

TN-IPC Board Meeting

November 10, 2016, 11:00am EST, at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Notes taken by Alix Pfennigwerth.

Present: Andrea Bishop, Adam Datillo, Belinda Ferro (Vice President), Katherine Kilbourne (guest, TDA Plant Pathologist), Steve Manning (guest, Invasive Plant Control, Inc), Kitty McCracken (president), Chris Oswalt, Pat Parr, Alix Pfennigwerth.

Absent (Proxy): Mike Berkley (Belinda), Christine Bertz (Alix), Jimmy Groton (Pat), Margie Hunter (Kitty).

Motion to approve minutes from last meeting by Adam Datillo to approve; approved by board.

NEW BUSINESS (Weed Wrangle pulled to top because of Steve's time constraints)

1. Weed Wrangle—Steve Manning

- a. Educational component from TN-IPC board members at Weed Wrangle last year was really nice—Steve hope we can do the same in years to come.
- b. Weed Wrangles expanding this year
 - i. Tennessee as usual (Nashville, Chattanooga, Memphis, Knoxville)
 - ii. Adding TN State Parks: statewide State Parks effort. State Parks very excited about it and want to have Weed Wrangles at as many Parks as possible.
 - iii. Don't have to do the same date across the whole state
 1. I.e., Memphis: Jan or Feb
 2. Nashville, Knoxville share date: March 4
 - iv. New Locations: Dallas, TX; New Orleans, LA; Portland, OR, Jackson, MS; and more—the Weed Wrangle is contagious across the country!!
- c. Steve wants TN-IPC's help again this year.
- d. Trying to get creative:
 - i. Humans vs. goats challenge in Nashville!
 - ii. Before/after challenge—judges to judge best restoration site in Nashville.
- e. Adam says TVA wants to be involved—Jason Regg, interested in using select spray of herbicide, volunteering TVA's help depending on site needs.
 - i. Education volunteer groups at Weed Wrangles about use of herbicides on rights-of-way and natural areas.
 - ii. ****Adam** to talk to his TVA colleagues about this.
- f. Steve encourages TN-IPC to get OTHER 'sister/partner' organizations involved—let's expand it!
 - i. Steve has Garden Club of America, Hands-On Nashville, REI Knoxville on board to collaborate
 - ii. Pat says this fits in with Federal Strategy on Pollinator Habitat—a good pitch for feds.
 - iii. Kitty says last week of Oct. is 'Bat Week'—push this year was to improve bat habitat.
- g. Kitty asks Steve what role TN-IPC should play:

- i. *Brochures*—we need to inventory our supply; **Steve** will approach Garden Club about funding printing
 - 1. Garden Club asked if they could put their logos on the backs of brochures as funders of the printing—board agreed this would be okay.
- ii. *TN-IPC board member presence at Weed Wrangle events*: on site experts to educate volunteers
- iii. *Weed Wrangle Conference*: Dec. 13-14, 2017—IPC is hosting an annual Weed Wrangle Conference in Nashville—to get EVERYONE organizing Weed Wrangles across the country together, start to interact. Homeowners, garden clubs, experts, TNIPC, etc.
 - 1. Steve wants us to be involved with the conference every year—show up and be involved!
- h. **Steve** will send TN-IPC Weed Wrangle info to send out to social media, newsletter, etc.

OLD BUSINESS

2. Treasurer's Report—Alix presents for Christine

- a. We currently have net asset of \$8,807.18
 - i. However, \$5,000 is earmarked for ASAP Grant Funds, \$2,200 for remaining website design.
 - 1. That will leave us with ~\$1,600 remaining funds.
- b. Question/discussion: How much money do we want to maintain? What are our goals with such funds?
 - i. What do we need funds for?
 - 1. Brochures
 - 2. SE-EPPC Joint Meeting?
 - 3. Grant/scholarships for relevant students, research, projects in TN.
 - ii. Fundraising ideas?
 - 1. Pint Night at RiverSports, Knoxville
 - a. *****Adam** will talk to RiverSports about this.
 - 2. Adam says TVA might be interested in being a financial partner with TN-IPC for some things...
 - 3. Chris Oswalt says we need federal agencies or other groups to sponsor the SE-EPPC Joint meeting, and maybe we can actually come out AHEAD after the conference based on this sponsorship.
 - iii. *****Next meeting: everyone*** come with ideas on objectives/goals for our financial resources on, and how we should raise funds for these objectives. Strategic planning/discussion to come next meeting.
- c. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Belinda; board approves.

