



Florida EPPC

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Melaleuca in the Zapata Swamp Biosphere Reserve, Cuba

For a long time I dreamed about going to Cuba. It seemed like an impossible dream until about a year ago when I was invited to attend an orchid conservation conference at Soroa Botanical Garden, about 45 minutes west of Havana. When I got back, The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Florida-Caribbean Fire and Invasives Learning Network invited me to go back to Western Cuba with them in May of 2013 to put on a training seminar for scientists and land managers. While we were there, the TNC group traveled to the Zapata Swamp Biosphere Reserve, a boot-shaped peninsula on Cuba's Southwest Coast, almost due south of Havana. The Zapata Swamp is the most diverse wetland system in the entire Caribbean Basin. It looks remarkably similar to the Florida Everglades and, like the Everglades, it has *Melaleuca quinquinervia*. An ornamental stand of melaleuca was planted approximately seventy years ago on a small island in Laguna Del Tesoro (Treasure Lagoon) and it has spread aggressively. Since then it was planted in a few other sites around the region for various reasons and, apparently, it has now reached critical mass. The situation was all too familiar to us.

On the last day of the fire and invasives training seminar in May, the TNC group focused on integrated pest management of melaleuca and the methodology that has been developed to combat melaleuca in Florida. Our presentations were meant to drive home the point that Ron Myers articulated to the Cubans succinctly, "If you don't start managing melaleuca now, you are going to lose your Biosphere Reserve." Unfortunately, the Cuban scientists and land managers have no experience using herbicides or biological control organisms to control wildland weeds and they expressed much trepidation about doing so.

They invited the TNC group to come back to present our message to a wider audience at the Caribbean Wetlands Symposium that was held in the Zapata Swamp in November of 2013 and we presented in detail about twenty-five years of coordinated melaleuca research and control in Florida. Ron Myers' presentation focused on prescribed fire management and melaleuca control. I spoke about the most effective herbicides and application techniques commonly used for chemical control of melaleuca and Rodrigo Diaz presented on classical biological control. In fluent Spanish he described the effort and oversight that went into searching for and selecting specialized insect parasites from the native range of melaleuca to release in Florida to slow down its growth rate. We have now successfully established three insect parasites of melaleuca in Florida.

There was much thoughtful discussion between the TNC group and the Cubans. In the end there seemed to be enthusiasm on the part of our hosts to consider the proposals and recommendations that we made. It would be helpful if we could bring an influential group of Cubans to South Florida to see in person what we presented. Let them talk to land managers and private contractors and visit the biocontrol research laboratories. But that will be complicated. Of the many challenges the Cuban land managers face, getting official permission to import and use the herbicide Imazapyr will at best take time. Acquiring funding to buy enough herbicide and application equipment will be difficult. In the meantime, the melaleuca problem in Zapata continues to increase exponentially.

I think we would all like to build upon the collaboration that we've created and the conversation we've generated among the scientists and reserve managers in Cuba about the necessity of using herbicide to control melaleuca in the Zapata Swamp Biosphere Reserve. During the Wetlands Symposium I mentioned that there may be potential for a sort of "eco-volunteerism" to help them initiate chemical control of melaleuca. There are a number of biologists and natural area managers in Florida who have experience working with herbicide to control melaleuca. Some would be interested enough to visit Cuba that they would be willing to fund their own travel there to assist the Reserve manager in implementing their initial melaleuca treatment plan.

After a week of working in the field cutting down and applying herbicide to melaleuca with a group of motivated, experienced volunteers from Florida, they will see how much can be accomplished in a short period of time. What I hope is that the managers of Zapata Swamp Biosphere Reserve will feel more comfortable and enthusiastic about using herbicide and committing to a chemical control program for melaleuca if we help them to get started. If they can acquire herbicide by then, I will talk more about this at the 2014 FLEPPC Symposium in Safety Harbor April 28th – May 1st. See you there!

Dennis Giardina,
FLEPPC Chair

Note from Secretary:

This Newsletter contains the minutes from our July 17, 2013 BOD meeting and minutes from our October, 30 2013 BOD meeting.

Upcoming FLEPPC Events

April 28th-May 1st, 2014

FL-TWS- FLEPPC Spring Conference – **Breaking Bad in Florida: Gaining Ground on Invasive Plants and Wildlife** in the 21st Century held at the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa



Conference room at Safety Harbor Resort and Spa



Tranquility Garden at Safety Harbor Resort and Spa

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New Board of Director Nominees

Ruark L. “Rook” Cleary is an Invasion Biologist (ESIII) with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Invasive Plant Management Section. He received his Master’s (M.S.) degree in Biology in 1985 from the University of Central Florida. From 1987 to 2000, he worked for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in conservation planning and reserve design for the Preservation 2000 program. Since 2001, he has worked in the terrestrial invasive plant management (or “Uplands”) program, which was transferred from DEP to FWC in 2008. Although trained as a herpetologist, and with an inordinate fondness for geckoes, he notes that the only difference between invasive plants and animals is that the plants don’t run away (usually).

