

TN-EPPC Board Meeting
August 26, 2011
Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Attendance: Anni Self, Andrea Bishop, Harry Quarles, Kris Johnson, Sara Kuebbing, Pat Parr, Mike Berkley, LinnAnn Welch, Dan Brown, Margie Hunter

Absent: Claude Bailey (Mike), Bob Parrish (Pat), Marie Kerr (Dan)

Guests: Randall Phillips (TDEC Environmental Specialist), Belinda Esham (NRCS), Greg Byrd (ORR forester), Lori McAlister (TN Naturescapes Native Nursery)

Meeting called to order 11:45 a.m. EDT

Welcome from Thom Mason, Director ORNL

Minutes: June 8, 2011, meeting minutes approved.

Treasurers Report: No expenses this quarter. Income from memberships (\$165) and shirt (\$15). Total assets: \$11,513.38. Report approved.

Board Resignations: Dan is stepping off after 15 years. Anni is stepping off too due to changes in her job.

Articles: LinnAnn sent her *Tennessee Conservationist* article on TN-EPPC's plant list to *Wildland Weeds*, will publish when space is available. Kris* is considering an article on prevention strategies to avoid avenues of introduction -- quarry inspections, avoiding mulch, using native plantings -- and will work on it this fall. Sara* has an article from students at UT regarding use of goats on Kudzu and will see if *WW* is interested. [Basic finding: Cost effective for keeping above ground clear, not enough to exhaust large roots.] LinnAnn offered to write *WW* articles on assignment for SE-EPPC.

Web Site: The Potential Invasive Species Watch List is posted with three species - *Elaeagnus multiflora*, *Ficaria verna*, *Youngia japonica*. Sara provided the species accounts. Margie* will finish posting list write-ups in October. Claude* is handling Andrea's list.

Alternative Brochure: Board reviewed and agreed on needed additions, deletions, etc. Margie* will note all changes and send to Chris Armour for an estimate. Andrea already has printing estimate from Phillips. Brochures will be stored at TDEC downtown.

Invasive removal cost estimates: Researching the economics surrounding invasive plant species, Sara found a one page summary from California IPC on the costs of invasives to the state. We could produce a similar document to simply present the relevant data. Sara drafted a set of project objectives/goals and a budget for hiring an intern to collect cost data in Tennessee, i.e., parks, NRCS, forest service, and private sector costs (cost-

sharing programs), etc. Contact CALIPC regarding their approach then query board for good contacts. Sara thinks she can find a good person. Belinda knows a professor who has survey experience. Will put Sara in touch. May need contract with intern. Sara* will submit this plan to SE-EPPC, request a grant, and see if they have a sample contract mechanism. This could be a model for other states or SE-EPPC to use based on the survey protocol we develop. Might make a good article for publication. We should double Sara's current cost estimate, and consider associated expenses. In addition to costs, we might survey for results from dollars spent, i.e., acreage treated or other benefits derived from controlling invasives. TN-EPPC is willing to put up to \$3000 into the project for data collection. Specifically, the intern we hire will develop protocol for collection, develop database, and collect data. Writing of one page information sheet and any article could be done by others if needed. Board approved the plan.

TN-EPPC Displays: Andrea will meet with the screen display people to get a firm cost and any suggestions on use of photos and layout. Margie, Pat and Dan tweaked the old display's wording. Margie downloaded new photos from Invasive.org. Others are sending suitable photos as well. Margie* will take revised text and photos along with the old display to Chris Armour to design new panels and assemble the display. Andrea* knows someone who can sew a canvas case for the old display so we get rid of the heavy plastic bin. Margie* will get her the dimensions.

Nolichucky River: Purple loosestrife populations have been found there near the French Broad. It has spread to other places. Forest Service and TVA aware, but little has been done. In June, 2012, Kris and Troy Evans (GSMNP) will organize a mapping of river sections. They will note ownership of land locations and treat public areas and notify private landowners. Troy Evans* will do writeup for Web site and send to Margie. Plan is to inform canoeing and kayaking communities to look for other populations in streams. Might cut flowers in small stands to prevent seed set. ORNL has purple loosestrife.

Reed Canary Grass is in wetlands in NC. They could look for that too in TN wetlands and waterways. It might be coming in on hay.

Forestry Letter: Hugh Bullock, a forester, sent us a letter expressing concern about nonnative species. He is seeking ways for those in forestry to become better educated regarding invasive species. We will invite him to our next meeting and discuss ways we can work together for a training session or other ideas. Might request to be part of any organized meeting of foresters. Training could be part of continuing education.

TDOT/TDEC Revegetation Guidelines: Harry developed a document stating the issue and posing associated questions and answers, including the list of invasive plant species recommended, circumstances for that recommendation per species and native substitutes. We need a way to present this effectively to TDOT & TDEC. We need to determine the commercial availability of each alternative, recognizing that TDOT can become an important driver to enhance availability. Winter wheat is good cover crop to allow time for native grasses to establish. We need to make sure this information reaches those in charge of erosion control. Sara suggested we use the Executive Order mandate regarding invasive species and the use of federal funds. This might be enough

to prompt removal of some bad species recognized in state from these uses. Mandate defers to the states on acknowledged invasive species. It would be advantageous to invite Federal Hwy administration official to any meeting with state officials to discuss species in TDEC manual. Randall, Harry, Andrea, Suzanne Herron with TDOT ecology, and Dan Eager would be good people to review the revegetation manual and suggest changes. Harry's document is not a finished product and should be marked as a draft in this first phase. We need a list of possible sources for some species to get process started. Some information still needed includes seeding rates and physiographic region suitability. Plant material centers could help with the research to develop and refine this necessary data. Maximilian's sunflower is listed as a native substitute. It was on our list briefly since TN is not in its native range. Andrea* will check with Dwayne Estes to see if recommending it as a seeding substitute is a good idea.

Tshirts: No new information.

Butterfly book: Rita will have a list to review next year.

Treasurer election: Andrea* will ask Bob to be acting treasurer until we can elect new person. Position is mid-term.

Next Meeting: Dec. 2. Sewanee

Meeting adjourned 3:20 p.m. EDT

Respectfully submitted,
Margie Hunter
Secretary