

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCILS

PURPOSE

The National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils (NAEPPC) was established in October 1995 by the signature of representatives of the first four state and regional Exotic Pest Plant Councils (see attached MOU). NAEPPC was established because the Exotic Pest Plant Councils recognized the value of cooperation through a national association of like organizations that share common goals. The preamble of the MOU that established NAEPPC stated that there is power in organization, strength in numbers, and that some problems are national in scope and are most appropriately addressed by a national organization.

Since the inception of the first EPPCs and the NAEPPC, a heightened awareness of invasive species has resulted in many positive changes throughout the United States. One result of this heightened awareness has been the formation of many new state and regional non-profit organizations whose purpose is to focus on issues of invasive (exotic pest) plants in natural areas and other wildlands. These newly formed organizations have been established as Exotic Pest Plant Councils, Invasive Plant Councils, and organizations with names other than these but whose missions are very similar.

This MOU recognizes that the National Association of EPPCs, is open to the participation to all non-profit organizations whose primary mission addresses issues of invasive exotic pest plants in natural areas and wildlands as do the Exotic Pest Plant Councils that originally formed NAEPPC. It is understood that a purpose of participating in NAEPPC is to come together as a national coalition of organizations that speak as one voice on this issue. It is understood that the primary focus of each state and regional organization is limited to its geographic base. It is understood that members of NAEPPC share common interests and concerns that extend beyond their state or regional boundaries. Whereby, it is through this coalition, established as the National Association of EPPCs, that we speak as one voice on issues of invasive (exotic pest) plants in natural areas and wildlands at the national and continental level.

This MOU does not supercede, change or negate the purpose of the founding MOU which established the NAEPPC in 1995. This MOU explicitly recognizes the new organizations that are interested and willing to join and participate as members of NAEPPC and encourages them to do so. Furthermore, it recognizes that the founding MOU identifies goals and provisions of operation that were pertinent in 1995 and that positive changes in public policies and awareness regarding invasive pest plants have occurred since that time. Hence, it is noted that the founding MOU states that once 6 EPPC units are established then provisions of the founding MOU shall be reviewed. It is understood that statements under the "Operation of NAEPPC" in the founding MOU are null and void because they are no longer applicable or relevant.

The former “Operation of NAEPPC” procedures are therefore replaced with the following updated NAEPPC operation procedures

1) The name of the association shall be, National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils (NAEPPC).

2). An annual Board Meeting, open to any interested party, shall be held at least once during each calendar year. The meeting will be organized by the standing Chair of the NAEPPC. An agenda for the Board Meeting shall be distributed at least one month prior to the Board Meeting. The location, date, and time of the Board Meeting will be determined by the standing Chair, but will be held as part of a suitable national meeting (e.g., Natural Areas Conference) when possible.

3) The Chair of the NAEPPC for the following year shall be selected from among the designated representatives of the member NAEPPC organizations at the annual Board Meeting, or at the first Board Meeting of the calendar year if more than one Board Meeting is held. Up to two representatives may be designated by each member NAEPPC organization prior to each Board Meeting. Only these designated representatives will be eligible to vote at the NAEPPC Board meetings. The Chair for the upcoming meeting shall solicit a list of representatives from each member organization prior to the Board Meeting. The Chair may call for volunteers to chair ad hoc committees as needs arise.

4) Minutes of the Board Meetings shall be distributed by email to Board Meeting participants for corrections and approval. Once approved, minutes will be sent to the chair or president of each NAEPPC member organization, and to their respective newsletter editors.

5) New organizations may join NAEPPC per request of their president or chair, and their application will be voted upon by the NAEPPC Board at its next official meeting. Organizations whose missions include addressing invasive plant problems in natural areas and other wildlands are encouraged to apply for membership in NAEPPC. A simple majority of votes will be required to approve admission. Organizations that are admitted may be represented at all subsequent NAEPPC Board Meeting by two representatives who they designate.

In the spirit of cooperation that recognizes the power in organization and strength in numbers, the following state and regional organizations are recognized as members of the NAEPPC. These members shall be enabled to make decisions as a national association and speak as one voice on issues of invasive (exotic pest) plants in natural areas and wildlands.

NAEPPC members include:

California Exotic Pest Plant Council

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council*

Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council*

Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin, Inc
Invasive Plant Council of New York State
Kentucky Exotic Pest Plant Council*
Maui Invasive Species Council
Michigan Invasive Plant Council*
Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council
Mississippi Exotic Pest Plant Council*
New England Exotic Pest Plant Council
North Carolina Exotic Pest Plant Council*
Pacific NorthWest Exotic Pest Plant Council
Southwest Vegetation Management Association
Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council*

* members of the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council