Gwen Burzycki received her Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Biological Sciences from Cornell University and a Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Botany from the University of Washington. She has a diverse background that includes working as a research assistant for the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution (now a branch of Florida Atlantic University) in coral reef and estuarine botany, managing state lands in the Indian River Lagoon for Florida’s Department of Natural Resources (now the Florida Department of Environmental Protection), and conducting environmental planning projects for Miami-Dade County. Her current work for Miami-Dade County includes managing conservation land for the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program and doing environmental impact assessments. She has been actively involved with invasive plant management issues in South Florida from the first moment she stepped into land management duties, and has been a member of FLEPPC for almost that long.

Tina Bond is a Product Specialist for Helena Products Group. She received a bachelor’s degree in Agriculture from the University of Delaware. In 2001, Tina moved to Florida to attend graduate school at the University of Florida where she received her doctorate in Plant Medicine. While at UF, Tina assisted Dr. Greg MacDonald in writing Invasive Species Management Plans for Florida, Circular 1529. After graduation, Tina worked for Osceola County as an Extension Agent on finding new ways to manage invasive aquatic plants. She also served as NPDES Coordinator for the County where she managed lake and stormwater pollution prevention programs. After the County, Tina worked for Red River Specialties as an area manager for aquatics and IVM in Florida, then moved on to work for Helena Chemical. In her new role at Helena, Tina is responsible for supporting all of Helena’s adjuvant and value added (EPA registered) products for all specialty markets (including forestry, aquatics, IVM, golf, etc.) across the United States. Tina served on the Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society Board of Directors and was Editor of Aquatics Magazine.

Minutes from FLEPPC Board of Directors Meeting and Conference Call**Location: USDA Horticultural Research Laboratory, Ft. Pierce, FL****July 18, 2013, 10:30****Minutes taken by Aimee Cooper, FLEPPC Secretary****Administrative****Call to Order/Roll Call: 10:50 AM****Attending:** Dennis Giardina, Sherry Williams, Greg Wheeler, Christen Mason, Mike Renda, Aimee Cooper, Geof Lane, Sandy Wilson, Karen Brown, Matt King**Call In:** Michael Meisenburg, Gayle Edwards, Hillary Cooley, Dianne Owen (called in 11:35), and Jim Burch (called in 2:00).**First order:** Approve minutes from January 2013 (correct spelling of names Ellen Allan, Burkes to Burks) and May 2013. Motion: Karen Brown. Second: Christen Mason. Minutes approved: Dennis Giardina.**Chair activities:** Message from chair for the next newsletter will likely be about *Arundo donax* because it was recently approved for biofuel feedstocks.**Correspondence:** None since symposium. Will talk about arrangements for next meeting later.**OFFICER REPORTS:****Treasurer's Report:**

- Karen would like the Secretary to send out an announcement to all chairs and task force chairs that all reports must be received no later than a day or two before the scheduled meeting day to allow everyone time to review the reports prior to the meeting. Agreement was unanimous amongst the BOD.
- Karen asked about her deposit of the \$880.00 from the Silent Auction. This was a separate item in Dianne's budget, adding that she didn't necessarily break things out. She was only looking at symposium expenses and symposium income. The only things she put in these categories were things that were relevant to deciding how we split up the SE-EPPC/FLEPPC portions. If something was separate from the SE-EPPC/FLEPPC split up then she kept those completely separate from the symposium income. So the Silent Auction and the Chance Drawing those were somewhere else in the budget. The tote bags and name badges were missing; these are expenses that total about \$1,000.00 total.
- On 7/16/13 Karen deposited a \$350.00 check from ABC they had promised to contribute towards the purchase of the kayak. Dianne states that the amount for the check was recorded in her report in the Scholarship Fund. We made about average what we normally make each year on the Chance Drawing, about \$600.00.
- Merchandise sales were meager, totaling \$180.35.
- Dennis motioned to approve Treasurer's Report; both Sherry and Karen seconded the motion.
- New budgets should be approved at the October meeting because that's the changeover in the fiscal year. We were supposed to bring our proposals today (7/18/13) and then vote on whether to accept them.
- Dianne provided a budget, even if someone did not request one from a committee; she used the previous year's amount to come up with a budget for that committee.

