speaker at 2009 meeting and that we may want to consider asking him to speak again. Brian says Matt Nespeca has written articles correlating invasive plants with diminished property value and this could engage land owners. Chris, Karen and Brian will form committee. Perhaps Danielle and/or someone else will join committee.

Outdoor workshop / Plant ID session desired.

EDDMapps

**Atlanta-area workshop / workshop committee**

Workshops TBD

EPPC will participate in “Community Trees Day” with the Georgia Urban Forest Council, on March 13 in Macon. Brian will represent EPPC.

**Other Business**

Cynthia working on coordinating efforts with GWF
Brian looking into applying for grant for EPPC – nothing done to date

**Other Business**
Karen shared details of a conversation she had with a bio-fuel representative. He stated that his crop isn't invasive as it is sterile, and that it spreads by aggressive roots. He was receptive to her explaining the fallacy of the above and was receptive to idea of educational sessions with company personnel. Karan is working on this.

Meeting adjourned 12:10pm