

TN-EPPC Board Meeting Minutes
Aug. 12, 2008, Bells Bend Nature Center, Nashville

Members present: Terri Hogan, Dan Brown, Margie Hunter, Bob Parrish, LinnAnn Welch, Nancy Fraley, Anni Self. Guest: Mike Berkley of GroWild. Nancy served as proxy for Kris Johnson & Richard Clements; Anni for Pat Parr and Kevin Fitch.

Meeting convened at 10:20 a.m. Three agenda items were added to old business, one to new business. May 2008 meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report (Anni): General account has \$5,448.19, representing sponsorship income and lunch expenses for the Cogongrass Workshop and income from memberships and Mills Foundation donation (\$100). Money Mkt acct: \$3,933.54. Total assets: \$9,381.73. Report approved.

Nominating Committee (Dan): Terri has agreed to remain as president; Anni as treasurer.

In other Board news, Margie is serving out Carrie Miller's term as secretary, and Claude Bailey has agreed to serve on the board but could not attend today.

Web Site Updates: Send to Richard for posting.

National Public Lands Day (Sept. 27) – Events with Murfreesboro, TDEC Natural Areas, TVA, Metro Parks, etc.

Eastern Native Grass Symposium (Oct. 7-10), Columbia, SC

Update board member info on LinnAnn and Claude

Native Plant Sales – Reflection Riding, Native Gardens, GroWild, Ijams

Early Detection & Rapid Response Procedure Recommendations (Nancy): Draft organization model based on protocols in South & North Carolina as designed by Randy Westbrook for a national model. Perhaps TN-EPPC can streamline it using the MOUs developed by Mississippi and Georgia for cogongrass treatment. The plan includes identification, containment, and control of new infestations and prevention (education on best management practices). Program Coordinator should be a paid state position. Treatment processes would be determined by stakeholders in affected area. EDRR could be part of a larger Cooperative Weed Management Area. Mark Gudlin (TWRA) and the Div. of Forestry want to set up a fall organization meeting for CWMA – maybe Sept. Terri will push for discussion of EDRR at inaugural meeting.

Need to find a way to utilize plant data from Forestry Inventory Analysis in EDDMapS. Talk to Chuck Barger. Might observe Hemlock EDRR for funding model. It would be nice to work parallel – plants along with pathogens/insects/animals. Dwayne Estes requested that we collect exotic plant voucher specimens for herbaria in the state – UT or APSU – even plants being eradicated from site.

Cogongrass Workshop (Terri/Dan): July 22 with David Morehead. Over 100 attended – TDEC (want to conduct surveys along roads in West TN, need to include TDOT, Dan will talk to Brian), TDOT well represented, Div. of Forestry – looking at point data from other states, TNLA – Steve Bennett said cogongrass could become problematic infesting nurseries. Nobody came from Corps of Engineers or farming community. Need to get an article in farm magazines.

TN-EPPC List Update (Terri): Plant protocol was tweaked and most suggested plants have been run through. Final results will go to list committee for Oct. meeting. Some current plants are projected to drop off the list; the watch list is expected to be large.

NAA Meeting: Registration appears flagging, budget casualty. May reduce field trips.

Gravel/Sand Pits: Nothing new to report.

Brochures: Alternatives brochure set for winter issue of Wildland Weeds.

TDA Pest Plant List (Anni): Possible Aug. 18 meeting with the ag commissioner. Needs photos of some of the plants. Terri will send letter to TDA in support of the full list (minus mimosa) including privet. Anni suggested we send a copy to Gov. Bredesen.

NIWAW Proclamation (Margie): Several organizations have agreed to offer support. Will send second email to others soon. Will send all TN-EPPC board a copy of KY's proclamation language & list of orgs who have agreed thus far and request language suggestions for TN version to be sent to Margie by Aug. 22. She will seek a copy of Legislative Resolution format.