- Dianne says that in our budget the income should always match the expense. Where there are non-matching numbers you see a cash drawdown; the cash drawdown shows how much we're in the red. This kind of drawdown has been typical for the last several years. We should try to generate additional funds or eliminate costs in order to balance the budget. For example, the budget includes \$2000.00 for the Research Scholarship; research that was awarded that hasn't actually been paid yet but is already included in the FY12-13 budget. The Education and Research Grants for FY12-13 have already been paid in the accounting and we still have most of the drawdown to our cash account than we expected. It always comes down that we will be paying \$7,000.00-\$10,000.00 in Research and Education awards. It's going to be difficult to operate and run a symposium, and not have some cash drawdown. For years it was Wildland Weeds that absorbed the difference and allowed us to show up in the black at the end of the year. We don't have a lot of leeway to cut expenses. Karen suggests cutting \$1,000.00 from each Education Grant (from \$5,000.00 to \$4,000.00) and Research Grants (from \$4,000.00 to \$3,000.00); that would save \$2,000.00. CISMA grant is not included and they need to be given \$1,500.00/year. Karen will keep track of it and let Dianne know what needs to be added to the budget rather than Dianne trying to keep up over the conference call. We're agreeable with a bit of a cash drawdown until someday when we start making a profit; no one really wants to cut back on the granting programs, and this probably isn't a good idea with the networks that we have right now.
- There was an uncashed scholarship check that had not been cashed. The uncashed check is in the name of Adrienne Smith, Sandy Wilson's graduate student at the University of Florida. Checks cannot be made out to the students; they must be made out and sent to the institution, to the sponsored research department. The recipient is responsible for making the necessary arrangements with the institution to receive funds prior to preparing a proposal. It is necessary to confirm that the sheet that Betsy (Von Holle) was sending out states the requirement of the account setup. Sandy will help Adrienne set up the necessary account. The concern is that the sponsored program (DSR) would be taking a portion of the grant. Institutions can set up an account with no overhead so that the student gets the full amount. For Alexis (another grad student), she needs to be contacted and informed of this protocol to receive funds. Since Alexis contacted Karen about the funds, Karen will discuss this information with her. Karen will communicate all of this information to Jim Cuda, who is replacing Betsy, to ensure that this information is present in the documents that are distributed to potential awardees.
- Our 12-month CD will mature on Saturday, July 27th. Per our agreement at a previous BOD meeting, Dennis would like to get rid of this CD (because the 0.35% interest on the CD was not a good enough return to keep it locked up) and put that money into our savings account so that it can easily roll into our checking account.
- The on-line membership really needs to transition over to PayPal because as it is now, we only get half of the cost of the membership. With PayPal it's a fixed \$5.00 charge, whereas with SunTrust it is much more.
- We had two merchant accounts at one time; one with SunTrust, which we still have but are not currently conducting business from, and one with Bank of America. The SunTrust merchant account had been used for the online membership for at least 10 years, but is not any longer. We decided to close it because it's very expensive and proceed with using Bank of America's more affordable merchant account; however, it was too complicated to set up. It was decided to get rid of the Bank of America account because we were paying a monthly fee and not using it. We decided to change the membership account to PayPal which would allow us to get rid of the SunTrust account, which is the bulk of the fees that we are paying out. It was thought that this was already resolved back in December but apparently the change wasn't made. Karen communicates with Chuck on a weekly basis so she will follow up with him and ask him to switch the online membership to PayPal.
- Geof Lane sent an email explaining the research for this payment method with PayPal. The PayPal reader is called "PayPal Here." It is a 2.7% fee when swiped on a smartphone/tablet.

There are no other fees associated with this transaction. If we have to key it in rather than swipe it, then it's 3.5% PLUS \$0.15. Since we already have the PayPal account we simply need to request the reader and then download the app onto the smartphone or tablet. As soon as transactions take place, a receipt can be sent via email or printed onsite. Checks can also be deposited immediately into the PayPal account simply by taking a picture of it with a smartphone/tablet and their check becomes their receipt. We will check with TWS about all of the details because they took care of registration in 2012.

- Banks are also turning to this method. So if there is a problem with setting up PayPal, perhaps we can consider this option. Unsure how our accounts are set up with PayPal, merchant, business, personal, etc. PayPal does have Merchant Accounts and are 2.9% plus \$0.30/transaction, but they do offer discounts for 501(c)3s. The PayPal account pre-dates Dianne as the Treasurer so she will look into what type of account we have, verify that the account is registered as a 501(c)3, and who should be responsible for the PayPal reader. In comparison, "The Square" has a fee of 2.75%, slightly more, and also 3.5% PLUS \$0.15 for manually entering. Additionally, "The Square" cannot incorporate into a website but PayPal can. Intuit, if you're using Quick Book, also has a reader; 2.75% fee to swipe.
- Dennis has this on his list and will be following it up; he also has the username and password for the PayPal account from the last meeting (it was mentioned that Chuck has this info as well). Questions to be answered now are: how many readers do we need to get and who will remain in possession of them? Whose smartphone/tablet will be used? What operating system (Android or Apple) will be used? This will make a difference in how it gets set up.

Editor's Report, Karen Brown: Karen stated that she needs to start working on the next issue very soon. Last year we more or less broke even; we lost about \$500.00. We get \$7.00/member from each chapter, including FLEPPC. The idea is to try to make it pay for itself. There should be four issues/year, but this has become a challenge. If the opportunity arises, Karen would be willing to change her Officer position to Treasurer if she can find a replacement as Editor. Karen would very much like to end her term as Editor as it is very consuming, both in time and energy, and she's been the Editor for over 10 years. Sherry requested that Karen write up SOPs so that there is a better understanding of what goes into the Editor position. Jennifer Possley already assists with proofing and editing. Could she fill the Editor position? Could there be a mentoring of someone? Aimee Cooper suggested Deah Lieurance as a possible candidate for Editor. Sherry suggested looking into the possibility of having students from a department from UF or UCF that could assist the Editor.

