

TEXAS INVASIVE PLANT & PEST COUNCIL

FOUNDED 2007

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCILS

Board of Directors Meeting

100 Congress Ave, Suite 1485

Austin, Texas

September 21, 2010

President Scott Walker (SW) called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm

Members present included SW, Jim Houser (JH), Alexander Mathes (AM), Damon Waitt (DM), Earl Chilton (EC), Forrest Smith (FS), Jim Reaves (JR).

1. Minutes from the TIPPC Board Meeting 1/11/10 were considered for changes. None made, DW motioned approval, EC seconded, vote unanimous.
2. SW provided a status report on the TPWD MOA with TIPPC concerning a White List for aquatic species in Texas and stated that it was in place and the assessment and review was moving forward.
3. SW provided an update on the creation of the Advisory Committee that will serve the Board. The committee will consist of federal employees mainly, though others may be appointed. The purpose is to have a committee of interested individuals that are precluded from voting on TIPPC business by reason of their employment. In a related matter, SW informed the Board that Awinash Bhatkar from Texas Department of Agriculture may not be serving on the Board due to conflict of interest concerns.
4. JH passed out a Membership Report that explained the previous decisions by the Board concerning dues and levels of membership. The report is attached.

5. AM passed out the Treasurer's Report. AM reported that Quick Books software was purchased and he had incorporated the paper documents to the Quick Books template. The report showed a present balance of \$11,730 with a \$500 expense still to be cashed. AM reported that the 2009 Conference had income of \$15,300 and a net profit of approximately \$8000.

DM motioned approval of the Treasurer's Report, EC seconded, vote unanimous.

6. 2011 Conference

SW led a discussion of plans for the Conference next year. He stated that he had a conversation with representatives from San Jacinto University that may be interested in hosting. In addition, SW knows people at the Johnson Space Center for possible tour site. SW and JH will serve as Program Co-Chairs. AM will handle registration and exhibitors. Travis Gallo from the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center was volunteered by DW for Publicity and Communications. Historically, the 2nd week of November has been the date of the conference.

7. Weed Risk Assessments

EC gave a presentation on the on-going assessments by TPWD mandated by the Legislature. The assessments are in process with a preliminary draft list of species. As the assessments are completed, TIPPC will provide a review of the assessment as per the MOA. At the time, there were 190 plant species on the list. Initially 400-500 species were proposed for review but this was pared down. The Nature Conservancy has provided valuable input on the scoring system. Currently 106 species were pending to be reviewed.

DW commented that he was e-mailing a web link to the review process to Board Members. DW commented that the review will take the TPWD

Risk Assessment and put it into a database for the review process. For inclusion on the White List, a score of less than 1 will be an Accept, 1-6 will be Evaluate Further, and greater than 6 will be a Reject. DW explained that the score is not static but may be adjusted as more information is gathered on a specific species.

JR asked when can the information on the scoring be shared and EC commented that it would be when it posts to the Texas Register. However, EC commented that TPWD will entertain questions on the process and scoring as they go along.

DW explained that a consensus has not been reached on the process. The final review should be more straight forward and not as theoretical as at present. DW further commented that a web-based review and assessment can be useful in the future for new species to be added to the White List.

No more business to be considered, DW motioned for adjournment at 3:30pm, EC seconded, vote unanimous.

Minutes submitted by JH, Secretary.