

NAEPPC Meeting Minutes

National Invasive Weed Awareness Week

Feb. 27th, 2006

Washington D.C.

Participants:

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Minutes:

The meeting was held at the Washington D.C., Sheraton Four Points Hotel. Tony Pernas (SE-EPPC) chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Tony went over the agenda and asked that each EPPC/IPC present either in person or by conference call give a brief status report of their respective EPPC/IPC chapter. Tony asked that

each organization include their approximate membership, non-profit status and whether or not they had a web site.

Name	Members	501C(3) Status
California IPC	1200	Y
Florida EPPC	300	Y
AL IPC	80	Y
Kentucky EPPC	35	Y
Mid Atlantic EPPC	200	Y
Midwest Invasive Plant Network	100	
Mississippi EPPC	75	Y
South Carolina EPPC	25	Y
New York Invasive Plant Council	100	
North Carolina EPPC	100	Y
New England Invasive Plant Group	1500	
Southeast EPPC*		Y
Tennessee EPPC	40	Y
Wisconsin Invasive Plant Association	250	
Total	4,085	* All of SE-EPPC is included in this table SE-EPPC states include FL, TN, NC, SC, GA, AL, M KY. Membership is ca 735

Every organization has a website.

Tennessee EPPC

Nancy Fraley

TN-EPPC has 35-40 members. Their last annual meeting went well and was aimed to get West TN more involved. Annual pesticide certification meetings may take place of formal annual meetings. TN EPPC has 501(c)3 status under SE-EPPC.

California IPC

Doug Johnson

CA-IPC has around 1,000- 1,200 members. Cal IPC has set up a field course for agency reps, working with retail industry to eliminate invasives from trade. Collecting maps, revision of statewide inventory of invasive plants including assessment for listing. Has 501(c) 3 status and a web site.

Georgia EPPC

David Moorhead

Georgia – 80-100 members. Workshops are held throughout the state. Also joint workshops with other entities. Printed invasive plants posters. Working with green industry. 501c3 under SE-EPPC.

Florida EPPC

Karen Brown

Florida – 300-350 members. Has an annual symposium, quarterly newsletter, Wildland Weeds Magazine and produces species specific management plans. 501c3 under SE-EPPC.

Mid-Atlantic EPPC

Jan Ferrigan

320 listserv members, 200 members. Covers 7 states in the Mid-Atlantic area. Conference at Penn State had 200 attendees and included landscape architect training. Will have 2007 conference in Philadelphia.

Southeast EPPC

Brian Bowen

Umbrella organization for (501c3) state chapters in Southeast as well as others. Ongoing web mapping project and will soon start electronic newsletter.

Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin

Kelly Kerns

250 members. They have 501c3. Invasive plant awareness month in June put together several programs. Speakers' Bureau, with powerpoint programs. New curriculum on their WI-DNR on invasive plants for K-adult. New book – "Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest" - U WI press. They have listserv. Working on: mapping project using NAWMA standards for eastern states. DNR best mgmt. practices for forestry, field trips with plant mgmt industry. Joint mtg with Midwest Weed Science Society in 2007.

Kentucky EPPC

Joyce Bender

35 members. Has obtained a grant from the US Forest Service. Activities include field training of personnel and printing of field guide. Second grant will promote outreach.

Midwest Invasive Plant Network

Kate Howe

No 501c3 yet. 100 folks so far, MITN.org. Working towards 501c3 status. Brochure printed on invasives, new invaders to watch for, alternative plantings. MI, IN, OH, Want to combine with the MI. Have folks from MI-IPC on their board

Alabama Invasive Plant Council

70-80 members. Raised \$35,000. Had special on Alabama PBS TV show. Produced brochure of top ten Alabama weeds. Currently working on plant list. Has obtained funding from federal Alabama Farmers Association. \$1 M potential Arundo project.

NY - 501c3. Don't have membership list. Weed managers network of 100. Fall workshop at Cornell. Data mgmt questions. 2 weed mgmt areas – early detection list by region.

New England IPG

Cynthia Boettner

No 501c3. They have a listserv with 1,500 or so registered. Every other year conference. 300 attendees. New England Invasive Plant Atlas. USDA grants CSREES. Early detection trains volunteers. 600 trained volunteers to date. Gatherubg info on 120 spp. - distributions, status, herbarium search to give historic and current distributions. Maps, list, on their website. Working to shift info to Columbia science network for better data sharing, maintenance. UCONN website. Catalog of the species, MA-Invasive Plant Working Group, Conn. Invasive Council. Goal for early detection network throughout broad area. Have gone from county-based list to regional list.

Goals of this meeting – Mr. Pernas remarked that the main goal of this meeting is to solidify the National Association of EPPC's and to assure its success. NAEPPC was created with the following objective:

To communicate and represent the issues of local EPPC's/IPC's on issues and policies of national importance (on issues relating to exotic pest plants that threaten natural areas and wildlands)

Before we proceed let me go over the history of NA-EPPC.

In 1995 an MOU was signed by California EPPC, Florida EPPC, Tennessee EPPC and Pacific Northwest EPPC which formerly established the NAEPPC organization. The purpose for the establishment of NAEPPC was to call attention to issues of national importance.

