

TN-EPPC Board Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2009
Lose & Associates, Nashville, TN

Attendance: Terri Hogan, Margie Hunter, Jack Gilpin, Pat Parr, Anni Self, Andrea Bishop, Claude Bailey, Mike Berkley, Dan Brown, LinnAnn Welch

Absent (proxy): Kris Johnson (Pat), Nancy Fraley (Andrea), Kevin Fitch (Anni), Bob Parrish (LinnAnn)

Guests: Harry Quarles, ORNL, and Matt Powell, landscaper with ORNL

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. (**denotes action item)

Thanks to Lose & Associates for use of their conference room and lunch.

Minutes: Approved minutes of Aug. 13, 2009.

Treasurer's Report: \$270 in memberships, including Progressive Solutions, a business that works on rights of way and exotic plant removal, and \$100 donation from Mills Foundation. \$75 food expense for joint TNPS/TNEPPC meeting. \$1,720 for SE-EPPC/SE-SERI meeting hotel deposit and logo. Report approved. (Attached)

Landscaping with Natives Brochures: Mike suggested merging the three brochures into one. This allows a more comprehensive list that goes beyond actual range distribution. It will note when a species' culture is range restricted and include the three divisions' physiographic info. Mike reviewed all the plants listed and made suggestions on deletions and additions. Andrea** will call Chris Armour for input on the redesign and size – perhaps the large trifold of Alternatives. Andrea expressed concern on the continued availability of printing money from the state and suggested we try to get this done before Jan. 1, 2010. Margie** will help review.

TN-EPPC & TNPS Joint Meeting: The September meeting at Linden Valley retreat was very nice. Margie and other TNPS members helped with invasive ID on the hikes. Terri taught a well-attended workshop on control methods and off-the-shelf herbicides. Group requested “success stories” on invasive control. We should gather and share these – maybe on Web site.

TIPS: The MOU for Tennessee Invasive Plant Species is signed by everyone except Army Corps of Engineers in West TN and USDA – both in process. A press release is planned. Committee is working on a CWMA strategic plan and hopes to apply for grants. The idea is to craft a statewide approach addressing cogongrass and other species (not yet determined) that we can actually get in front of and do something about.

Issues: Sawtooth Oak: Non-native oak is being grown (Pinson Mounds nursery) and given out by NRCS, Div of Forestry, and TWRA for wildlife food and fast growth. Claude** will draft a letter pointing out the tree's exotic status and recommending native oak species including Shumard and others with Mike's** input. Letter could cite

different species for different purposes – wildlife mast and growth. Cheap production of sawtooth is an advantage. There are some easier to propagate native species as well.

Paulownia Recommendations to UT: Terri** will follow up on this issue.

Gravel & Sand Pit Certification: Kris is continuing to work with Vulcan and the issue of coltsfoot. Vulcan may be a sponsor for the May SE-EPPC meeting and this issue could be a good talk topic. A representative of a state or federal agency shouldn't be "certifying" these businesses. It would be best to identify an independent botanist in each division of the state who could learn the process and be paid a fee by the businesses to inspect, recommend improvements, and certify them. A closer look at how this is done in the western US might be helpful.

TN-IWAW: Margie sent an email to supporters from last year on the Feb. 22-27, 2010 event. Emailed organizations who did not participate last year and have received several positive responses. NIWAW is now National Invasive **Species** Awareness Week and has been moved to mid January. Our week will stay the same, and the proclamation language tweaked to remove that link. Margie** will send Rep. Kent Coleman and Sen. Steve Southerland the language for a Joint Legislative Resolution in the General Assembly. Using information from Terri, Kris and LinnAnn, Margie** assembled "Organizing Volunteer Invasive Plant Removal Projects" document and will email it to all supports this month. Contributors' contact emails will be added. Anni** will get the TN print and broadcast media lists again.

Lawn & Garden Show: March 4-7, 2010, Nashville, Tennessee Fairgrounds. Terri** will send a schedule so board members can sign up to work a shift in the booth. We will share the booth with TNPS. Mike may bring plants to liven up the joint.

