

TN-EPPC Board Meeting Minutes
Nov. 6, 2008
TWRA Region III Office, Crossville, TN

Attendance: Pat Parr, Dan Brown, Anni Self, Terri Hogan, Kris Johnson, Margie Hunter, LinnAnn Welch

Absent: Richard Clements (Anni, proxy), Claude Bailey and Bob Parrish (Terri, proxy), Kevin Fitch, Nancy Fraley

Guest: Marie Kerr, botanist Big South Fork NRRRA (began in Feb., formerly weed scientist in west)

Hosts: Marc Lipner, TWRA Region III Small Game Habitat Coordinator
John Mayer, TWRA Region III Manager

Meeting called to order at 10:10 a.m. [** denotes action item]

Hosts welcome board: TWRA has 2.5 days of in-service training for all officers and field crews. **TN-EPPC could arrange an invasive plant ID and treatment program.

Agenda additions: New Business: Nashville Lawn & Garden Show

Minutes: Approved Aug. 12, 2008, minutes

Treasurer Report: [Attached] Annie reported two memberships as income and Web & printing/postage expenses. General account: \$5,150.32 Money Mkt: \$3,934.52. TN-EPPC got a debit card. Want to arrange all membership payments for first of the year – including board. Report accepted.

Web Updates: **Send events/activities to post, Nat'l Lands Day, etc.; LinnAnn and Kevin bio updates, Claude sending his.

State info – counties addressing invasive issues – who and how, contact info.
Homeowners Associations – planting guidelines and recommendations, control information, etc. **Kris will check to see if there is a central organizing group for home associations to send info.

List of pest plant control businesses: **Anni will put contact blurb in a TDA newsletter to get data on who, job types, costs, etc. **Dan will check with TN Forestry Assoc.

EDRR: **Review Nancy's email and send her names of good people for committee – botanists, control, field, administration, etc. Does Nancy need support? Should TN-EPPC establish a committee on this?

**Terri will approach Sam Lambert and Jim Miller about information from Forestry Inventory Analysis (FIA) plots. Can't do lat/longs on private lands, but can get county data from EDDMapS. Might check with State Div of Forestry as they help via subcontracting.

Plant List: It is finished and approved, ready to print. **Terri will put in final form in three parts - Plant List, Comments, Protocols, and send out. Need to publish it in the Tennessee Academy of Sciences. **Terri or Richard to write? Could also go in Southeastern Naturalist and Castanea. **Pat will check with Wildland Weeds re: both new invasive list and status of alternatives list set for Winter issue and will check with TN Conservationist for list article. Need to develop a new brochure of list (perhaps a printing from WW as before). **Terri will ask Richard to put list on Web.

Some species on the list still need to data to better assess their threat through the adopted protocol – either specimens or EDDMapS. Accordingly, available data was judged conservatively. Marie noted that the upper plateau is under represented in current map data. **Terri will work on EDDMapS article with David Moorhead or Chuck Bargeron.

Natural Areas Conference: Attendance was 450, every state and 6 countries represented. Programs were deemed strong, 110 talks were recorded to post online including the plenary sessions. **Terri will let us know when they are posted. Auction raised \$9,000. Elsie Quarterman and Hal DeSelm were recognized. It was a good showcase of Nashville. Interactions between NAA and NA-EPPC were great. Plants for a Livable Delaware brochure series is good

Good information on establishing partnerships for invasive issues. Best accomplished one-on-one. **Margie will talk to Mike Berkley about setting the first steps toward building a relationship with TN's nursery industry. *American Nurseryman* has Mike on the cover w/great article. Pat would like copies for ORNL landscapers.

Gravel & Sand Pits: Kris hasn't done any recent inspections. **We will put inspection forms on Web site for others to use. Plan is to work through local companies to reach parent companies and impact statewide operations. **Terri has a list of non-invasive erosion control plants and will put list on Web site. TN-EPPC should develop a list of quarries who meet standards in TN. SE-EPPC could develop a regional list.

TDA Weed List: There has finally been a meeting with the commissioner. It went well. The process will continue for adopting new rule – there are a few more steps. One last possible hurdle will be the government operation committee, but this would come after rule takes affect. Technical committee should be retained, but green members' break with committee's recommendation might strain relations.

NIWAW-TNIWAW: Proclamation/resolution language is done. Terri is consulting with her legislator on process/timing for introduction. Statewide, 47 conservation/gardening groups have signed on in support.

