

**TN-EPPC Board Meeting
June 8, 2012
USFWS, Cookeville, TN**

Attendance: Andrea Bishop, Kris Johnson, Sara Keubbing, Mike Berkley, Margie Hunter, Marie Kerr, Belinda Esham, LinnAnn Welch

Absent: Claude Bailey (Andrea), Bob Parrish (Kris), Anni Self (LinnAnn), Pat Parr (Belinda)

Guests: Chris Shaw (NPS), Kitty McCracken (ORNL), Brian Bowen (TDEC Natural Areas), Justin Coffey (NPS), Alix Pfennigwerth (NPS)

Meeting called to order 9:40 a.m. [*] denotes action item

Minutes: Minutes approved from February 24, 2012 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Attached. Receipts - memberships \$580, SE-EPPC \$1,500 for intern, donations \$150. Expenses - intern \$2,134, brochure printing \$2,771. Balance of \$3,826.95. Total assets \$7,770.63. Report approved.

Web Site: Belinda's bio and Nolichucky Mapping Project are up. Jed Schneider, site designer, is looking for more responsive host regarding server downtime.

Newsletter Template: No action yet. Margie* will get with Belinda to develop.

Wildflower Pilgrimage: Large trifold was on display, and Sara added specific plant information and cuttings of various invasives.

Displays: LinnAnn* has researched portfolio options to carry the trifold display. Sturdy ones are over \$200. Sara* will measure ours as new boards don't fold flat to insure fit. Might use velcro strips to hold it secure. Andrea* will contact manufacturer to initiate pull up display. Chris has been paid for work, and the design is in electronic format.

SE-EPPC Board Meeting Report: October 9-12 is NAA/NAEPPC meeting in Virginia. Abstracts deadline was extended past June 1. Looking to include Western Weed Management Association in the future, though they don't usually come this far east. Brian recommends that TN-EPPC have a representative, which might be him. Fall meeting, Weeds Across Borders, is set for Cancun, Mexico. Spring annual meeting will be in Panama City, FL. Brian Arnold (GA-EPPC) was elected president. SE-EPPC plans to roundup member email addresses for Listserv with option to opt out. Only officers can post to the Listserv to reduce volume (which was a significant problem earlier). Sent letter to the Arbor Day Foundation regarding *Koelreuteria paniculata* (golden rain tree) asking that they not promote this species, and received no response. SE-EPPC board did not discuss future changes in their mission.

May Annual Meeting: Featured good presentations. Plan to post them online.

Nolichucky Purple Loosestrife Mapping: Troy Evans noticed populations along river and wants to survey the river and determine the source if possible and control it, organizing efforts for mid-June to mid-July. He developed sets of directions and routes to get location information for EDDMapS. TN-EPPC will help spread the word to outdoor river sports programs and clubs to solicit volunteers. Brian suggested a CWMA initiative to get federal money to coordinate a control plan once mapping is finished.

Quarry Inspection: Kris inspected Sevierville Vulcan for the park. Met with their southeast sales people who were very receptive to the issue. The worst weed is Coltsfoot. Kris offered to help them set up a weed management program, referred them to our Web site, and provided list of species on their property. Reclaimed areas are often touted as wildlife habitat, and quarries are interested in this “good neighbor” PR.

T-shirts: High school student artwork was not up to par. Need to look elsewhere for talent. Alix* would be interested in providing some designs.

Articles for *Wildland Weeds*: Belinda* will submit article (habitat models that can be misapplied). Sara’s goat article is not ready yet; it will be a while. Magazine now publishes twice yearly, and mid-August is the deadline for the Fall/Winter edition. Alix* will submit her article on the cost estimates project.

Community Workshop: East Tennessee board members developed plans for a late August, early September workshop in Oak Ridge and will organize it, with Belinda* coordinating by email. They might include an optional invasive species walk. Preregistration will help determine the audience makeup to tailor the program as needed. TN-EPPC will receive some funds from the workshop, and Board approved funds for honoraria and snacks. This could be a model for other state locations. LinnAnn* will work on coordinating a similar effort in Middle Tennessee (Nashville). Winter might be a good time to host one perhaps through Warner Parks and get on their schedule (3-4 months out).

Cost Estimates Project: Alix presented her research findings on the cost assessment of invasive plant management in Tennessee to inform policy makers and the nursery industry of the horticultural economic viability of invasive species vs. economic impacts in the larger picture. She developed a survey for 200 people across the state to assess direct costs -- control, mapping, monitoring, education. Indirect costs -- effects on soil erosion, crop yield, biodiversity -- cannot be effectively quantified.

In Tennessee, our documented flora is 82% native, 18% nonnative, and 1.3% invasive.

- Questions were: What species are targeted? How they are managed? How much money is spent on management?
- Only two targeted species are listed as federally “noxious.” The rest are not.
- Management efforts: 44% control, 29% mapping/monitoring, 24% outreach and education, 3% other (i.e., consultation)
- \$2.6 million in direct costs are spent on invasive plant management in TN. This is an average of three years 2009-2011.

- Federal agencies account for \$1 mil (TVA not included), state agencies \$1.35 mil, city/county \$0.2 mil, nonprofit \$0.1 mil, private 0.
- Alix's efforts produced the survey and response database, a fact sheet of results, draft protocol for other EPPCs, and an article for *Wildland Weeds*.
- Her draft fact sheet will be edited to include a back page with the target species list, management chart, and reference to our Web site for list of survey respondents, etc. Committee of Mike*, Sara*, and Pat* will develop final fact sheet.

Sara* will type up thank you to all respondents and send a link to the results on our Web site. All felt the final cost figure is significantly under-representative of the actual problem. Discussed ways to use this information, including encouragement of better cost tracking by agencies, determining how much income is generated by the sale of just invasive species to provide a more accurate cost comparison within a billion dollar state industry.

New Business

Elections: Board voted Marie as president and Sara as treasurer.

Future of TIPS-CWMA: It was formed to combat cogongrass, but there have been no meetings for a year. Teri Hogan departed, Greg Armel is leaving his post at UT. Accomplishments include a cogongrass workshop in Jackson with Allan Trentley and getting rid of 'Red Baron' at Ripley's in Gatlinburg. Group needs to reconvene 17 members, which includes most agencies in the state. Anni is now a co-chair with Brian. A management plan for the committee is still in process, about 85% complete. The organization agreement entails a broader slate of species beyond cogongrass -- less than a dozen. As the five-year USFWS grant window draws down, the \$5,000 can be spent for management of these additional species if there are no expenditures on cogongrass.

SE-EPPC Achievement Award: Given to Brian Bowen for his outstanding contribution to the education and advancement of invasive plant issues.

TN-EPPC Anniversary: 20th anniversary of TN-EPPC will be March 2014, and we should consider some celebration, perhaps at Cheekwood where the organization was officially voted into existence.

Next Meeting: Nov. 1, Cumberland Mountain State Park, 9:30 a.m.

Adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Margie Hunter
Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT – June 7, 2012

TENNESSEE EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL

GENERAL OPERATING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance:	(February 22, 2012)	\$6,501.95
Receipts:		
	Memberships	\$580.00
	SE-EPPC	
	Donations	\$1,500.00
		\$150.00
Expenses:		
	Intern (Alix)	\$2,134.00
	Printing	\$2,771.00
Ending Balance:	(June 6, 2012)	\$3,826.95

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance:	(February 22, 2012)	\$3,943.43
Net Interest Earned:		.25
Ending Balance:	(June 6, 2012)	\$3,943.68
TOTAL ASSETS OF GENERAL & MM		\$7,770.63
ACCOUNTS		