

TN-IPC Board Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2021

10:00 a.m. Eastern, 9:00 a.m. Central

Prepared by Diane Warwick

Kitty welcomes new board members Clint Neel and Jamie Herold

Attendance:

Kitty McCracken, Kris Johnson, Bill Moll, Pat Parr, Sam King, Byron Brooks, Jimmy Groton, Clint Neel, Belinda Ferro, Jamie Herold, Diane Warwick, Margie Hunter **Absent:** Christine Bertz

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from 26 January 2021, Sam motions to accept, Byron seconded, passed

Treasurer's report given by Kitty: Christine sent report to all board members

Approval of Treasurer's report: Byron moved to accept, Belinda seconded, passed

Officer elections:

During Belinda's attendance of general agency department USDA training about ethics, she learned there was a conflict of interest and she will not be able to serve as an officer on the board, but can continue to serve on the board. Board members are thankful she can continue to work with the council.

Kitty has served as an officer for many years and needs to step off as president and Belinda will vacate the Vice-President position.

Nominations: Kitty nominates Sam for President. No other nominations were made. Belinda seconds, third and fourth motions from other council members, all said Aye

Kitty also nominates Jaime for Vice-President. No other nominations were made. Belinda seconds, all in favor said Aye

1. **President:** Sam King is elected
2. **Vice president:** Jamie Herold is elected

Thanks to Belinda for her service as Vice-President, and much thanks to Kitty for her tireless service to the council as our fearless leader (President).

Old Business

1. **Website Plant List:** Currently there are two lists, natural areas, and disturbed areas (grasses and other plants for TDOT and army corps) might not be easily managed. Is there a different way to present the list to be more user friendly? Bill said that homeowners in residential areas are planting things recommended by horticulturalists, and these plants are usually not native.
TN-IPC list was too difficult to interpret, decided to go with Natural areas problem, but we need to put the removed plants back on the list and make it all inclusive. Perhaps a column to sort the plants by areas include residential, Pat wants people to use their yards for this list, multiple lists become the problem, army corps using one list and planting invasive plants that weren't included on the list they referenced. Sam met with army corps, TDOT, and state natural areas representatives to discuss the best way to present the information. Bill wants one list. Kitty wants single list, showing both common and scientific names, and a potential column delineating areas of problem. A comment was also made that we shouldn't let the website designer drive our page. If changes need to be made, they shouldn't be hampered by difficulty of design. Kitty created a committee to come up with a plan for "redesign" of the list. Sam, Pat, Bill, Kitty and Margie are on this committee, all agreed. Kitty will schedule subcommittee meeting after this meeting.
Clint suggested a one- or two-page web document showing good plants for residential areas and grass lands, with a second page listing the "don't plant these" non-native invasive plants. Kitty asked Clint to develop a brochure and we can place it on the website.
2. **TN Pest Plant list additions**
 - a. Email from TDA re: setting up a committee to evaluate plants for list. Kitty looking for the list that was sent her. The Dept. of Agriculture were going to create a committee with growers, university folks and us to see about adding to the list. When Kitty finds this, she will send to us. Annie Self will be forming a committee to add plants to the plant pest list. Belinda will summarize.
 - b. **Another letter from TN-IPC needed?**
This item will be discussed further after more information is known about the plant list committee
3. **Virtual and Real-life meetings/garden shows.**
Update on our activities was given
Bill wants to reschedule our workshop for March 2022. There was a great program set up but COVID virus led to cancellation of the workshop. All agree that if we can line up the venue we already had that would be great. Bill said he could and will work on securing speakers/stations for the workshop.