Secretary's Report, Aimee Cooper: She's been working with Hillary Cooley to transition into the duties of Secretary. She has spent time reviewing past minutes and newsletters in preparation for filling the position. She was a bit confused about the timeliness of the newsletter and how often it should get out. After reviewing the SOPs it is supposed to go out quarterly after every meeting. The January 2013 and May 2013 minutes will be included in the next newsletter, as well as the new BODs and Officers.

- Possible dates for the next Board Meetings:
 - Site visit at Safety Harbor, Wednesday, October 9th, 2013 at 10:30 was decided.
 - Thursday, January 8th is three months past the scheduled October meeting. Location will be in the Vero Beach/Ft. Pierce area. Aimee will confirm the location.

Motion to Accept Officer's Reports (including the Treasurer's Report): Sherry Willams.
Second: Geof Lane.

Budget Requests: Budgets are to be sent to Dianne once the line items have been decided on by the Board.

- **Sherry Williams, Symposium:** There are a lot of uncertainties because we will be splitting the cost of the symposium with TWS. We may not be printing programs; TWS was able to get the programs donated for 2012's symposium. Additionally, Cheryl Millet did some research about programs that Sherry will discuss later in the meeting. Even if we do get programs printed it sounds like they will be donated. She did not submit a budget yet because she wanted to discuss it at the meeting.
- **Sherry Williams, Program Chair:** She wasn't sure where program printing should go so she put it under Program Chair. Signs, bottled water, and poster board were miscellaneous items that were purchased. Some of the poster board was kept but it's uncertain whether it will be necessary to purchase again next year. Sherry will check with TWS and also with Safety Harbor about where and how we can display posters.
- **Karen Brown, Editor:** There is a roll over from last year. Hopefully it will be a wash; same amount in, same amount out. Pat Howell hopes to produce a 2013 FLEPPC Plant List. Karen is planning to make an editorial decision to not include the new FLEPPC Plant List in *Wildland Weeds* because it takes up four pages and everyone seems to use the pamphlets instead. Karen will get the amount for the pamphlets and will include it in the budget.
- **Dennis Giardiana, Chair:** Discretionary at \$500.00. There are no travel plans for FLEPPC this year.
- **Christen Mason, Membership Outreach:** Requested approximately \$400.00. She would like to get a new display board that isn't so cumbersome, similar to the one Sherry purchased for her CISMA, and that's going to cost about \$220.00. She would also like to get some updated information printed and laminated, possibly about \$200.00 in cost.

(Dianne's final remarks upon leaving):

Board should figure out the approximate cost of the symposium expenses to the best of their ability and line item things under Symposium.

Because the fiscal year accounting and tax year accounting are not always straightforward, she purchased a non-profit Quicken Books accounting package to convert all the information. She would like to be able to hand over something very user-friendly to the next Treasurer when that time comes.)

Finance Chair, Ellen (Donlan) Allen: No budget request but there was a discussion to have the Finance Chair more involved with advising the symposium proceedings. Ideally, Ellen would receive the budget ahead of time and advise the BOD. This has never happened because we have never been organized enough to send her anything. To make this more official we need to devise a budget and have Ellen advise the planning of the symposium. It would be most appropriate for the Chair to correspond directly with the Finance Chair.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Strategic Planning, Mike Yustin and LeRoy Rogers: No updates at this time. Mike Renda spoke with Mike Yustin and he was still willing to be on the committee, as was LeRoy.

- The Strategic Planning Committee wanted to get a feel amongst the FLEPPC members on certain subjects so that we could move in the direction that our members desired. For example, a recurring item, exotic animals, has been present in two of our last three symposia. This one particular item seems to be evolving, regardless of what we want. We've embraced this and are moving forward with incorporating exotic animals more into our mission. Dennis explains that they have incorporated the suggestions made by the Strategic Planning Committee.

- The desired end result was that we would move in the direction that our membership wanted to go in. For example, should we include exotic animals more into our mission, into our symposia? And he thinks we have done that, because there has been more interest, more people willing to submit abstracts, and because two of the last three symposia have been in conjunction with TWS. That one particular item seems to be evolving, regardless of what we want. Cheryl Millet made a presentation, a plea at this past symposium, about this very subject.

Bylaws, Mike Renda: One of his jobs is to annually go through SOPs for changes.

- CISMA Grant needs to be included into the SOPs. Mike suggests making a committee, call it the CISMA Grant Committee, and he cut a couple of words out that Kris had put in which was “Provides funding to Florida Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas who will advance FLEPPC and FISP missions through partnership-lead efforts.” SOPs are being developed. The Chair will be Kris Serbesoff-King.
- Other changes: Local Arrangements - delete Jessica Spencer; add Sherry Williams.
- Local Arrangement and Program Chair are never placed on one person. They should be separate committees but work very closely. It was suggested that they be combined and co-chaired; however the BOD agreed that the tasks of each committee are very time-consuming, and it makes better sense to leave them separate with their own committee chairs who will work closely together.
- Symposium Program and Symposium Field Trips are separate committees. Mike R. needs the Board’s approval to make the CISMA Grant a separate committee under the SOPs. This will complete the annual changes, minus a few name changes. He will get the text to Aimee and Chuck, and then will work with Kris and other folks to develop the details. Motion to approve SOPs: Geof Lane; Second: Christen Mason.

