

TEXAS INVASIVE PLANT & PEST COUNCIL

FOUNDED 2007

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCILS

TIPPC Board of Directors Minutes of May 29, 2009 Meeting

Board Members:

Present: Damon Waitt, Scott Walker, Marilyn Good, Earl Chilton, Trey Wyatt, Alexander Mathes, Jim Houser, Forest Smith, and James Bergan

Present by Phone: David Todd, Chris Best, and Tom Philipps

Absent: Deborah Overath and Susan Bagget

Quorum present? Yes

Others Present (only during the 2009 TIPPC Conference discussion and site tour):
Kelly Lyons, Professor at Trinity University

President's Report: Damon Waitt

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order at 10:14 a.m. by President Damon Waitt (DW)
- Board Members introduced themselves
- DW introduced Forest Smith as the new board member representing the non-profit conservation organization.
- (11/07/08) meeting minutes were reviewed and approved

Ranking invasive species using the CA/NV/AZ protocol:

- DW discussed possible criteria for ranking invasive species and discussed if the protocol developed by Norma Fowler (NF) (utilized in CA, NV, and AZ) is suitable for Texas.
- DW stated that the ranking developed by TIPPC would be utilized for public education and scientific purposes.
- California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) sent TIPPC a copy of the "Criteria for Categorizing Invasive Non-native Plants that Threaten Wildlands" for review.
- DW discussed the possibility of inviting NF to discuss the criteria they utilized.
- Earl Chilton (EC) discussed reviewing the current list compared to the ranking criteria. In addition, EC was going to discuss with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TWPD) employees about the current ranking system.

Outreach – website, iWire, Invasives Choke the Life out of Texas:

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- DW stated that the Texasinvasives.org is averaging 1,000 hits per week.
- DW stated that iWire was setup for the citizen scientist is now sent out to a broader audience (600 subscriptions) and provides updates on invasive plants.
- Alexander Mathes asked about the procedures for adding information to I wire.
- DW stated that any updates or notices to be sent out can be e-mailed to Travis Gallow at TGallow@wildflower.org.
- DW presented a copy of TPWD's new public outreach campaign (focused on Giant Salvinia and Salt Cedar) and pointed out that the full-page advertisement references "Invasive.org" for additional information.
- DW stated that the Invasive.org website will be updated to focus on Salvinia (to match the TPWD ad campaign).

Secretary's Report: Scott Walker

Update on federal 501c status

Scott Walker (SW) stated that the 1023 IRS application and supporting documents were submitted in April and currently the IRS is taking between 60-90 days to review applications (unless additional information is requested).

Treasurer's Report: Marilyn Good

Update on finances

- Marilyn Good (MG) provided a copy of the budget and stated that currently the only expenditure to date was the 501 C application fee (\$750).
- DW stated that the Texas Environmental Grant Council made a \$1250 donation to TIPPC as a result of a presentation he gave
- MG read a list of the people that have currently paid the membership fee.
- Tom Philips presented that the USFS has created a Memorandum of Agreement that created a challenge cost share agreement with TIPPC for a minimum of \$2,500-\$3,000 donation.

Review membership structure

- DW reviewed the membership categories.
- DW discussed building the membership fee into the conference cost.
- DW also stated that the web-master for the TIPPC page could create an e-commerce solution to take money for membership and the conference.

Texas Invasive Plant & Pest Conference

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DW changed the board's agenda to discuss the conference at the end of the meeting in order to coincide with site tour.

New Business

Legislative update on H.B. 865 (TISCC) – Earl Chilton

EC stated that H.B. 865 established the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee (TISCC). The member agencies of the committee are: the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA); the TPWD; the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB); the Texas AgriLife Extension Service; the Texas Forest Service; the Texas Water Development Board; and any other state agency added to the committee by unanimous agreement. The lead agency was assigned to the TSSWCB. Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) has been added to the committee.

A primary goal for TISCC is to create an open forum to add species to the TDA list.