- a. Knoxville Home and Garden show—virtual-Kitty
- b. Jackson Friends of Library—bees/pollinators--Christine
- c. Radio interview—Jimmy 7:30 on a Saturday morning, thanks Jimmy
- d. Cumberland River Compact interview—Kitty
- e. Knoxville Volunteer Forester class—virtual-Kitty
- f. TN Recreation and Parks Association- Diane virtual Non-native invasives and native alternatives
- g. Jaime talked to DOE and sustainability folks about invasives and the benefits of native plants related to the new DOE initiative called Sustainable Climate Ready Sites
- h. Reflection Riding hosted volunteer workdays with volunteers from “Coyote Logistics” trucking company among others, Hickson HS putting a program together for interns and apprentices to do natural area restoration, Byron provides regular Facebook posts regarding invasive plants and exposure to TN-IPC.

4. Weed Wrangles

- a. Jimmy did weed wrangle at Oak Ridge barrens state natural area over 40 people attended
- b. Members of TN-IPC cohosted weed wrangles on TN Dept. of Agriculture campus at Ellington with partners, videos from Sam posted on website. Ashley Kite-Roland, Katy Kilbourne and Sam King were interviewed by Ag folks at the weed wrangle in March. Belinda will post if you send to her.

New Business

1. New trees for old Bradford pears initiative—update from Jimmy
Clemson has been doing this for several years, video has been produced, landowner can cut down a Bradford, take photos, and they get a replacement tree of desirable species. SCFC, Duke Energy, and Clemson partnering on this effort. They are purchasing containerized trees for about \$10 each. First come first served basis. Knoxville might be a good place to start with Kasey Krouse the Urban Forester. Perhaps TVA and KUB would be good partners for this program. Chattanooga had similar programs through Reflection Riding if you were in damaged tornado areas called the Growing Resilient Neighborhood Program where homeowners in the effected storm areas could receive free trees.
Kitty formed a small committee to develop this further in one of our cities. Bill, Byron, Jimmy, and Diane...contact organizations and develop plan Jimmy will lead this effort.

2. Another National Invasive Species Awareness Week II—May 17-21. NAISMA part two, series of webinars available, Kitty sent information and encourages participation, we are members and should be free to our board. Kitty will send the link
3. Multiple social media questions answered by multiple Board members. Questions from mail and web, thanks to all who provide answers esp. Belinda, Christine, and Margie
4. T-shirt design-see Sam's design New design by Sam only submission, Kitty likes it and board members agree. Belinda seconds the design, and all approve. We want to change the "cursive" writing to a more readable font. We should have these available for 2022 conference. A few old shirts left over on the website. Pat doesn't want white Tee so we need color choices, and Clint would like to have a "long sleeves" option.
5. Upcoming events? 2023 will be 30 years of TN-IPC. Let's plan a conference for this anniversary and make it a big event. Need to line up speakers from UT and others. Prominent key-note speaker is needed, possibly Dan Simberloff conservation biologist. Also, IPC and possibly involve Steve Manning with this effort.
6. Formalized Plant List
Formalized listing process to be used in the southeast may become a possibility Kitty asks Clint if he can participate in the Southeast Plant Listing Working Group headed by Chuck Bergeron (national mover and shaker) to develop methods of listing plants and have criteria formalized across the board. Discuss with the group and Kitty will get notes from meeting to pass to Clint. ASB Association of Southeastern Biologists...SAMAB and other potential partners were mentioned. Rotary club partners would be good as well.
7. Possible grant opportunities? Ijam's asking about grant opportunities, tool reserve to take to events, can we get a grant for this? Diane will send grant information for these opportunities for invasive plant grants

Other business....Belinda is working on amending the bylaws, she will send out for review, please send her any revisions or comments

Jamie asking about yellow iris, they are killing it, where is it? Belinda went to a private garden tours event and fig buttercup was everywhere at one garden. It is becoming a huge problem in east TN. Pat giving KUDOS to Kitty and Belinda We are in good hands with our new leadership of Sam and Jamie! Great to see everyone...hope to in person soon.

New members please send bio and pic to Margie to include on our TN-IPC board member website

Next meeting in August, committees make progress for next meeting. Sam will schedule.