We need to set plant pulls around state as a publicity tie-in. Those already agreed to host a pull: Ijams (Knoxville), Terri (Murfreesboro), Kris (GSMNP), LinnAnn (Bells Bend/Beaman), Marie (Big South Fork). Need to see if these could be added: **Claude (Jackson), **Terri (Memphis Botanic), **Richard (Chattanooga), **Margie (Reflection Riding – Chatta). Good plants to pull include Japanese honeysuckle vine, vinca, & garlic mustard. **Set date during Feb. 22-28, 2009, and send to Margie and Richard.

Publicity – **Margie will work on press release. **Anni will get media information list from David Owensby.

Ecology Impacts: Got good information and contacts at NAA conference. Jil Swearingen may email info. Still progressing slowly.

Tennessee Master Naturalist: Now Tennessee Volunteer Naturalist. Pursuing 5-year funding through Nat'l Science Foundation grant due Dec. 18, 2008.

Video Segments Tennessee's Least Wanted: Rather than pursue on our own (low-budget, time intensive), take idea to SE-EPPC and consider grant funding to hire production company and deliver a quality product capable of broadcast as well as online podcast. **Margie will draft a proposal for TN-EPPC to present at SE-EPPC Jan retreat.

TNPS Fall Meeting Presentation: Talked on EDDMapS and need for invasive documentation. Well-received, TNPS interested in helping. Requested information on a species list and ID characters. Online list could link to other sites like Bugwood, etc. **Terri will improve list developed for TNPS annual meeting and send to Richard to post with Bugwood links.

Joint TN-EPPC/TNPS Meeting 2009: Will discuss in more detail at Feb meeting in Sewanee with Mary Priestly, TNPS president. What will our role be – registration help, invasive ID on field trip, present control info?

Bart Gordon Liaison: Bob's draft letter is ready, will send to board.

Cogongrass Initiative: Organizational meeting for EDRR on cogongrass with Mark Gudlin (TWRA) and Clint Strohmeier (Forestry Div). Need MOU for inter-agency financial cooperation. Want to focus on more than just cogongrass.

The patch of cogon found in Lexington (Henderson Cty) is still under treatment – spray mgt takes time to knock rhizomes out.

Alan Trently may have found Miscanthus at some SNAs in West TN.

SE-EPPC will go to NIWAW to get \$ for regional use on cogon. **Dan will call Brian, David Moorhead suggested too.

TN-EPPC Board/Member Issues:

Events: Terri – hosted walk/talk on the greenway in Murfreesboro, 8-10 people attended and watered plants at the end. **She will be glad to email members regularly to notify of special events.

Kris – proposes a walk at Soak Ash Marsh off Old Settlers Trail for the Wildflower Pilgrimage in April. Invite TN-EPPC members to see restoration after removal of multiflora rose. **Kris will check with Pilgrimage organizers.

Web site: Liked look of Mountain Restoration Trust site from Terri's list, www.mountainstrust.org. **Dan will work with his son, Thomas, and Richard to explore new design. Main navigation page ideas included Land Managers,

Gardeners/Homeowners, Alerts, Board, Publications. **Requested board examine site for further organization suggestions and send to Dan.

Newsletter: Could we do one for the membership? How often? What would it contain? Calendar for sure. We could put it on the Web and email members the link. Put newsletter on hold for time being.

Board: New member possibilities – Jack Gilpin (St parks), Mike Berkley (GroWild), Andrea Bishop (TDEC), Dwayne Estes (APSU), Jenny Adkins (NRCS). John Froeschauer, Brian Rucker and Pat Cox are not likely at this time. **Terri will check with others, Pat will contact Jenny.

New Business:

Nashville Lawn and Garden Show: March 5-8, 2009, State Fairgrounds. Margie is applying for the booth space joint with TNPS. Jane Norris of TNPS is coordinating the schedule of workers 10-8 Thurs/Fri/Sat and 10-5 Sun. What display materials and support furnishings do we want/need. L&G supplies one 6' skirted table and two folding chairs. Curtain on wall can support pinned sign.

Native grasses on TDOT roads: Lose & Associates, Nashville, is a subcontractor with TDOT to landscape interstates with native grasses. We might get them as a possible sponsor. Perhaps hold a board meeting at their office to establish relationship.

