

# **Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council Board Meeting, October 6, 2006**

Georgia Forestry Commission headquarters, Macon, Georgia.

Attending: Jim Allison  
Chris Evans  
Connie Gray  
James Johnson  
Elaine Nash  
Cynthia Taylor  
John Taylor  
Gary Wade

Connie called the meeting to order at 9:45am

## **Bylaws discussion**

- Connie indicated the need to formally adopt our working bylaws. The bylaws are in compliance with SE EPPC.
- The need to increase the number of board members and/or designate representatives from different agencies was discussed and the concept of an advisory board/committee was introduced and considered. This group would present an opportunity to outreach to agencies. With a yearly meeting we could present GA EPPC's work plan for the year for approval and update on our progress.
- Connie, John, and James will work on a letter of invitation to possible organizations and report back at Jan meeting with wording to incorporate the committee into the bylaws.
- The following organizations were mentioned as possibilities:

Farm Bureau	DoD	NRCS (Keith Wooster)
Private landowner (Harley Langdell)	NPS	Tall Timbers/Red Hills Land Trust
Timber companies	FWS	Corps
GA Forestry Association (Tim Laramor)	FHA	GGIA (Rick Barnes)
Dept of Ag	GDOT (Ray Dorsey, Bill Wright)	GA Park and Rec Association
	GA Veg Management	Jones Center
	Utilities	

## **Board Meetings**

- Connie recommended 4 board meetings on weekdays plus 1 general meeting on Saturday. The general meeting could be more educational, with information sharing.
- Board meetings for 2007  
January 19<sup>th</sup>      April 13<sup>th</sup>  
                         July 27<sup>th</sup>      October 5<sup>th</sup>  
The Symposium will be the general meeting for 2007.

## **Workshops**

- Evaluations from the workshops have been very good overall.
- Workshop in Macon replaced the yearly garden symposium which didn't work really well for participation.
- Connie, Mark, and Lee did a ½ day mini workshop for Emory at Oxford for about 20 groundskeepers. A good opportunity, a good ally to have. They want to do another workshop on the Atlanta campus.
- There is a good opportunity for reaching out to these types of groups through the workshop.
- Having the plants to pass around really adds to the id portion. In January and March we are limited in what is available to hand out. We should work toward having pressed samples and/or potted samples for the workshops.
- Continue to do 2 per year- ½ day at symposium and ½ day for the GGIA conference.

## Board Members

We currently have two openings on the board in addition to Cindy's replacement

**Jim made a motion to ask Lynn Czisnoski (sp?) to serve on the board, 2<sup>nd</sup> Elaine, motion passed.**

**Elaine made a motion to ask Danielle Green to serve on the board, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gary, motion passed.**

## CWMA's

- John introduced the concept of Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA's) which are established in the western states and are eligible for funding from several sources. CWMA's allow management over a specific area across agency borders.
- John urged GA EPPC to take a leadership role in promoting the formation of CWMA's in Georgia and the southeast, suggesting the Cogon grass task force as a perfect candidate.
- Cynthia mentioned Elachee is establishing a CWMA for their watershed. Garlic Mustard and bittersweet were mentioned as other candidates for focus of this type.
- James suggested we work to promote the issue through website.
- John will get samples of MOU's used in the West. GA EPPC should come up with a generic format and post on website.

## Direction for GA EPPC

- James presented some facts about forest land ownership in Georgia:
  - 33 million acres in GA
  - 24.7 forested acres
  - 600,000 private landowners
  - 75% forest lands in private ownership
  - GA EPPC workshops are great, but we are just scratching the surface.
  - GA Forestry presented 4 workshops for landowners last year with good attendance.
- What more can GA EPPC do for outreach and education?
  - Discussion included the idea of larger workshops, better communicate the threat and ecology, and publishing articles in various publications.
- Cynthia will create a list of media outlets to send press releases to.
- Chris, Elaine, and Connie will come up with articles to submit to various publications.

## NA EPPC

- Connie expressed concern over getting board members to respond and approve NA EPPC position papers and letters by e-mail.
- Thanks to Chris for his participation in and summary from the NA EPPC meeting.
- 2008 Natural Areas Meeting will be in Nashville.
- **John made a motion that GA EPPC endorse the NA EPPC letter to senators supporting funding for CWMA's, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chris, Motion passed.**

## 2007 SE EPPC Symposium

- Elaine gave an update on the logistics committee.
  - Cost will probably be around \$90 or \$35 per day.
- Discussion of sponsorship options, including having agencies sponsor the meeting for \$1,000, and finding sponsors for the reception and lunches.
  - GA Forestry may sponsor the posters- need to get a cost to James.
  - IPC will cover the cost of transportation to Tallulah Gorge- need to get cost to Lee
  - Discussion of getting GA Power to provide vans.
- What percentage of profit goes to SE EPPC? Elaine will investigate.

Meeting adjourned 12:40pm.