

SCEPPC
Meeting minutes
31 January 2008

Logistical Info / Welcome – Bill Hulslander, Congaree NP

John Brubaker – President’s Welcome (10:10 am)

Secretary’s Report given by John B. (Lisa Lord has resigned secretary position)

- Review of minutes from 6/20/2007 meeting
- Minutes approved, reflecting correction to date for next meeting

Treasurer’s Report – Colette DeGarady

- \$2535 in account. Waiting on reimbursement for Cogon Grass project (~\$4,000). 1,000 in Larry Nelson memorial fund. Rest in general fund.
- Current membership = 36. Will send out letters around 6/1 inquiring about renewing membership
- Might want to look into a “Grant Coordinator” position
- Treasures report to be filed as read...no additions or corrections.

Meredith Malone (TNC – SC) attended EDRR mapping meeting in TN, along with Robin Macke and Barbara Daniels.

- Demo of EDDMapS system: Goal - use as EDRR aid. System developed by Chuck Burgeron, hosted at UGA. Allows for viewing of point distribution on map, viewing statistics, species lists, etc. – broken down by county. Can download all data into Excel format. Has collection form available for download to aid in field data collection, to be subsequently entered into EDDMapS. Once record is added, designated reviewer must verify.
- Data collected can be used in GIS predictive analysis.
- System is scalable and can be customized to accommodate pathogens, etc. – whatever needs are
- Must add more data to DB – current sources are USFS – FIA, TN Natural Areas Program, and NBII-SAIN and SAVEM
- Suggested that EDRR committee should discuss how to use EDDMapS – promote to other organizations / land managers, training, etc.
- Data coordinator position?

Discussion

- Suggestion – system should be able to accommodate an entire infested area (polygon), rather than points only (how does one account for privet infestation along a road right-of-way without collecting huge numbers of points?)
- Suggestion – Wide scale data mining effort. Every agency has records...how to compile / consolidate into DB?

- Comment – data has temporal aspect to it as well...distribution will change over time. How can this be represented?
 - o Current statistics only show number of records for each county
- Question – Is there any way to track the removal and treatment of a specific data point? Why support effort that shows no actual (grants money, etc.) control and progress?
 - o Current system does lack any reporting for control status. But, may not necessarily want to remove record after treatment for purposes of record keeping and monitoring (likely to come back)
- Question - Can system include anything other than plants?
 - o Currently just plants, but could be expanded to include insects and pathogens in the future (has been done in Everglades)
- Comment – UNC Chapel Hill has herbarium data which may be useful – will be brought online in future

John - will be looking into coming up with \$5k to support Chuck Burgeron's efforts.

Colette – Data coordinator proposal

- Need to find someone to be in charge of entering and maintaining data across agencies...
- Proposal is drafted to hire temporary position. Possibly recent college grad or graduate student. Would like to pull from known good candidates, as opposed to advertising position publically.
- Person would move from agency to agency to look at data, and either download data and/or enter into EDDMapS
- Hopefully will be funded by May and have summer position for graduate student.
- Request that all members look at data and make sure data are in format ready to distribute. Also suggested that members enter their data into EDDMapS system.
- Position would be contracted through EPPC – currently have \$9k committed. Looking to raise ~\$7k more to support position.
- Agencies can provide support in other ways also, if cannot write check (provide rental car, computer, etc...)
- Data will be collected across all lands – state, federal, private.
- Would like to see funding committed by April.
- Based on budget for proposal, overhead would be 10% (\$1,510)

Colette – Invasive Species Plan (3-5 year)

- TNC conducting goal review
 - o What are we targeting, etc...what should goals be to minimize threats posed by invasives across the state
- Do we want to create a South Carolina Invasives Plan?? Colette willing to look into and organize some of the logistics.

- Would include terrestrial plants, pest pathogens, mammals, etc.
- Pull together and outline all data currently being worked on, outline priorities as a state, etc. Where do we want to see resources devoted?
- Propose one meeting to outline plan late Fall 2008

Discussion

- Question – Is there a specific niche that SC EPPC can fill to accommodate strategy?
 - o Get coordinator to compile all terrestrial plant data

Motion – move that EPPC have a policy in which it requested a 10% overhead rate for any grants put forward.

Motion seconded.

