

**TN-EPPC Board of Director's Meeting Minutes--June 4, 2015**  
**Convene 9:30 a. m. (central) at Cumberland Mountain State Park**

Attendance: Kitty McCracken, Chris Oswalt, Pat Parr, Belinda Ferro, Alix Pfennigwerth, Justin Coffey, Andrea Bishop

Welcome new board member! Chris Oswalt

Recent retirees from the Board: Sara Kuebbing, Anni Self

Absent: Mike Berkley (Andrea Bishop), Kris Johnson (Alix), Margie (Pat).

Guests: Christine Bertz (Memphis!!), Emily Zefferman (UT Research Associate, working on ecological inventory of Knoxville Urban Wilderness), Jamie Herold

**[\* denotes an action item]**

Minutes: Nov 6, 2014. Approved.

Treasurer's report (Alix): Total assets: \$6,657.96. We came out \$652.11 with the conference, including registration fees, IPC student sponsorship, t-shirt sales, food/beverage expenses, and travel honoraria. Approved.

Vice President's updates (Belinda): Newsletter: We need new contributors for articles—Andrea suggested Brian Ross from TDEC. Kitty suggests a 'seasonal' column—what management practices to do this time of year. **\*Kitty** and **\*Justin** will contribute this column. **\*Justin** will get the first one to Belinda by August 1. Next newsletter will be out by **\*Belinda** on August 15.

Current business:

1. Social media update: TNEPPC Twitter: **\*Alix** will continue sending all articles out on Twitter account (@TNEPPC), and will also start tweeting the newsletters! TNEPPC Facebook: **\*Christine** will help Alix getting the Facebook page up and running and contribute to Twitter account.
2. TNEPPC needs new board members. Our by-laws state to have ~15 board members; we currently have only ~10. If any board members have suggestions, send **\*Kitty** contact info for potential members. Pat suggests looking strategically at AGENCIES: i.e., TDOT, TVA. **\*Andrea** will contact MARK PISTRANG (Cherokee NF) about coming to August meeting. **\*Justin** will contact JIMMY GROTON (TN Citizens for Wilderness Planning chair) about coming to August meeting.
3. TN-EPPC membership perks. *Wildland Weeds* is going electronic—Kitty wants to know what the INCENTIVE for members is, if not *Wildland Weeds*. Justin suggests that memberships are a 'donation' that they entrust to

TNEPPC to go out and do our work. Christine suggests a name roster on the Facebook page. Pat proposes a tiered 'donor' system rather than 'member' system? **\*Chris, Belinda and Pat** will be on the Membership review Task-Force (**Chris** will be the chair), and bring recommendations/proposal to next August meeting.

4. By-Law Review Task-Force: **\*Kitty** and **\*Alix** will REVISE our by-laws to reflect changing times, technology, etc. They will bring this to the next meeting to get approved and commented on.
5. Do we need to update TNEPPC invasive plant list? We will TABLE this and have a dedicated meeting to organize this new list—key attendants should be: **\*Margie, \*Dwayne Estes, \*Joey Shaw**.
6. NA-IPC updates. Cooperation/coordination with NAISMA (also Weed Across Borders), this organization covers Canada, US and Mexico. Formerly the NA Weed Management Association. Seeking membership from EPPC's, particularly with Southeast, Northeast US. Steve Manning will try to look for ways to coordinate between NA-IPC and NAISMA. All NISAW webinars were very well attended. Each state EPPC chapter would contribute a speaker on the webinar list, rotating quarterly (or monthly). NA-IPC and NISAW have a website and Facebook—they want ONE person from each EPPC chapter to send updates (our TNEPPC Facebook page can 'friend' them and accomplish this). ASTM standards got voted DOWN, main concern: regulation. To address these concerns, they will make the review team more DIVERSE, including horticulturalist. Logo contest: changing from NA-EPPC to NA-IPC means they need a new logo! This is due by June 15. Go to NA-IPC website for details.
7. SE-EPPC updates. SE-EPPC requests that each state give some amount of money—SE-EPPC also wants chapter treasurer (**\*Alix**) to attend next conference call (July 7<sup>th</sup>). **\*Alix** needs to clarify: does TNEPPC STILL pay *Wildland Weeds* member fees? If not, what will chapter fee be based off? **\*Belinda** needs to send our quarterly newsletter to SE-EPPC secretary. Pat suggests chapter research grants, but we need some sort of representative from EACH state EPPC on the review board to ensure the grants benefit all chapters in some way if possible. **\*All members** need to bring ideas on how SE-EPPC can help TN-EPPC, to next TNEPPC board meeting. **\*Kitty and Alix** will check to see if *Wildland Weeds* will now be 'open-access', i.e. can we just send a link out on the newsletter, Twitter, Facebook, etc. at next conference call.