Wildland Weeds: Reminder of need for Tennessee articles. This might be a good place for control success stories. We will send them the TIPS MOU press release. Articles on TIPS, TN-IWAW would be good. Pat** will send the new list to Karen for publication insert and inquire if we could reproduce it as handout.

Tennessee Naturalist: The name is finalized as Tennessee Naturalist (TN) with two tiers of courses. The committee will submit the second NSF grant application this month and is actively pursuing other local, corporate and foundation grants and private donations. Grant suggestions welcome.

Web Site: The site is online but not public. General site look, function, & organization was demonstrated. Board approved use of Google Calendar and determined that 5 Alert species should be featured on the Home page and rotated quarterly. Anni will establish a PayPal account so Jed can add that function to the site. Jed will send board members a user name and password to log in. Jed created a tutorial to assist site data entry. To work out bugs and refine tutorial, Margie** will begin transfer of info establishing pages/navigation and setting up plant pages on all species featured in the TN Mgt. Manual and Miller's Southern Forests. Board members** will carefully review site and send suggestions before it goes public. At that time, each board member will supply

several plant pages to finish invasive list. We will discuss whether all members should retain access to the site.

SE-EPPC/SE-SERI Annual Meeting: We have reserved the Read House in downtown Chattanooga. Tues., May 11 – Conference begins at 1:00 p.m. with two plenary speakers (Tom Barnes, UK & Gene Hyde, city forester) and keynote (Don Hodges, UTK) followed by three concurrent sessions and the social/poster session. Wed., May 12 will have three sets of concurrent sessions and annual meeting lunches. Field trips are on Thursday to accommodate people who may need to leave. Trips include Laurel/Snow Falls, Little River Canyon, the Aquarium, Lookout Mtn/Lula Lake., Cherokee National Forest, and North Chickamauga Creek SNA.

SE-EPPC and SE-SERI signed a MOU. Fees will be set soon, student costs will be lower, pay through PayPal. We will have room for maybe 20 vendors. Bob** is working on a TN-EPPC sponsorship letter which will go out soon. SE-EPPC and SE-SERI are doing this too. Conference will be advertised on SE-EPPC Web site in the next couple of weeks. Abstracts due Jan. 29, poster abstracts Feb. 22. Early registration is through mid March – may reset if needed.

Silent Auction: (Dan, Nancy, Margie) Using Cleveland and Nashville NAA auction experiences as guide. Andrea** will send Dan a list of donors to Nashville NAA. Committee will develop list of items and donors and prepare letter. Might need a different letterhead than TN-EPPC's that is more recognizable. Terri suggested using logos of sponsors.

Local help in Chattanooga would be nice – Hill Craddock, Paola Craddock, Chris Bock, and Richard Clements were suggested.

SE-EPPC Update: Reviewing bylaws, wants to include provision requiring a second state representative if the first one is serving as an officer. No one thought this was necessary. Terri** will write letter expressing our opinion.

Q-37 USDA Screening of Plant Imports: TN-EPPC submitted letter, Terri and others submitted comments. Many more supported the changes than opposed overall.

Presentations & Display:

Tennessee Vegetation Management Association: Group of forestry and private businesses (right of way spraying, etc.) held meeting at Montgomery Bell SP Oct. 13-14. Terri spoke there.

Friends of State Parks Conference, Fall Creek Falls, Nov. 6-8. Margie teamed with John Froeschauer and Ann Tidwell to present program on invasive plants.

Dickson County Forestry Assoc. Dan would like the display and a TN-EPPC speaker for their meeting in Feb. or Mar.

Tennessee Academy of Science, Tennessee Tech, Nov. 2010. TN-EPPC overview might be good for the Botany section. Dwayne Estes is chair.

Spring Board Terms: Anni** and Dan** will serve as nominating committee. We need Treasurer, VP and President. Terri** will send letters to members whose two year terms expire to confirm continued service. Need to stagger VP and President selection.

