

TEXAS INVASIVE PLANT & PEST COUNCIL

FOUNDED 2007

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCILS

TIPPC Board of Directors Minutes of November 7, 2008 Meeting

President Damon Waitt (DW) called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm. All Board Members present, except Baggett, Walker, and Best.

1. Board Members introduced themselves. DW noted that Board Member responsibilities differed from committee responsibilities and that the Board is made up of a diversity of people whose positions and organizations deal with invasive species issues. DW passed out BOD Handbooks.

2. Bylaws

DW went over the by-laws in the Handbook. DW noted advocacy can be different from lobbying by members of TIPPC. Jim Bergan (JB) said that at the Nature Conservancy the policy was that not more than 10% of budget or time can be used for lobbying.

Tom Phillips (TP) said that he can serve on the Board but cannot vote due to Federal agency regulations. The Board discussed several scenarios about Federal employment and serving on the Board. Deborah Overath (DO) pointed out that she likes the make-up of the Board including Federal and State agency representatives and wants to see the representation maintained even if they cannot vote.

DW noted that the organization can charge a fee for membership.

Officers were presented: DW President, JB President-elect, Scott Walker (SW) Secretary, and Marilyn Good (MG) Treasurer. There is no Past President.

Trey Wyatt (TW) inquired about length of terms for officers and board members. DW said this is an interim Board and election of a new Board may come about in 2009 by election from the membership.

The Board of Directors consists of 15 members with 5 officers and 10 members.

Paula Maywald (PM) said she can keep serving on the Board even though she is going into private industry or her co-worker can substitute.

DW and SW will review by-laws and possibly propose amendments.

3. Voting by Board

DW said that the vote is by simple majority and that the Board will meet at least 2 times per year. A Director that misses 3 straight meetings may be removed from the Board. A two-thirds vote of the Board is necessary for introduction of a motion that falls outside the Council's objectives.

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4. Executive Committee

TW made a motion to form an Executive Committee composed of the President, Secretary, and Treasurer. DO seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously with TP non-voting.

5. Audits

TW suggested a financial audit at some year in the future may be a good idea. David Todd (DT) noted that for even small, non-profit organizations an audit may be 3 to 4 thousand dollars.

6. DW explained that TIPPC has affiliated with the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils (NAEPPC) like other state and multi-state councils but that no MOU or other document has been signed. There is a national meeting held yearly for NAEPPC.

7. Formation Documents

Alexander Mathes (AM), covering for SW today, said the Certificate of Formation for TIPPC was accepted by the Texas Secretary of State on 6/4/2008. The 501C document application (Form 1023) is still in the works and needs some fine-tuning. The Executive Committee will finalize and submit the document in the near future after CPA consultation and then it may take 3-7 months for a decision by the IRS. The Conflict of Interest document must be read and signed by each Board Member today. Examples of possible conflicts of interest were discussed.

8. Treasurer's Report

MG discussed monies needed presently to get the Council off the ground. \$750 is needed to file for 501C status. \$100-\$250 is needed to open a checking account.

The Board discussed dues structures of other state councils under NAEPPC as outlined under Tab 3 in BOD Handbook.

MG motioned to set the Member Dues structure at:

INDIVIDUAL: \$10 Student, \$25 General, \$50-100 Contributing, \$100-500 Donor, >\$500 Patron.

INSTITUTIONAL: \$100 General, \$500-1000 Contributing, \$1000-10,000 Donor, >\$10,000 Patron.

NON-PROFIT: \$50.

Earl Chilton (EC) seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously with TP non-voting.

The Board looked over fees charged by banks for checking accounts.

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DO motioned to use Wells Fargo as the financial institution for TIPPC. DT seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously with TP non-voting.

9. Recognition for Service to TIPPC

The Board recognized and commended Scott Walker for his pro-bono work on the by-laws and Marilyn Good for her pro-bono work on financial matters.

JB noted that we need to track \$ for pro-bono work as contributions in kind for grant purposes.

10. Members and Sponsors

TP said that a MOU needs to be prepared between the US Forest Service and TIPPC before the USFS can become a sponsor.

The Board discussed solicitation of membership funds from initial members from the 2007 Invasive Species Conference and potential new members from individuals, institutions, businesses, and non-profits.

11. Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee (TISCC)

EC made a presentation to the Board about the TISCC. The TISCC is a committee composed of members from select state agencies that have an interest in and deal with invasive species in Texas. It is a way for the agencies to communicate with one another and share information about each agency as it works on invasive species issues. The formation of TISCC was necessary in order to compete for federal funds dispensed to the states for fighting invasive species. EC said that there is interest from legislators to fund an Invasive Species Coordinator under one state agency in the coming legislative session. The Board discussed the need for a letter of support for such a position if it becomes a reality before the legislature.

The Board noted that communication between TIPPC and TISCC is absolutely essential.

12. Web Site

DW said that TIPPC can have a tab on the Texas Invasives web site that already exists, www.texasinvasives.org.

13. Conference

The Board discussed the need for a 2009 Invasive Species Conference in November. San Antonio was selected as the site for the conference, perhaps at UTSA. PM volunteered to help with logistics but that a local chairperson was needed. JB and DO volunteered to serve as program co-chairs. The Board discussed the need to get more students and private landowners to attend.

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14. Next BOD Meeting to be set in about six months with date to be set by e-mail to Board Members.

DO motioned adjournment, TW seconded, motion unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Minutes taken and prepared by Jim Houser.