Board Term Expirations: Kris and Pat have agreed to re-up. Dan is thinking about it. **Terri will notify Kevin by letter.

SE-EPPC Planning Retreat: Jan. 13-14, 2009, Gainesville, GA. Role/direction will be debated. **Terri will ask if Nancy will attend. TN-EPPC will sponsor if her agency doesn't.

Events for TN-EPPC Presence: Wilderness Wildlife Week, Jan. 11-18, 2009, Pigeon Forge, TN. Kris is speaking and will take display.

Next Meeting: Feb. 11, 2009, University of the South, Sewanee, TN.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Margie Hunter
TN-EPPC Secretary
11-21-2008

Terri's Action Item List:

TN Exotic Pest Plant Council Board of Directors Meeting, November 6, 2008
10AM to 3PM (Central) at TWRA Region III Office Crossville, TN

ACTION ITEMS

- Web site: **Kevin** update bio. **Claude** provide bio. **Everyone** provide information and activities to Richard to update web site-keep it alive. **Kris** will check with local homeowners association to see if a list of homeowners associations exists for the state of TN, who uses our list, list on web site. **Anni** will see if TDA subscription mailout to pesticide applicators can include request from TNEPPC for information on applicators who treat invasive plants. **Dan** will do the same through the Forestry Association. **Terri** will talk to Richard about changes to web site design. **Dan and Richard** will work together on changes to web site. **Terri** will email board to see if anyone else is interested in helping Dan and Richard. **Margie** will map out her ideas for TNEPPC web site (links for land managers, gardeners, board, publications, alerts). TNEPPC BOD members like Mountains Restoration Trust web site (<http://www.mountainstrust.org/>), perhaps use this as template.
- Early detection-rapid response: **Terri** ask Nancy if she needs help with this very big project, resend Nancy's tables and request input from TNEPPC on people to serve on an EDRR task force, ask Chuck Barger on how Georgia is using FIA data on EDDMapS. **TNEPPC BOD** send Nancy names!!!!
- TNEPPC exotic pest plant list: **Terri** finalize list and protocols, send to board, send to **Richard** for posting, ask **Richard** to write article on updated list and submit to TN Academy of Science.
- Natural Areas Conference: **Terri** will notify board when presentations are posted.
- NIWAW-TNWAW-Feb 22-28: **Terri** will contact John Hood to find out 1) when legislative session convenes in 2009, 2) when the first day of the session is scheduled, 3) whether a joint proclamation or separate proclamations would move more quickly through the legislature, 4) who we take the proclamation to on the first day of the session, 5) if there applications or other forms that must be filled out first. **Dan** will call Brian to find out what SEPPC is doing for NIWAW and encourage a focus on cogongrass.
 - Hands-on invasive plant control events associated with TNWAW-Feb 22-28: **Margie** arranged plant pull at Ijams, will contact Reflection Riding, **Kris** will organize event at the Smokies, **LinnAnn** will organize events at Bell's Bend and Beaman, **Marie** will organize event at Big South Fork. **Terri** will organize event at Stones River NB/Murfreesboro greenway, call Memphis Botanical Garden for something there, call **Claude** and **Richard** to see if they can arrange

activity with their students. **Everyone** give information to **Margie** and **Richard** ASAP so they can be included in press releases which **Margie** will write and posted on the TNEPPC web site.

- TNEPPC board and membership issues
 - Increasing active membership: **Kris** will see if a joint TNEPPC event (hike to Soak Ash Marsh to learn about restoration work) can be arranged during the Smokies Wildflower Pilgrimage. **Terri** will email members regularly to notify them of events are arranged. **Anni** will send Terri updated membership list.
 - Increase profile through articles: **Pat** will check on status of alternative plant brochure in Wildland Weeds and ask Karen Brown about printing our updated list and protocols. **Pat** will work on article about updated list for Tennessee Conservationist. **Terri** will work on follow up article on EDDMapS with assistance from David Moorhead or Chuck Bargeron.
 - Expand board: **Terri** will invite Jack Gilpin (TN State Parks), Dwayne Estes (Austin Peay), Mike Berkley (nursery industry), Andrea Bishop (TDNA) to join the board. **Pat** will invite Jenny Adkins (NRCS) to our next meeting. **Terri** will pursue relationship with Loess and Associates in Nashville. John Froeshauer cannot commit. Pat Cox cannot commit but **Terri** will ask if she can serve as "adjunct" or liason.