Lose & Assoc. Presentation: TDOT commissioned LA to develop Landscape Design Guidelines for its Roadscapes grant projects. The large binder of information, which puts regulations into easy to follow guidelines, will be available online in January 2010. LA used several TN-EPPC documents – Landscaping with Natives and Alternatives brochures – in the creation. 75% of the plants on lists are native. They introduce concepts for reduced mowing and managing for quality revegetation. Emily Houston requested any photos of native plantings in active landscape settings in TN to include in the final document. Send to ehouston@loseassoc.com.

Next Meeting: March 10-12, 2010 Jack** will check on Cumberland Mountain SP, Crossville.

Adjourned 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Margie Hunter
TN-EPPC Secretary

Attachments:
Treasurer's Report, 11-09-09
Terri's Action Items

TREASURER'S REPORT – November 9, 2009

TENNESSEE EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL

GENERAL OPERATING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance: (August 13, 2009) **\$4355.85**

Receipts:

Memberships 270.00

Donation (Mills) 100.00

Expenses:

TNEPPC/TNPS (75.00)

SEEPK/SER (1,720.00)

Ending Balance: (November 9, 2009) **\$2,930.85**

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance: (August 13, 2009) **\$3937.44**

Net Interest Earned: .97

Ending Balance: (November 9, 2009) **\$3938.41**

TOTAL ASSETS OF GENERAL & MM ACCOUNTS \$6869.26

TN Exotic Pest Plant Council Board of Directors Meeting, Nov. 11, 2009
10AM to 3PM (Central) at Lose and Associates, Nashville

ACTION ITEMS

- Brochure reprints: East, Middle and West TN will be combined into one document.
 - **Andrea and Mike** will add a column for restricted requirements.
 - **Margie and Claude** will review and edit.
 - **Andrea** call Chris Armour to discuss changes and printing.
- Responses to email flurry (sawtooth oak and Paulownia):
 - **Claude** will write a response to sawtooth oak issue including suggestions of substitutes based upon use. **Mike** will help with this. **Terri** will review and gather list of individuals to whom to send it.
 - **Terri** will track down the UT Extension Paulownia recommendation and write a letter for TNEPPC.
- TNIWAW:
 - **Margie** will send to board the "How to organize an invasive plant removal volunteer work day".
 - **All** will review Margie's "How to" document and provide feedback if they have not done so already.
 - **Anni** will send Margie the press release and radio information for announcement of TNIWAW.
- Nashville Lawn and Garden Show
 - **Terri** will send out sign up sheet to board and will talk to Mary about Mike's offer to dress up the booth with native plants.
- TN Naturalist Program:
 - **All** send Margie any information on grants to help fund TN Naturalist Program.
- TNEPPC web site:
 - **Margie** will request input from **All** when web site information has been migrated to new site.
 - **All** need to respond immediately to this request for review.
 - **Terri** will send alert list criteria to Margie so she can define that category on the web site.
 - **All** send photos to Margie of Tennessee landscapes. Remember the logo will be on the upper left hand side of the photo.
- Board polo shirts:

- **Terri** will send out a reminder to all to send their board shirt checks (\$12) to Anni.
- SE-EPPC/SE-SERI Meeting:
 - **Terri** email PayPal non-profit web site link to Anni. This will also be needed for our web site to get memberships online.
- TIPS:
 - **Anni** will check with Mark Gudlin on status of press release.
- Wildland Weeds:
 - **Anni** will send TIPS? press release to Karen Brown to include in Wildland Weeds.
 - **Terri** will ask Kris about the status of her article (based on Tennessee Conservationist article)
 - **Pat** will check with Karen Brown on producing a reprintable TNEPPC invasive plant list through Wildland Weeds.
 - **Margie** will send summary of TNIWAW post-event after things have settled down a bit.
- Lose and Associates:
 - **All** provide photos with credit information to Emily Houston of Lose and Associates.