Discussion:

- Might be some groups which may refuse to pay overhead.
 - o Could be waiver process

Originator of motion (Pat Layton) – In general, overhead rate would be 10%, but would be negotiable. If a foundation or agency does not grant overhead could still do grant but would cost-share overhead. Ex – could have 1 to 1 match

John – amendment to motion will be: **“As amended, for grant administration, 10% overhead is required, and at the discretion of board a cost share could be an acceptable alternative.”**

Amendment to motion seconded.

Motion put to vote – carried w/ no opposition.

Suggestion - as items are discussed by board outside meetings, there should be a process to notify members of the group.

John Brubaker -- Annual Symposium

Each year SE EPPC (SC EPPC is member) puts on annual meeting or symposium. Will be in Biloxi, Mississippi this year at Imperial Palace Casino. Dates: 5/20 – 5/22. Theme: How best to manage invasive plants in disturbed landscapes. Registration fee - \$120 early bird, \$140 late reg, \$75 for students. Room rate for meeting will be \$86/night – code is SO8620 for special rate. All info should be on SE EPPC website. Mid February deadline for submission of papers.

Discussion

- Suggestion – SC EPPC should rent booth (\$150) to promote out chapter and offer support for symposium
- Question – will SC EPPC pay to send representative?
 - o No – but we will have representation

Board of directors of SE EPPC has requested that SC host the 2009 symposium

- Attendance – typically ~150 people...should be capped at 150.
- May want to form symposium oversight committee and hire meeting organizer to coordinate logistics
- Pat – may be able to coordinate conference logistics at per head charge (e.g. \$15/head) through Clemson, but will not review papers, agenda, etc...such tasks should be handled through committee. Possibly online registration, etc.
- Robin Mackie – willing to provide support. Suggests that symposium be hosted in Charleston.

Motion (Newt Hardy) – move to recognize offer made by Clemson that SC EPPC consent to put on SE EPPC conference in Spring of 2009 at spot to be determined.

Motion second

Motion carried w/ no opposition

Motion (Pat) – Set date for symposium before next meeting. Reintroduce concept that we do have booth at upcoming May meeting...and have headline of “Come to SC in 2009”

Motion second

Motion carried w/ no opposition

Volunteers to assist with symposium – Matt Nespeca, Colette DeGarady, Sudie Daves, Travis Rogers, Elise Benson, Doug Raynor

Comment - team should be responsible for what is put forth at display / booth in May

Suggestion – get SC-tourism related things

Robin Mackie – Vacant positions on board

Form committee to fill 7 open positions

Current membership - John (president) , Colette (treasurer), Lisa (secretary – vacant) will be up for re-election. Will contact incumbents in another forum to see if interested in continuing. 4 member at large positions to reinstate or who will be up for re-election

Call for volunteers to serve on board...Pat will serve on committee to identify possible board members

- Assuming all retain current positions, will end up with 2 vacant positions...

Question posed to group – are all current members still interested in staying in present positions?

No discussion.

Call for volunteers for secretary position

- Heidi Lux volunteered (near end of meeting)

12:00 – Break for (working) lunch...

Reconvene @ 1:00pm

Crystal Harden – Dept. of Plant Industries

(Head of all plant/pest regulatory programs in SC)

Motto: “Regulation through Education” – first effort is to work with people to encourage to voluntarily comply with regulations

Beneficial to collaborate with EPPC and volunteer groups – pools collective resources, knowledge base, reduces duplication of efforts, etc.

Reasons for not publishing data points of noxious weeds:

- 1) Would be publishing a violation of federal law (possession of noxious weeds)
- 2) Trade issue – reportable insects and pathogens have potential to impact trade
 - a. If weeds/pests found in SC, difficult to market to other states/countries
- 3) Feel that more people would be willing to report noxious pests if they are confident there will be no repercussions

John - Change in agenda – Matt Nespeca will present before George Kessler.

Matt Nespeca (part of implementation team) – Privet Task Force

USFS taken lead with privet work (as landowner – addressing on USFS sites) with assistance from SCDNR also.

Not feasible to treat in all situations

Lots of activity with Chinese privet in SC.

- SC Forestry Commission Project – USFS money to assist w/ Clemson in social science study. Attempting to determine what would motivate a land owner to go after privet infestation. Charles Tem (sp? – Clemson)
- Will treat ~150 acres/privet w/ assistance from privet landowners
- Grant with Congaree – Clemson Team, focusing on biodiversity and forest effects. Looking at getting funded through NPS.
- NRCS – lots of wetland reserve problems. Sudie D. trying to determine ways to go after Chinese privet as part of restoration efforts.

