

**TN-EPPC Board Meeting
FIA Knoxville
August 13, 2015**

Attendance: Kitty McCracken, Alix Pfennigwerth, Margie Hunter, Mike Berkley, Justin Coffey, Kris Johnson, Belinda Esham Ferro, Chris Oswalt

Absent: Pat Parr (Kitty), Andrea Bishop (Mike)

Guests: Jimmy Groton (TCWP), Christine Bertz (Memphis), Jamie Herold (ORNL), Mark McAdoo (representing Shawn Bible, TDOT), Adam Datillo (Botanist, TVA), Emily Zefferman (research, UT), Heather Slaten (Forest Health, TN Div Forestry, via conference call)

Minutes: June 4, 2015, approved.

Treasurer's Report: Only transaction was email newsletter payment of \$168.00. Total funds \$6,490.04. Report accepted. Attached.

Bioblitz Sponsorship Request: Discover Life in America is assisting with a bioblitz of Knoxville's urban wilderness areas. They have already surveyed invasive plants in these locations and uploaded data to EDDMapS. The goal is to pair non-native plant data with the broader taxa inventory to prioritize treatment of invasives. The events are open to the public, and they are looking for sponsorships. Organizers have already received a small grant and extra funding needed for analysis, etc. The first bioblitz will be at High Ground Park August 22, 2015.

Emily Zefferman is requesting our help with financial support and staging a booth for education at the event. Kitty will survey board members by email regarding any financial support with a deadline to decide Wednesday August 19. Alix and Jamie will be in charge of setting up and staffing an information booth for TN-EPPC.

Emily has applied for a one-year, renewable grant to create a CWMA in the urban wilderness. UWs are a network of variously owned properties with a rising profile in communities. This grant would cover a salaried position to coordinate the CWMA and establish a plan for eradication, restoration, monitoring, and followup, including events such as Weed Wrangles, etc. Community events and education are important components in the grant application.

Bylaws Revision: Alix and Kitty propose the following major changes:

1. Change general language from "invasive exotic pest plant" to "non-native invasive plant."
2. Member/donor system -- adjust fees or adopt a donor system. Donor system model opens the organization to everyone and uses contact information to solicit volunteer donations with our newsletter, community workshops, etc. Chris is researching this system and will submit information and recommendations at a future meeting.
3. Allow students to serve on the board and vote.

Motions were made and passed to approve changes #1 and #3. Change #2 is postponed until Chris' research is complete.

Name Change EPPC to IPC: What is the effect of National Association of Invasive Plant Councils' name change on other regional and state councils? Alix will contact someone from Alabama, now an IPC, to find out their rationale and processes. Kitty will contact SE-EPPC to gauge their thinking. Justin and Belinda are helping. We need to investigate logistics and ramifications, including tax documents, bank accounts, Web site, etc. Any change will also need to be reflected in the bylaws.

Adding Board Members: Jimmy Groton, Adam Datillo, Christine Bertz, and Shawn Bible are willing to serve on the board and were approved as new members. Heather Slaten, leads the unit of Forest Heath for TN Div Forestry. She wants to put more focus on invasive plants and is working on staff hires. She will work as a guest with the board and may recommend a staff person for the board in the future. Shawn Bible, TDOT, writes the state's landscape manuals and is looking to hire a state landscape architect. Forward any recommendations to her.

Executive Board Elections: Secretary and President positions are up for election. The board voted for Kitty to continue as president and Margie as secretary for two-year terms.

Web Site: Jed Schneider did not receive email notifications that our server would be taken offline. He had no time to migrate the content to a new server which resulted in our site going down for a lengthy period. It is now back up but with limited functionality. Margie will call Jed on site problems to pursue a permanent solution. Christine will help investigate SE-EPPC's template that we could use if necessary. Belinda will send Margie info on two nonprofit web managers that we might use instead of Jed.

Social Media: Our Facebook page has 20 Likes. Information on webinars can be tweeted, listed on our newsletter calendar, and posted on the Web site. Justin gets information on these opportunities and will forward those best suited to our target audience to Alix, Belinda, and Margie.

Weed Wrangle: Steve Manning has been in touch with the Knoxville Garden Club regarding staging a wrangle there next year. KGC wants TN-EPPC to partner with them. Kitty is trying to get in touch with the club representative. These events are good opportunities for publicity. Kitty will contact Steve about other cities in the state.

Fairfield Glade Festival: TN-EPPC will have a booth there Oct. 3. Kitty will set it up, and Jamie, Belinda, Justin (Obed has a booth), and perhaps Jimmy (TCWP may have booth) are willing to help.

TN-EPPC Goals Draft: To pair with our newly revised mission statement, Belinda, Pat, and Kitty will work on developing the organization's goals. Belinda will present a draft at the next meeting.

Plant List: Earlier TN-EPPC plant lists began with experts across the state ranking a large number of species (what we observed and what other states were watching). Their input was paired with empirical data for the second version (2009). This list is used by NPS and USFS. It is time to revise the list again. Revisions might involve the generation of multiple lists for different uses. We will need to determine what criteria we will use to make the list(s) and what purpose(s) we want it (them) to serve. NAIPC has been working on development of ASTEM standards which involve a rigorous review process. Alix and Kitty will investigate to see if the standards are ready and what they involve. Kris will give us a rubric from our previous efforts.

We might solicit blurbs from people who use our list as testimonials in our newsletter.

Newsletter: Send any articles or other items to Belinda for the fall issue. Possible ideas are a write-up of the Knoxville bioblitz and an article on the City of Fairview's "do not plant" list.

Next Meeting: Kitty will do a Doodle Poll to set the next date. Cookeville is a possible location.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Hunter
Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT – Aug 13, 2015

TENNESSEE EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL

GENERAL OPERATING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance: (June 4, 2015)	\$1,124.22
Receipts:	
Expenses:	
Constant Contact fee (e-newsletter host)	-\$168.00
Ending Balance: (Aug 13, 2015)	\$956.22

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance: (June 4, 2015)	\$4,944.76
Net Interest Earned:	+\$0.08
Ending Balance: (Aug 13, 2015)	\$4,944.84
TOTAL ASSETS OF GENERAL & MM ACCOUNTS	\$5,901.06

PAY PAL ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance: (June 4, 2015)	\$588.98
Receipts:	
Expenses:	
Ending Balance: (Aug 13, 2015)	\$588.98
TOTAL ASSETS OF ALL ACCOUNTS	\$6,490.04