8. Where should TNEPPC focus any article/publication efforts? *Tennessee Conservationist* is more widely distributed, so we could focus there instead of *Wildland Weeds*.
9. Storage location needed for TN-EPPC items. We need a STORAGE place for our brochures, notebooks, posters, etc. \***Kitty/Pat/Jamie** will take the bulk of this to ORNL, and they can likely designate a TNEPPC storage area so things don't get thrown away.

New business:

1. State-wide Weed Wrangle: Proposed by Steve Manning for Tennessee in 2016.
  - a. The idea is to take the 2015 Nashville Weed Wrangle template and do a statewide Weed Wrangle in 2016: Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga.
  - b. The Garden Clubs are excited about having our partnership and expertise on board for the event. They will be contacting TNEPPC soon for how we can help.
  - c. How should we contribute? Get the WORD out on the news, media, etc. Suggest locations, provide brochures, set up a TNEPPC table at the events. Get weed wrenches from Jimmy Groton, Ken McFarland (UT), ORNL etc. Jamie proposes we should try to get the UT football team involved—brawn AND media press.
2. Knoxville Urban Wilderness invasive plant inventory (Emily Zefferman, UT)
  - a. What is the Urban Wilderness? South Knoxville natural areas, a network of trails/parks that are owned by the city, TWRA, private land easements, etc.
  - b. The Urban Wilderness is appreciated for cultural/recreational value, but ecological aspects are not well known/documented.
  - c. Invasive Plant Surveys by Emily were first step of Ecological Assessment of Urban Wilderness. This spring, she organized Citizen Science projects to survey/map invasive plants in different park areas. Emerging result: Small patches of native forests exist within large areas of invasive plants.

- d. 6 different work days, about 500 acres surveyed; goal of this inventory: geodatabase for future management projects for the City.
- e. Emily would like to target the Knoxville Weed Wrangle efforts using the data collected from her inventory.
- f. Pat proposes that we have our next meeting in Knoxville and do a concurrent workshop WITH the City park staff.
- g. **\*Emily** will ask the CITY what they want from TNEPPC, if they would want a workshop on management techniques, etc.
- h. Upcoming BioBlitz in Urban Wilderness: August 22. Partnering with Discover Life in America.
- i. Emily is looking for someone to take over this project. Searching for ideas for GRANTS to keep this position going after she leaves in October.
- j. Chris proposes that future Urban Wilderness efforts focus on education. **\*Chris** will look into a possible event with Science Olympiad and South Doyle schools.
- k. Emily proposes a Cooperative Weed Management Area for the Urban Wilderness to facilitate cooperation between individuals and organizations with the same goal—protecting/improving the Urban Wilderness.

3. Future Goals: The Garden Club/Weed Wrangle:

- a. What is TNEPPC willing to do to contribute? A workshop ahead of time to train. We can tweak our existing workshops for the City. **\*Jamie** will print off the Oak Ridge workshop agenda and bring it to the next meeting as a template for a potential Knoxville workshop.

Next meeting: August 6 in **Knoxville**. **\*Chris** will check to see if the USFS Research Station can host.