

SCEPPC
Meeting Notes
23 Aug 2006

Participants: Elyse Benson, Tyasha Blount, David Bourgeois, Wayne Boykin, John Brubaker, Wesley, Burnett, Valerie Carter-Stone, Barbara Daniels, Sudie Daves, Colette Degarady, Kat Dewitt, Kathy Ellingson, Alex Entrup, Alex Gregg, Newt Hardie, Pete Harrison, Bill Hulslander, Larry Nelson, Darryl Jones, Helen Legare-Floyd, Lisa Lord, Robin Mackie, Matt Nespeca, Fran Rametta, Doug Rayner, Laurie Reid, Travis Rogers, Paul Savco, Lori Sheridan-Wilson, Michael Thomason, Theresa Yedneck

Vice-President Larry Nelson called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM August 23, 2006. The meeting began by Dr. Nelson announcing the board members, members-at-large, and committee chairs. They are as follows:

Board Members

President: John Brubaker

Vice President: Larry Nelson

Treasurer/Members: Colette DeGarady

Secretary: Lisa Lord

Members-at-Large: Kathie Ellingson, Sudie Davis, Travis Rogers, and Helen Legree

Committee Chairs

EDRR: Randy Westbrook

Education/Outreach: Lori Sheridan Wilson

Data Coordination: Colette DeGarady

Privet Control Task Force: Matt Nespeca

Kudzu control: Newt Hardie, Larry Nelson (chemical), Barbara Daniels (nonchemical)

SC Invasive Plant List: Sudie Daves

The group began by discussing the need for a president and was asked to identify people that might be willing to fulfill that vital role in the organization. Robin Mackie suggested that someone working at the state level may be appropriate.

The group then discussed changing the bylaws to expand the number of members-at-large to get high profile groups and members of the chemical, agricultural, and nursery industries involved in the organization. It was discussed whether this would be a conflict of interest because it would broaden the scope of the organization to possibly include land outside of natural areas. The bylaws may be expanded upon based on more discussion at future meetings to emphasize natural areas but include other areas. A motion was made to expand the number of board members and was amended to specify no more than 15 members-at-large and to modify the bylaws accordingly. The motion carried as amended with all in favor. Larry Nelson and John Brubaker were asked to incorporate the revision into the Bylaws and submit to members for approval as required. The Secretary was asked to manage the bylaws.

Colette DeGarady gave the treasurers report. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by all present that Ms. DeGarady's report be accepted as a matter of information. A motion was made and seconded to establish a budget. The motion carried with all in favor. The treasurer was asked to develop the budget based on discussion by the group. The group asked that the board send the finalized budget out to the group for comments and suggestions.

There is need for updating and reprinting the SC EPPC brochure. Larry Nelson will look into getting assistance with the printing costs of this brochure.

Robin Mackie gave the group an update from SE EPPC.

- At the end of February in DC, the organization is invited to participate in National Weed Awareness Week.
- The next SE EPPC board meeting is September 5, 2006.
- A volunteer was called upon to submit an article to the first SE regional e-newsletter.
- The group was asked to generate articles for Wildland Weeds. Larry Nelson suggested that each committee develop an article for Wildland Weeds or that articles relating to the kudzu work performed by the kudzu coalition and an update to the beach vitex work are submitted. It was suggested that the presenters from South Carolina at the SE EPPC symposium submit articles relating to the topics they discussed at the symposium.

Colette DeGarady then discussed membership goals. Goals are to build membership and increase interest and participation in this organization. A compelling mission, getting the word out to large numbers of people, and effective communication are vital to success. Renewal forms should be sent out if necessary to former members. Also, Colette mentioned the possible need for a development or grant committee.

Newt Hardie presented a power point slide show to the group regarding the work performed by the Kudzu Coalition in Spartanburg, SC. This presentation will be given to the city council and city manager of Spartanburg.

Each committee presented their proposals to the group. The EDRR was presented by Colette DeGarady in place of Randy Westbrooks. An EDRR website is being established and the information will be broadcast when available. Data coordination was also presented by Colette DeGarady who felt that it was important to have interagency sharing. The SE EPPC and The Nature Conservancy have databases on their websites to track invasive species.

Lori Sheridan-Wilson, education/outreach committee chair, felt that an improvement to the website was necessary. Also, establishing a SC EPPC listserv may be beneficial. Creating a booth for local events, fairs, and programs and PowerPoint presentation will help to spread the word to the public about SC EPPC.

Matt Nespeca and the privet control committee wanted to find and apply for grants to fund privet control projects. BASF corp. is offering a \$10,000 grant (matching) for treating invasive species. Matt asked that SC EPPC sponsor this grant with TNC. A motion was made and seconded to approve SC EPPC to take on the BASF corp. grant as a partner with TNC. The motion carried with all in favor. Bill Hulslander asked the group if he could use SC EPPC as partner on future

grants with the NPS. The group felt that information regarding the grant should be given to the board to get approval before adding the organizations name to any grant.

Newt Hardie discussed the kudzu committee agenda. Newt will chair and Larry Nelson will assist with the chemical kudzu control and Barbara Daniels will assist with nonchemical kudzu control. Sudie Davis will chair the Invasive Plant List committee. Email updates should be sent to Sudie.

Lori Sheridan-Wilson as part of the education commit will take on website updates. The revised brochure and bylaws will be put back on the website. The kudzu committee names will be corrected.

John Brubaker gave a beach vitex update. Randy Westbrook is working on getting beach vitex classified as a federal noxious weed. Robin Mackie discussed cooperative weed management areas with the group.

John Brubaker was nominated and a motion was made and seconded to elect him as SC EPPC president. The motion carried with all in favor.

The next group meeting will be held Friday, January 12, 2006 at 10:00 am at Congaree National Park. The board will have its next meeting at a time and date to be determined by conference call.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 pm. The motion carried with all in favor.