In 2003, another MOU was developed to incorporate new EPPC's and to address obsolete goals and provisions. NAEPPC meets annually at the national Natural Areas Association Conference. The meetings are a good way for EPPC's/IPC's to communicate and share successes and failures. In an effort to move NAEPPC forward, we request that each chapter take the current NAEPPC by-laws back to your respective boards for approval. If modifications need to be made, please submit them to the group for review via email.

Today we need to elect officers and determine what is the best way to conduct our future meetings. *After some discussion the group decided to meet twice a year, once at the NAA conference and once by conference call.*

Draft mission statement – Brain Bowen summarized that the NAEPPC's mission is to serve as a national organization representing member councils. NAEPPC strives to speak with one voice on issues of national importance for issues of invasive plants in natural areas. EPPC chapter membership combined total 3,000 to 4,000 individuals. This gives us considerable impact with position papers etc.

Projects like data management, standards, sharing, etc. were discussed. Meeting attendees discussed NAEPPC serving as a forum for this type of work. Steve Schoenig (CA) sees this group as a combined voice, piggybacking with new groups, establishing committees, focusing on shared projects such as mapping, working with the green industries and maintaining data standards. Per example, NBII wants all databases to be shared, thus requiring that standards be met. New programs guidance as projects begin will be translatable, etc. Lamont Dougherty is working with them to standardize their database. modeling, ecological forecasting. The Bozeman, MT Center for Invasive Plant Management has established some foundation for this.

The NAWMA standards are 12 years old, but standards need revisiting. Federal agencies are all using them. BLM, FWS, etc. standards are going to revisit them. CA, NAWMA, Center for Invasive Plant Management, SE-Invasive Plant Management all could /should contribute. NBII invasive species database people have a data mgmt focus, on the ground data collection goes hand in hand with data mgmt. Committee could collect what's out there. Steve will take lead to organize a conference call to gather info.

Officers

Officers were unanimously selected - Nancy Fraley - treasurer, Tony Pernas - chair, Brian Bowen – vice chair, Mike Bodle - secretary. All agreed to serve until NAA meeting in October 2006.

Web Site

Keith Douce (Alabama IPC) commented that a NAEPPC.org website has already been retained. The NAEPPC website will function as national portal with links to all EPPC's/IPC's. The site will include a mission statement, key info, links to chapters, overview. NAEPPC will also have a listserver. Chuck Barger (SE-EPPC) will serve as webmaster.

Kelly Kerns (WI) suggested that we populate website by surveying participants with common info – addresses, common groups, educational info, pdfs, etc. **Work with secretary to develop standard questionnaire.** Work in progress at all times.

Position Papers

Doug Johnson recommended that NAEPPC position papers should be generated. As an example, NA-EPPC could take a position to support funding of mgmt areas. Currently mgmt areas with invasives impacts could get funding if funds if the NWIA 2004 is

authorized. The current draft would provide \$15 M. \$100 M was specified in the original language.

CA-Weeds Awareness Coalition papers require unanimity. NAEPPC might want to consider similar. Bylaws now require majority vote for adoption of anything.

Weed Mgmt organizations in the east need definition, Weed Mgmt Areas in the East doesn't have Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA)s, but if funds are limited to CWMA's. East would lose out, at this time.

Bylaws may need to consider process for position paper development, discussed, adopted. Doug Johnson will write a scope paragraph.

National Conference (2008)

A national conference was proposed. One suggestion was to partner with NAA which will be having its annual conference in Nashville, TN. The 08 conference will be hosted by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). Some possible co-sponsors can be NA-EPPC, TN-EPPC, SE-EPPC. Kelly Kerns suggested that we should have working sessions, interactive, training, data mgmt issues, green industry, funding sources. Might be a conflict with Cal-IPC conference and Columbus Day weekend? Also might be a problem for state and federal employees due to proximity to fiscal year end. Holding the conference a couple weeks before or after Columbus Day would allow CalEPPC's participation. Brian Bowen hopes that broad participation on session topics will yield a strong agenda. Bowen is the liaison between TDEC and NAA is the conference planner for TDEC.

General comments on legislative activities, organization

Randy Westbrook stated that many groups have position papers. NIWAW, NAWMA etc. Multiple groups with similar position papers could be additive, not divisive.

Weed Mgmt Areas were established quickly in CA. Advantage of position paper to engender constituents' further support – Jennifer CA. Randy Westbrook held that NAWMA's strength has been significant. NA-EPPC, with 4,000 members could be very significant. NAWMA would support eastern initiatives.

Inter Mountain EPPC (ID, MT, OR, WA, NV Canada, AL BC all interested) seeking to form. Meeting in Feb. 2007 planned.

Midwest Invasive Plant Network, FICMNEW seeking invasive plant mgmt network clearinghouse. CIPM – MT-like. Regional EPPCs. Janet Clark is funded with great web resources, small grants but has several million dollar budget. Line item from BLM budget through 2008. Now, might be the time to look beyond 2008 funding, maybe expand to national focus. Although, initially Clark felt an Eastern entity could be helpful.

UF CAIP could possibly incorporate aquat.plants.fl.edu. It has a lot of the infra-structure already in place. Listserv could facilitate sharing on these issues.

Dates for next meeting – Every 6 months, annually at NAA. Flagstaff in Sept 20 -24, 2006.