3. TN-IPC Website

- a. Still waiting to have website finalized by Doug Ingram—should be done soon.
- b. Belinda says Doug is close but has run into a couple of issues.
- c. ****Christine** will pay Doug remaining fee once we receive final product.

4. **Progress on updating and printing brochures:** tabled item until we have a better idea of funds (Steve).
5. **Progress on updating our plant list—Adam**
 - a. Current listing qualifiers:
 - i. County occurrences on PLANTS, BONAP, SERNEC, SEEDN databases
 - ii. Listed by other state/regional EPPC/IPC chapters
 - iii. Expert opinion (Adam, etc. and people that see this being invasive in the field)
 - iv. Listed on federal/state noxious weed lists
 - b. *****Adam** will write up (within the next month) a brief one-page description of list, objectives of list, focus: primary concerns for state, not a comprehensive list for state, tool for land managers
 - c. Next step will be to send out to ‘experts’ for external review
 - i. Board agrees to send out the one-page description/rationale of the document, the full list spreadsheet, a simple ‘species/category’ list, and a comment/review form (Google Form, not a Word form!) to experts.
 - ii. **Adam** will first send list/documents to board for approval, then out to a group of ~30-40 invasive plant experts across the state for external reviews.
6. **Grant for student to do literature review on listed plants—Alix**
 - a. No grants relevant/appropriate for this type of lit review, however, Alix found that several other state IPC/EPPC chapters (i.e., FLEPPC, Ohio-IPC, AL-IPC) offer research/restoration/education grants to scientists and managers in their state. Board agrees that this is something we are interested in doing and will talk about this during the ‘strategic funds planning’ discussion at the next board meeting.
7. **Progress on grant work by Brian on privet removal at Overbridge State Natural Area—Andrea**
 - a. Work to take place at Overbridge, a glade site near Murfreesboro
 - b. Goal: get privet out of natural area
 - c. Natural area is surrounded by private farm/woodland which is a big source of privet propagules into the Natural Area.
 - d. Working with private landowners to gain access to remove privet; progress is pending.
 - e. **Andrea** will keep us posted!
 - f. ASAP funds are earmarked in our General Operating account, **Christine** will distribute as necessary.

NEW BUSINESS

8. **2017 TN-IPC/SE-EPPC Meeting**
 - a. Chris was Keynote Speaker at 2016 SC-EPPC/SE-EPPC Joint Meeting
 - i. It was a very small people—only about 30 people in attendance.
 1. Field trip focus; one day of presentations; many graduate student presentations

- b. Question is posed in light of small attendance to 2016 Conference: Why do people want to attend the meeting? Chris responds:
 - i. Graduate students' opportunity to present research
 - ii. Certification points for pesticide applicators' licenses
 - iii. Chance to network with people you don't see very often
- c. Chris willing to work on and organize the conference
- d. Tasks that would need to be done:
 - i. Set date!
 - 1. Discussions with venues, SE-EPPC, local experts once date set.
 - ii. Organizing field trips
 - iii. Developing/managing call for presentations, posters
 - iv. Working on agenda, inviting plenary/keynote speakers
 - v. Registration, money
 - vi. Meals (i.e., box lunches on field trips)
 - vii. Contact person to respond to questions, calls, emails
- e. Board agrees that our 2017 schedules are tight, October Conference would be hard to commit to; we would want more attendance than 2016 conference but worry we don't have time to commit to this. Is it worth it?
- f. After discussion, general consensus among the board members is that **Kitty** (and another board member in support?) will talk to SE-EPPC to pitch the idea of TN-IPC hosting a SE-EPPC **meeting** (discussions, sharing of ideas among board members from chapters across the state—may be physical meeting or remote/conference call) rather than a full-on conference (presentations, field trips, etc.)
- g. **Kitty** and others will also discuss with SE-EPPC about having a *biennial* SE-EPPC Joint Conference model rather than an *annual* one.
 - i. Annual meetings exhaust state boards
 - ii. Two-year cycle would allow for more progress between conferences, which could mean more exciting presentations.
 - iii. Most graduate students could still attend on a biennial basis.
 - iv. Other options:
 - 1. SE-EPPC session in a different annual meeting (i.e., Association of Southeastern Biologists Meeting)?
- h. **Kitty** will report back after discussion with SE-EPPC
- i. **Final board decision:** *we should not host a 2017 Joint SE-EPPC Conference.*

Meeting adjourned! Next meeting in February.

Major items for February meeting: Weed Wrangle, Strategic Financial Plan. Place/date TBD.