Also working with Chinese Tallow on coast.

Discussion:

- Website with privet control information: Bugwood.org, etc.
- Know that privet is easily controlled during Dec. – March via foliar treatment...trick is to determine most efficient means of control
- Question – what info is out there for landowners with small infestations – e.g. best chemicals to kill 10 plants?
 - Various web sites have such information

Possibility of hosting an Herbicide Training Workshop (mid-July) – Invasive Focused

What topics should be covered?

Discussion:

- Suggestion (John) - have workshops to cover needs of different audiences (e.g. tree farmers vs. small private landowners)
- Question – Hands-on or distance ed.? Might be able to reach more (e.g. county offices) folks if we offer distance ed. Component. Could do both...field tour in morning, satellite course in afternoon
 - o Possible to get Clemson support?
 - o Bill - NPS may be able to host (Congaree) and/or provide some financial support
 - o Clemson currently providing e-learning options through MP3 technologies (pod-casts) – may want to see about partnering with other agencies to explore this option as well (NPS, NRCS, etc.)

Presentation - George D. Kessler (Task Force Coordinator) – Controlling Cogongrass in South Carolina

Objectives – develop partnerships, determine actions, seek support

What we need to know: Where does it exist in SC?? Current extent of infestation (location and density) unknown.

What we plan to do: 5/15-18, 2008 – Cogongrass survey. Includes weekday and weekend dates to appeal to as wide an audience as possible.

Survey Areas

- 26 Counties
 - o Divided into 4 survey areas
 - Priority areas: hay movement from cogongrass areas; equipment movement from CG areas; nursery stock movement of CG; farms, especially no-till areas; recent logging operations; highway and utility corridor rights-of-ways; hunt club camps, woods roads, and food plots; recreation areas
 - Areas of convenience: community survey by local Garden Club; multiple adjacent landowners; master gardeners,
 - Areas outside survey areas – volunteers welcome, but will focus efforts
 - o Would like to get 400 volunteers, plus coordinators, recruiters, etc.
 - o To participate – contact George Kessler, Task Force Coordinator – gkessler@clermson.edu, (864) 656-4786

Robin Mackie (for Randy Westbrook) – EDRR Taskforce Report

Have workplan w/ committee already formed...but can always use additional help

Priority #1 – Identify list of target species

- Currently have list of 18 species
 - o Focus on rarer species (Robin will send out list to group)
 - 9 regulated
 - 9 unregulated species: Chocolate vine, Garlic Mustard, Bush killer (recently found in Charlotte, problem in gulf states), Oriental bittersweet, Canada thistle, Old-world climbing fern, Salt cedar, Beach vitex, Chinese tallow
- Randy offered to supply training materials
- DPI would prefer to have USDA confirm regulated species – will have list of contacts for both regulated and non-regulated species on website
- Reporting network – list of contacts in different agencies

Newt Hardy – Kudzu Control Taskforce

Lots of work killing Kudzu!

Sudie Daves – NRCS – Updating 2004 Species List

John, Colette, Robin, Sudie – attended meeting at Citadel – added 20-30 new species.

Chuck Bargeron put species list on website

New categories – added 2 watch categories (A – limited infestations potential threat to natural areas, and B – not in state yet, but potential threat)

Updated brochure – added 4 pages and 4 spotlighted species (Cogongrass, English Ivy, Bruscanthis, Beach Vitex)

NRCS gave \$50k to Beach Vitex taskforce (replanting of dunes) – and working with Water Hyacinth.

John – Mary Morrison – unable to attend, has been active and working with Kudzu Collition.

Joint Conference in Natural Areas Assoc. – 10/14-17, 2008 at Double Tree Hotel in Nashville, TN

More information on website...

Interested in advertising in Wildland Weeds?? More information on website.

No old business

No new business

Reminder – Sudie conducting invasive workshop at upcoming SCNPS symposium in Clemson. Will be field-trip and workshop oriented. March 28-30, 2008.

Next Meeting -- May 8th, Congaree NP. 10:00am.

Motion to adjourn

Motion second.

Meeting adjourn – 3:00pm