Checklists, Sherry Williams: Sherry doesn’t have anything to update at this time.

- Usually the Program Chair uses the lists for symposium-related items. There’s nothing to update right now but she would like to pass this on to a new BOD member. We have three new Board members and she wonders if one of them would be interested, maybe Geof or Gayle. Sherry noticed that most folks don’t use it, but she did use it a bit as Program Chair. She would send out reminders to all the Committee Chairs; it does help to organize symposium deadlines.
- Karen recommends that Cheryl (Millett) might be a good fit for this as she seems very interested in the workings of the symposium, she submitted something about a mobile app that she just got training on, and she’s attended a lot of our symposia. Dennis will contact Cheryl Millett to discuss taking this over.

Membership, Sherry Williams: We now have 133 new members after the symposium; membership is included in the conference fee.

- Sherry needs to send out an email to about 25 folks who need to renew. Additionally, she did not include the approximately 25 folks who are out-of-state.
- It was decided that folks who registered for the symposium and reside outside of Florida should have their memberships applied to their state chapter rather than FLEPPC. For example, if someone from Georgia signed up for the symposium, perhaps their Georgia membership expired and they think that their membership is current in their own chapter but it won’t be because signing up for the symposium gave them a one-year membership to FLEPPC. Karen points out that this could come out of the SE-EPPC profit rather than the FLEPPC profit. Since Karen is the Secretary of SE-EPPC, Sherry will send her the names and emails of the individuals.

Education Grant, Jennifer Possley:

- All 3 of the 2013 grant winners have received their checks and are starting their programs.
- Several 2012 grant winners have turned in draft articles for *Wildland Weeds*, and Rosalind Rowe recently finished and circulated the invasive plant disposal guidelines (on the publications page of www.fleppc.org).
- Jennifer requested \$5000.00 for Education grants for the FY2014 budget.

Research Grant, Jim Cuda: Jim Cuda replaced Betsy Von Holle as Research Grant Committee Chair.

- Karen will contact Jim Cuda about the accounts, whether the money has to go through their division of sponsored research, and ask Jim to confirm that the letter that Betsy was sending out had the account setup information included.

CISMA Grant, Kris Serbesoff-King:

- A call for proposals for the inaugural FLEPPC CISMA award was sent out in June with a deadline of July 3, 2013. Kris formed a small committee to review the proposals with the goal of announcing the recipient(s) by August 7, 2013. The CISMA grant information was posted on the FLEPPC website at <http://www.fleppc.org/cismagrants.html>.
- A total of 5 proposals were received from 5 CISMAs (Treasure Coast, Central Florida, Heartland, Osceola and Suncoast). She sent the proposals along with a ranking sheet out to the CISMA grant committee with a request for respond by July 31.
- The CISMA grant applications have been sent to the following CISMA grant members:
 - Chuck Barger, Karen Brown, Rose Godfrey, Erin Myers, Brian Nelson, Jennifer Possley, Greg Walker

Meeting comments: The Board essentially sanctioned the committee to make the grant decisions for the Board. In the Education Grant it says "they report the selection to the board." It doesn't say anything about board approval being required. The Board still has the opportunity to discuss or refute/reject something that we feel strongly about. The Chair has the ability through the SOPs to appoint the committee chairs or control the committees in that way.

Legislative Report, Matt King (three legislative issues) :

- FLEPPC Letter of Support for the Invasive Fish & Wildlife Prevention Act of 2012 (HR 5864, S 3606):
 - Status of Legislation: Legislation died with end of 112th Congress. Reintroduced in 113th Congress by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) for the Senate and by Representative Louise Slaughter (D-NY). On June 21, the National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species sponsored a briefing in D.C. on the Act.
 - Email sent out on FLEPPC listserv on July 16, 2013 in support of the Act. Approved at the July 2012 meeting.

Meeting comments: It didn't go anywhere. Matt was going to write a letter from FLEPPC in support for it but did not. It's recently been reintroduced for/by the new Congress. So now he will prepare a letter for submission for support. He's uncertain if NAEPPC will be doing anything. They have taken action through the National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species which has been pushing this through, and which we're a member of. FLEPPC should still send a letter separately if we're all in agreement (Dennis says yes).

- EPA Rule on Biofuels encourages use of *Arundo donax* and *Pennisetum purpureum*:
 - FLEPPC was one of many (96) signatories on to a letter penned by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) concerning a potential new rule from the EPA that would incentivize the planting of *Arundo donax* and *Pennisetum purpureum* for biofuel use. The rule would allow those two plant species to be blended into transportation fuel in order to meet minimum renewable fuel requirements.

