

TEXAS INVASIVE PLANT & PEST COUNCIL

FOUNDED 2007

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCILS

TIPPC Board of Directors Minutes of November 12, 2009 Meeting

President Damon Waitt (DW) called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm.

Present: Damon Waitt, Scott Walker (SW), Marilyn Good (MG), Earl Chilton (EC), Trey Wyatt (TW), Alexander Mathes (AM), Jim Houser (JH), Forest Smith (FS), and James Bergan (JB)

Present by Phone: David Todd (DT)

Absent: Susan Baggett and Chris Best

Quorum present? Yes

Paula Maywald (PM) was also present at the meeting.

President's Report: Damon Waitt

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order at 3:15 p.m. by President DW
- (5/29/09) meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the board

Statewide Invasive Ranking Protocol

DW gave an update on Statewide Invasive Ranking Protocol. The assessments were reviewed on the Texas Invasive webpage (note the webpage has limited access). At the time of the meeting six assessments had been conducted.

JB asked how the distribution of the plants was utilized in the assessment?

DW responded that the distribution was based on the USDA atlas and possible citizen scientist findings, in the near future. In addition, DW stated that the results of the assessment is ranked and averaged to normalize the ranking. TIPPC could seek funding (via grants or individuals) to conduct further assessments on addition species. The results could be utilized by state agencies; however, California list is not considered regulatory at this time.

DW discussed options for completing the assessments. Citizen scientists could conduct the assessment and certain board members and other technical individuals could review assessments before they are posted on the public section of the website.

DW stated that some of the benefits to this assessment protocol is the possibility that neighboring states could utilize the same system to allow a comparison of invasive species within different states and eco-regions.

PM discussed invasive surveys and distribution modeling being conducted utilizing high resolution aerial photography.

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JH said that aerial photography was currently being utilized for forest inventory analysis if certain areas contained known species for comparison. In addition, aerial photography has been successfully utilized for mapping oak wilt.

FS said based on the resolution large expanses can be examined for species content, with many limiting factors.

DW mentioned that the current USDA SOP states that if a plant is sold commercially it cannot be listed as an invasive species. The key to having an appropriate list of plants to watch is to evaluate plants that are native to the climate not the eco-system. The USFWS modeling “Climitch” utilizes 9,500 stations to match similar climates to predict species spread.

The Board voted on utilizing a modified version of the CA/AZ invasive species protocol for the state of Texas. DW motioned the vote, JH seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

TPWD Campaign

DW introduced the TPWD new invasive species ad campaign. TPWD is spending \$225,000 on an ad campaign run by Sherry Mathews that includes:

- Radio,
- TV,
- Buoys,
- Billboards, and
- Web

DW stated that TIPPC and TPWD have entered into a MOU to initiate a \$12,500 redesign of the Texasinvasives.org website. The website redesign will modify the website to be more user friendly and will still include the current information.

EC stated that the website will still be owned by TIPPC.

DW stated the point of the campaign is “Hello invasive species goodbye outdoor activity” (e.g. Hello Giant Salvinia goodbye fishing hole)

EC stated that the initial species covered in the campaign will be Giant Salvinia and in the first year three species will be highlighted.

DW stated that Carly Drees with the TWPD was presenting information about the TPWD ad campaign on Saturday.

Support of Q37

DW discussed TIPPC’s support of Q37. The letter sent by TIPPC was sent out the board prior to submittal. 100’s of letters were sent supporting Q37 with a few negative letters.

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Technical Advisory Committee

DW discussed developing a Technical Advisory Committee to remove issues with new conflict of interest policies effecting federal employees.

SW was assigned the task for developing the language to modify the bylaws to allow the federal employees to stay involved with no conflict of interest issues. SW said the amendment to the bylaws would be sent out to the board for review.

Secretary's Report: Scott Walker

Nominations for New Board Members

TIPPC would be losing 4 current board members: DO, MG, CB, SB.
and DW would be filling the past president slot.

MG agreed to stay on as treasure until the accounts for the conference were settled and passed on to her replacement.

JB the president-elect declined moving into the President position due to his current work load and responsibility.

DW nominated SW for President.

SW voiced his concerns relating to lack of experience, but accepted nomination.

DW nominated JH as secretary.

DW called for nominations for treasurer, no nominations were presented.

The officer appointments will become final during the 2009 Business meeting at the Texas Invasive Plant and Pest Conference.

Call for Board Nominations

DW called for 5 board nominations:

TW nominated Jim Reeves with the TNLA

DW nominated Mike Merchant with the TXAG program on pests (State Government)

DW nominated Mike Arnold with the Texas A&M Extension (Academia)

The board discussed possible members from TXDOT and the TDA. DW agreed to talk to Awinash Bhatkar (at large) about joining the board.

The confirmation of the new board members will be confirmed at the next TIPPC meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Marilyn Good

Update on finances

TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 16,200.28
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 2,617.69
Cash Position	\$ 13,582.59

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MG stated that this total does not reflect all of the conference expenses or payments and a up to date budget would be presented at the next Board Meeting.

MG asked if the TIPPC was going to ask for membership fees on years without a conference.

SW was afraid that there would be a decrease in membership.

JB proposed that TIPPC develop a student award system to reward students dealing with invasive and keep TIPPC active on the alternate years.

AM discussed developing a strategy plan and set of milestones for TIPPC in the future.

Texas Invasive Plant and Pest Conference JB and DO

JB and DO reviewed the conference schedule and discussed the procedures for introducing the speakers.

JH discussed the field trip and stated that the enrollment was already full.

MG stated that the aquatic workshop still had room for additional attendees.

DW discussed the Invasive Species Roundtable discussion at 1:00 on Saturday.

New Business

FS discussed the use of *Jatropha curcas* as a biofuel in Texas. Texas A&M and Shell are proposing to spend 5 million dollars on evaluating its biomass potential. FS stated that *J. curcas* is a small tree from South America. The status of TDA permitting is unknown; however, Australia has banned the plant.

DW brought up the possibility of running the plant through the assessment tool to determine the plant's invasive ranking.

EC discussed building from a discussion from the last meeting that water spinach is now legal to in Texas. In addition, water spinach is legal to sell with a receipt from a licensed grower.

DW motioned adjournment, TW seconded, motion unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 5:23 pm.

Minutes taken and prepared by SW.