Discussion on the current TDA list was started

- EC: the TDA has a request to allow 25,000 acres of *Arundo donax* to be grown for biofuels.
- DW: stated that the TDA requests consultation on species that pose a risk (invasive).
- EC: stated that the TDA wants to keep the list small to make enforcement realistic.
- MG: stated that the Texas Nursery & Landscape Association (TNLA) wants to keep the regulated list small.
- Forest Smith (FS): stated that funding is more readily available for plants on the TDA list.
- James Bergan (JB): stated that the list also allowed weed management areas to be established via federal funding.
- Jim Houser (JH): asked about initiating the process to get additional plants on the list cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*).
- Trey Wyatt (TW): discussed using cogongrass as a pilot test.

Legislative Update on H.B. 2088 (Boy Scout Bill) – Marilyn Good

- MG stated the bill would require nurseries to increase public awareness of the benefits of native plant species. Currently the TNLA Association is opposing this bill.
- MG stated that the bill referenced the TPWD website.
- TW stated that an educational document should be developed, not legislation.

EAB Preparedness Plan – Jim Houser

- JH state that the Emerald ash borer (EAB), (*Agilus planipennis* Fairmaire) is an exotic beetle that was discovered in southeastern Michigan near Detroit in the summer of 2001.

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The EAB is a primary killer (kills healthy trees). It has been moving south across the US and was discovered in Kentucky last week.

- JH stated that Steve Clark has developed the Preparedness Plan.
- JH state that the exit hole for the EAB is a “D” shape with the straight edge on the bottom.
- JH stated that the primary transport mechanism is firewood, which most states are trying to limit/regulate the transportation of.

Letter from TIPPC to The Nature Conservancy – Damon Waitt

The Global Invasive Species Team (GIST) was disbanded due to funding.

- DW provided the letter that was forwarded on to The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The letter urges the TNC to continue to support invasive species efforts.
- DW stated that the information hosted by GIST is still available on the Bugwood network (www.bugwood.org/)

Additional New Business Earl Chilton

Water Spinach

- EC wants to “soften the stance” on Water Spinach (*Ipomoea aquatica*)
- Water spinach has been unregulated for 30-years and no established populations have been identified. Water spinach requires an average temp of 77 degrees. Water spinach is on the TDA list however, it can be grown under a TPWD permit.
- DW stated that TIPPC will keep it on the list so citizen scientists can help track locate populations.

Nursery Landscape Expo

MG suggested to the Board that TIPPC should evaluate and design a poster and/or booth at the upcoming Nursery Landscape Expo.

Texas Invasive Plant & Pest Conference (Kelly Lyons)

The board discussed the format for the 2009 Conference. Due to availability of venues at Trinity University the conference was condensed from three days to two days. The selected dates for the 2009 Texas Invasive Plant and Pest Conference were determined to be November 13-14, 2009.

The board also agreed to cancel the Pest Symposium portion of the conference due to the shortened schedule. The board also discussed the possibility of hosting the optional field trips on Thursday as opposed to Saturday and conducting the workshops on Saturday. Kelly Lyons (KL) explained that the room usage was free; however, a cost of \$50-60 an hour was required for security guards. The main costs for the conference are associated with drinks and snacks.

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The Board suggested the following Individuals for Session Chairs;

1. Leadership and Coordination: Damon Waitt
2. Early Detection and Rapid response: Tom Philipps
3. Control and Management: Stephen Clarke or Jack Deloach
4. Information Management: TBD
5. Education and Public Awareness: Barren Rector

The session Chairs will be responsible for evaluating the abstracts, putting them in a proficient order, submitting them for printing, and running the sessions.

The board agreed that the cost of membership and the conference should be combined, yet itemized. The cost for normal registration should be \$75 for the conference + \$25 for membership totaling \$100 and the cost for late registration should be \$100 for the conference + \$25 for membership totaling \$125. In addition, the board agreed to keep the cost for an exhibitor the same at \$300 for a table top exhibit and \$500 for a free standing exhibit.

Conference Action Items for Board Members:

- MG get group rates for local hotels
- MG & SW develop promotional materials and organize public relations
- JH discuss with the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) about field trip
- JB talk with National Park Service (NPS) about field trips
- JH inquire about getting vans and drivers for field trips and commute to hotels daily
- SW talk with Howell about conducting an aquatic plant workshop on Saturday morning
- DW talk with Mike Quinn about conducting a pest identification workshop on Saturday Morning
- JH develop protocol for professional development hours
- JB make calls for possible key note speakers

- Meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.
- Minutes submitted by Secretary, Scott Walker.