- FLEPPC through NAEPPC and the National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species (NECIS) submitted comments on this proposed rule back in February 2012. These comments raised the issue that EPA was violating Executive Order 13112 which prohibits Federal agencies from carrying out programs or actions that promote the use of invasive species. The comments caused EPA to pull the rules for further review.
- However, on June 28, 2013 the EPA released the final rule which allowed for the use of the two plant species but with certain conditions. The rule requires producers to adopt additional registration, record-keeping, and reporting requirements in order to minimize the risk. Growers will be required to have an EPA-approved Risk Mitigation Plan (RMP), which, according to an EPA publication, will include plans for "...early detection and rapid response, best management practices as modeled by existing state and federal invasive species management programs, continuous monitoring and reporting of site conditions, a plan for site closure and post-closure monitoring, and identification of a third party auditor who will evaluate the performance of the RMP on an ongoing annual basis."
- More information here: EPA Approves the Use of One of the World's 100 Worst Invasive Species for Biofuel (National Wildlife Federation), an EPA Fact Sheet on Approval of *Arundo donax* & *Pennisetum purpureum*

Meeting comments: A. donax and P. purpureum have been approved for use as biofuels. The U.S. government is calling for 36 billion gallons of biofuel to be produced by 2022. FDACS relies on the recommendation of the IFAS Assessment's Weed Risk Assessment (Predictive Tool). They're separate issues and just because the federal government says a plant can be used for biofuel does not mean the states have to approve their use. States should still be able to reject/approve permits of planting. They could still import the plant material from other countries if they need to. It does not challenge local permitting.

- Jim Burney has a state petition to continue a program of a dedicated source of funding for acquisition of land (natural areas).

Meeting notes: There is a large petition going out (name of petition not known) for a state constitutional amendment to provide dedicated funding source for land acquisition; similar to continuing the Florida Forever program. Jim's concern is that it's going to pull from the same source where we get our uplands.

Outreach, Christen Mason: Christen submitted a budget request for new display materials. Sherry will send her the template of the CISMAs boards.

Plant Industry Liaison, Sandy Wilson (needed to leave around 12:45):

- Sandy Wilson (environmental horticulture, UF) will be speaking to Doria Gordon about the position and where it left off. Sandy is in the Environmental Horticulture Department at the University of Florida located at the Indian River Research and Education Center in Ft. Pierce, Florida. She works with many ornamental invasives that are the seed source of our problems. Her research disseminates into the breeders research.
- Adrienne Smith is in Gainesville and her major advisor is Carrie Reinhart-Adams, a restoration ecologist, and she's working on invasive restoration and removal of *Ruellia*. She believes that Adrienne wrote a paper in fulfillment of her FLEPPC obligation.

Meeting notes: Sherry suggested that Sandy act as our representative for FANN's native plant symposium rather than herself because she feels she would be great in this role given her research expertise. Sandy is happy to fill the position. Sherry will forward the information to Sandy and cc Cammie Donaldson, who is the contact for FANN from the Native Plant Society. Karen and Sherry can also forward photos of the species that will be discussed if necessary.

Plant List, Patricia Howell: No update at this time. The next meeting will be held October 3, 2013. Pat has stated that a 2013 list will likely be produced.

Website, Chuck Bargeron (Karen Brown provided the update):

- Bios and photos of the new board members (Geof Lane, Gayle Edward, and Cheryl Millett) were sent from Karen to Chuck. Sandy Wilson was also added as our new Plant Liaison.
- We saved all the PowerPoints from the symposia and have converted them to PDFs. We would like to have those added to the website.
- Social media links should be added to the FLEPPC website.

Symposium Planning, Sherry Williams: The contract date has been signed for the 2014 symposium. The location of the symposium will be at Safety Harbor Resort and Spa near Clearwater. The symposium will begin at 1:00 PM on Monday April 28—Thursday May 1, 2014.

- A schedule was sent from TWS but it did not include field trip times. Sherry recommended that the field trips occur on Tuesday afternoon rather than Wednesday afternoon because there is concern that no one will stay since Thursday morning is a general section and will end late morning/early afternoon. The BOD meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 28th, 10AM-12PM and will just involve symposia details.
- The budget will be approved in October or January at the latest. Prices are cheaper than last year, and we will be splitting the cost of the symposium with TWS.

Jim Burch: The 2015 FLEPPC symposium will be in the Daytona area. We need to decide if it will be a joint meeting or not.

- Mike Renda informed us that Florida Vegetation Management Association (FVMA) meets in Daytona every year. He works with FVMA through the East Central Florida Cisma and has been trying to unite the two. FVMA would be bringing new and different people, offering a different perspective, and potentially new members. Karen sights a potential issue hosting with FVMA; they get revenue from their vendors and they may not want to share that with us. Coincidentally, if we don't host the meeting with them, we will likely be competing for vendor registration since FVMA will also be hosting their meeting in April. Further complicating matters, Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society (FAPMS) will also be meeting in Daytona, albeit in October, but vendors and other potential registrants may not want to visit the same area in one year. Is there a possibility to overlap the same facility with another group but not have a joint meeting so that we could get a break on the conference?
- Dennis brought up a 2014 symposium-related item. Our 30-year anniversary is coming up. Topics could include the history and establishment of FLEPPC, the people who were responsible, photo archives, etc. His talk will most likely be about these things. Would really like to have a slide show with a bit of narrative.

Vendor Report, Mike Meisenburg: Nothing to report at this time, but a few discussion points.

