

National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils

Proposed Minutes

Submitted for review October 20, 2001

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NA-EPPC Annual Meeting, October 4th, 2001; in association with the Natural Areas Association Annual Conference, Cape Canaveral, Florida

Approximately 25 people attended; 22 provided e-mail addresses.

NA-EPPC 2001 Chair Tony Pernas called the poolside meeting to order at 6:10.

State and Regional EPPC updates

California EPPC was represented by John Randall and Nelroy Jackson. John reported a current membership of over 600. Present activities include their active search for a paid executive director. They plan to send a representative to the Invasive Species Advisory Committee. Nelroy noted a change in weed control issues in California from an emphasis on agriculture to natural resource areas. He also noted funding for weed control is being shifted toward public outreach. Nelroy discussed the need for the ongoing education of legislators in this era of term limits.

Florida EPPC was represented by Ken Langeland. Ken reported a current membership of approximately 350, a successful annual meeting held at St. Augustine on Sept 11-14, and progress on discussions held between FL-EPPC and leaders in the Florida nursery industry. To date, such cooperation has led to 34 species of concern being discouraged for production and sale within the members of the Florida Growers and Nurserymen's Association. In addition, FL-EPPC has active member participation in working groups targeting the most important invasive species. One such group has recently completed a Lygodium Management Plan.

Southeast EPPC was represented by Brian Bowen. Brian reported current membership at 530, all of which are receiving quarterly newsletters. He also noted a successful third annual symposium of SE-EPPC which was held at the University of Georgia this past spring. Strong sponsorship at the meeting will be used to help build infrastructure during the coming year. IRS paperwork has been completed and submitted on behalf of all SE-EPPC state chapters. The web site continues to be updated and available. The fourth symposium will be held in Nashville on April 3-5th, 2002 and is tentatively scheduled to be in Kentucky the following year.

Tennessee EPPC was represented by Kris Johnson who reported a current membership of approximately 70 presently led by an active board of directors. In addition to good local event participation TN-EPPC has recently produced a revised state list divided by the regions of East, Middle and West Tennessee. Kris also reported success with discussions

leading to the cessation of promotion of Autumn Olive by the Tennessee State Dept. of Forestry. TN-EPPC is preparing for the spring 2002 SE-EPPC symposium in Nashville.

Mid-Atlantic EPPC was represented by Lisa Smith who reported 360 attendees at their first symposium, co-sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania and The Nature Conservancy. They have recently become an IRS 501 C3 and have completed a list of 50 species of concern. Lisa discussed their receipt of a letter from an attorney representing the American Seed Trade Association regarding 4 species on the list. This prompted discussion regarding Cal-EPPC's experience with obtaining a policy for \$1800 in an effort to protect board members from lawsuits. The need to investigate inclusion of all EPPCs under the NA-EPPC organizational umbrella was discussed as this insurance might also cover field trip liability during symposia, etc.

Michigan Invasive Plant Council was represented by Kim Herman. She reported their inclusion with SE-EPPC 501 C3 status. They are currently developing a membership data base and intend to begin working on lists of species of concern in November. Their first meeting will be held in conjunction with the Wildflower Association in March.

Kentucky EPPC was not represented. Joyce Bender relayed her regret for being unable to attend.

It was noted that Mississippi EPPC, Georgia EPPC and Pacific NW-EPPC were not represented at this meeting.

Maui Invasive Species Committee was represented by Pat Bily. Pat reported this group of 25 work on both invasive plants and animals. Their present goal is to contain incipient populations and decrease incoming populations.

General Discussion

Memorandum of Understanding-MOU

Brian Bowen led the discussion on the current status of the MOU. His draft of the MOU was sent for comment to 15 organizations, many of which formed in the last few years. This revised MOU was designed to address the addition of new chapters and to more formally organize the NA-EPPC. It was agreed that the board of each chapter should receive the MOU following comment and approval.

Discussion regarding the benefits for formalizing the NA-EPPC included:

- facilitating IRS tax exempt status for new EPPC's
- obtaining liability insurance
- providing representation on The National Invasive Species Council
- providing a national voice on federal policy issues

Randall Stocker suggested the MOU include operational language that includes individuals responsible for the organization. Mike Kelly, Randall Stocker, Brian Bowen and John Randall will be involved in this effort.

John Randall made a motion to pursue NA-EPPC 501 C3 status. Randall Stocker provided the second to the motion.

All Invasive Weed Conference and Workshop 2003

Nelroy Jackson introduced this meeting as an opportunity to exchange information scientist to scientist and scientist to land manager. He has written a proposal to the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) and Ecological Society of America (ESA) co-sponsors of this meeting. Randall Stocker described this meeting as a “benchmark” and encouraged NA-EPPC to become a third partner in this event. John Randall moved to name Randall Stocker as the NA-EPPC representative on the program committee. Brian Bowen provided second for the motion. The needs discussed for NA-EPPC’s participation included the identification of speakers, providing an incentive for attendance and participation, and completed management plans for invasive species.

Weed Awareness Week

Nelroy Jackson reported that this event will take place throughout Washington, DC on Feb 25-Mar 1, 2002. He emphasized the importance of visiting congressional representatives at this time and proposed that each EPPC contact their elected officials. John Randall recommended support of a specific bill from EPPC chapters. NA-EPPC representation during the week may be accomplished by Rob Hedberd, Jil Seringen. Randall Stocker offered to get the particulars on how to present materials during the week.

NA-EPPC Next Meeting

It was agreed that Kris Johnson will preside as chair over the 2002 NA-EPPC meeting, to be held in conjunction with the NAA meeting in Ashville, NC.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45.