Publicity week of Feb. 22-28, 2009, possible plant pull options – WT (Terri) – Memphis Botanic (Rick Pudwell) [Margie will send Terri copy of his email] & Brian Bowen, Natural Area; MT – (Terri) in Murfreesboro; ET – Margie will contact Ijams in Knoxville plus Christine Bock at Aquarium and Reflection Riding (Chattanooga). Ask Kris about GSMNP event.

We should send someone to NIWAW meeting in Washington next year. ID people on the board who can lobby Congress without breaking law.

Ecology Points (Margie): Still in process, slow work.

Tennessee Master Naturalist (Margie): Committee drafting grant application to National Science Foundation to finish development and implement the program for 3 to 4 years. Gary Myers (TWRA) and Mike Carlton (State Parks) are co-chairing the committee.

Video Segments/Podcasts TN's Least Wanted: No news on Kris's nephew and Richard teaming on production.

TNPS Fall Meeting: Terri will present a program to enlist TNPS members in EDRR efforts and EDDMapS use. Sept. 19-21, 2008, Fall Creek Falls.

2009 joint annual meetings of TNPS and TN-EPPC – adjust our typical format to fit TNPS tastes. Seek to incorporate invasive education on field trips, bring display materials, present an indoor program Saturday afternoon.

Liaison to Bart Gordon (Bob): Chair of science committee in Congress. Wish to develop relationship to educate on issues/priorities. Called office to determine protocol for dialogue. We must send something, and a staff person will be assigned to investigate with a personal meeting as a possibility. Bob will draft a letter and list of enclosures to send Gordon's Murfreesboro and Washington, DC offices.

Stones River Watershed Project Grant (Terri): Project did not get grant, but they are trying to get funding for various parts to proceed. Terri asked that we go forward with our \$250 grant for Riverdale High School to grow native plants for restoration work. Request approved with suggestion that we use caution funding limited-area projects as we are a statewide organization.

Herbarium Research Grant (Terri): Terri offered to seek a grant to fund hiring a student to research location information on invasive herbarium samples at UT for EDDMapS. She will call Dr. Eugene Wofford, draft a statement of work, and develop a species list.

Board & Member Issues:

- Fall activities – Terri is developing a hike with Friends of Greenway to Flat Rock SNA (Murfreesboro), and Kris is working on a GSMNP hike (Old Settlers Trail).
- Newsletter – Develop a semi-annual electronic pdf for membership
- Web site – Investigate redesign, Margie will get estimate from Go Design in Nashville and list of site examples
- Membership list – about 90, sent to Karen Brown FL-EPPC, several have expired, will send out reminders and try to get email addresses, board must renew in Jan.
- Articles – Mike Berkley will work on an article for TNLA's Green Times. Dan will work on articles for Dickson Cty Forestry Assoc. and get TN-EPPC on their agenda. Kris has TN Conservationist article coming up, and we might approach TC regarding article on TN-EPPC itself.
- Expand Board – State Parks – John Froeschauer & Jack Gilpin (LinnAnn will approach); TDEC – Andrea Bishop & Allan Trently (Terri will approach); Brian Rucker, Div. Forestry, & Jenny Adkins, NRCS (Anni will approach)
- Margie's expenses for brochure approved as part of original budget.

New Business:

- SE-EPPC contentious issue regarding SC request for \$6,000 to plan/advertise conference (hired planner for \$4,000 without approval, others have not needed advance assistance). Approved \$3,000 loan, which SC will repay along with standard 40% conference profit share for SE-EPPC.
- Display at TNPS meeting at Fall Creek Falls, Bells Bend/Beaman Park Nature Center openings in Nashville.
- TDA TN Agriculture Enhancement Fund grant to expand and improve operations. Could we give application to a nursery to encourage expansion of wholesale native plant production? Mike will give it to Oak Grove Nursery in Belvidere.

Next Meeting: Maybe on plateau – Cookeville or Crossville? Nov. 6, 7, or 10.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Margie Hunter.