- Mike mentioned that he is frustrated with the FWC contractors not showing up or donating to FLEPPC. A lot of these contractors have not heard of FLEPPC and would like to know how he could get the word out to these contractors. The FWC lists their contractors on their website. A letter could be drafted to introduce FLEPPC (who we are, what we do, why we do it, etc.) and then follow up with them as the symposium nears. Perhaps we could encourage vendor registration by providing each vendor with a 5-7 minute allotment to present their product information. This should be decided prior to contacting the vendors because it could influence their choice to attend. Dennis has offered to discuss some other ideas with Mike at a later date.

Meeting adjourned: Sherry motioned; Aimee seconded at approximately 2:30PM.

Minutes from FLEPPC Board of Directors Meeting and Conference Call Safety Harbor Resort and Spa

October 30, 2013

Minutes taken by Aimee Cooper, FLEPPC Secretary

ADMINISTRATIVE

Call to Order/Roll Call: 10:20

Attending: Mike Meisenburg, Christen Mason, Sherry Williams (leading the meeting), Cheryl Millett, Geof Lane, Karen Brown, Billy Snyder, Aimee Cooper

Call-in: Dennis Giardina

First order: Minutes will be sent for approval.

Chair activities: There have been few. Message from Chair in the most recent Newsletter was about the cooperation of the CISMAs and FLEPPC.

Correspondence: There has been very little correspondence locally; however, there was a lot of national correspondence. Karen received some national correspondence from Lynn Proenza who would like the FLEPPC listserv to be archived and an EDRR website to learn about them. Perhaps Chuck has something in place? Lynn Proenza is not a member of Central FL CISMA and they have an EDRR. Perhaps this is an opportunity for submission of a grant proposal? Karen will refer her to Sherry.

OFFICER REPORTS

Treasurer's Report, Dianne Owen: We are in need of a Treasurer who's able to be a bit more engaged with the activities of the position. Karen would like to step down as Editor and would consider filling the Treasurer position. It was suggested that an announcement for Editor and, perhaps, Treasurer be advertised on the website (descriptions of these position are in the SOPs). The budget will not be approved at this time.

Editor's Report, Karen Brown: No *Wildland Weeds* issues were produced this year (2013). Karen has material but she is limited on time as her job has to be her priority. She hopes to get one out before the end of the year.

Secretary's Report, Aimee Cooper: The July 18, 2013 BOD meeting was the first meeting Aimee attended as the new Secretary. Her first attempt with the quarterly newsletter followed this meeting. There was some confusion about the material that was to be included, and therefore, the newsletter was late. The July newsletter consisted of minutes from the January 16, 2013 and May 20, 2013 BOD meetings because there was no newsletter that followed the May 20, 2013 meeting. The next Newsletter, proposed for a November/December release, will consist of the minutes from this meeting (October 30, 2013). Rather than having a month and year, the season and year will be used on the newsletter.

As requested by the Board, all Committee and Task Force Chairs were contacted so that we could

be brought up to date with those Committees and Task Forces we had not heard from for some time. Overall, the attempt was pretty successful. There were also a few Chairs who suggested a replacement (noted on the Agenda). The few that did not respond, mostly Task Force Chairs, will be contacted following the meeting to see if correspondence is generated.

Old Business:

- Any talks/technical help for Society of Range Management conference? It would be good to get involved with them. Sherry suggested Extension Agents. This may be a done deal since it's coming up in February. Cheryl was also approached about python handling but it wasn't a good place for this. Karen suggested a talk about FLEPPC/CISMAs; Sherry will follow up if the opportunity is still available.
- Cheryl shared her successful experience from a previous conference she attended using a free mobile app for our symposium program, omitting the need for a printed program. She said it was very helpful and people could add comments, similar to Twitter. If changes occurred it would be a great way to get the update! She is willing to take the lead investigating the use of the mobile app and also will check that TWS is on board with this idea. Sherry did state that TWS didn't seem agreeable to this idea.

New Business:

- Theme of symposium: Karen will send out the results of the survey; so far it appears that *Breaking Bad* is the favorite. Sherry will check with members of TWS to see that they are agreeable to the theme. Karen will ask Charlie Bogatescu about a possible illustration; TWS also has someone if Charlie is unavailable.
- Keynote Speaker: Karen suggested having two keynote speakers; Ken Langeland for plants and an additional speaker for animals. Cheryl spoke with Kris King about eating/hunting exotics which would be good, and also the pros and cons of eating invasives. Christen added that foraging (obtaining wild, uncultivated plants for food) is gaining popularity. Billy suggested considering someone from the lionfish challenge that the FWS heads up. Cheryl indicated that Jason Goldberg was working on a paper, but was not sure if he would be a good candidate as the animal keynote speaker.
- For the Monday afternoon session Dennis suggested Tony Pernas give a presentation about both plants and animals from the perspective of the Everglades CISMA, a talk that would be more in line with FLEPPC members. Possible working title could be Everglades CISMA EDRR All Taxa.
- It is unclear whether we will have an herbicide workshop at the symposium. Dennis spoke with LeRoy and was unsure if an herbicide workshop would even be possible due to time and budget constraints earlier in the year. Geof proposed a possible Brazilian pepper project he was still working on in Gulf Port, but it may be too late for the symposium. Keith Morin should be cc'ed on all the correspondence about possible herbicide workshop since he's the chair for field trips and CEUs. In the event that the herbicide workshop is not offered it was suggested that a calibration workshop similar to the one held at the 2013 symposium could be offered in its stead. Mike Meisenburg will contact LeRoy and Brain Nelson to start preparing for the herbicide workshop in 2015 in the Daytona area.
- We will be providing the raffle prize since all proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund. Tony will obtain a paddleboard this year rather than a kayak. Geof will approach Mac's Sports, Inc., Bill Jackson, Inc. and additional local sporting goods stores for donations.
- We need to get with Keith Morin about field trips. We usually have about 5 to choose from; possibly even a kayak trip. Geof suggested and will follow up with Sweetwater Kayaks to donate an afternoon trip in one of the areas. Once we get this organized we will get them over to TWS. A tegu field trip was also suggested. We will try to get CEUs incorporated into the field trips as well. Ideas: Ft. De Soto, spoil islands and invasives, etc.
- Registration Form: There will be one registration form for both groups rather than having two

separate registration forms. As for the Silent Auction, donations should come from FLEPPC members only since we get the money. Likewise, TWS will have their own Silent Auction with donations coming from their members. With Pay Pal Here being used at the registration table this year it would also be a great tool to use for the purchase of merchandise and also payments for silent auction items. It was suggested that we purchase a tablet and Sherry will open a Square Account for business transactions.

- Cheryl would like to know ways to be aware of biofuel projects. Matt King usually keeps us up to date with legislation. Karen suggests contacting Sandy Wilson since Doria used to keep up with this as the Plant Industry Liaison.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Strategic Planning, Mike Yustin and LeRoy Rogers: It is being questioned whether to keep this committee or to dissolve it. Do we use the existing committee as a base and revamp our direction when necessary or do we stick to our existing mission and dissolve the committee altogether? For example, members were queried about the direction FLEPPC was going at the 2011 symposium. Not much officially happened with the results of that query. In the past we would review previous minutes and newsletters for invasive species being highlighted. We would then use that information, accompanied with input from members, to map out our direction for the next 5-10 years. Cheryl Millet is considering chairing this committee and recruiting new members.

Bylaws, Mike Renda: SOP's have just been updated and will be on FLEPPC website shortly:

- CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) Grant—*The CISMA Grant Committee is responsible for providing funding and soliciting grant proposals from Florida CISMAs who will advance the FLEPPC and the Florida Invasive Species Partnership (FISP) missions through partnership led efforts (e.g. events, workshops, workdays, outreach, etc.), which focus on non-native invasive plants and their impacts on the natural areas and economy of Florida.*
 - Prepares and issues annual CISMA grant advertisements (RFPs).
 - Evaluates and selects CISMA grant proposals to receive funding.
 - Reports selections to BOD.
 - Follows up with grant recipients to ensure projects are completed as described in proposals and that either a paper or a poster is presented at the annual FLEPPC Symposium, or an article is submitted to *Wildland Weeds* magazine.
 - Coordinates sharing products of the grant through the FLEPPC website.
 - Prepares annual committee budget with appropriate line-item requests.
 - In the event that a grant winner does not use all funds as intended, coordinates with the grant recipient as follows:
 - If the amount remaining is <10% of the entire award, the recipient may use the funds in a way that promotes the grant's goals.
 - If 10%-40% of funds remain, the recipient must either return the unused funds to FLEPPC or submit a proposal for the next grant cycle that incorporates the funds into a new program. If that proposal is unfunded, then the recipient may use the funds in a way that promotes the grant's goals.
 - If >40% of funds remain, the recipient must return them to FLEPPC.
 - In the event that funds are returned in full, coordinates with the Treasurer as follows: If funds are returned within 90 days of award notification, they may be distributed to other CISMA Grant projects that were high-ranking but were only partially funded. If no such projects remain, or if funds are returned more than 90 days after award notification, those funds may go toward the next year's CISMA Grant budget or be returned to general coffers at discretion of the BOD.

Checklists, Sherry Williams: Sherry will send them out.

Membership, Sherry Williams: Currently we have 144 members at large; eight are from outside states AZ, GA, WS, HI, TN, CA, TX (2), leaving us with 136 FL members. It was suggested again that Plant List Committee members become paying members. Karen will speak to Pat Howell about this. What are our membership goals? Perhaps this should be for the Strategic Planning Committee.

CISMA Grant, Kris Serbesoff-King: No new updates from the CISMA committee except that the checks have been sent to the awardees.

- The next CISMA grant cycle will fall in line with the Education and Research grants. Here is the draft timeline for these three grants:
 - RFPs sent out on December 1, 2013
 - Proposals due on February 1, 2014
 - Awardees selected and notified by April 1, 2014
 - Awardees announced at annual FLEPPC meeting in May 2014

Education Grant, Jennifer Possley:

- The three winners from the 2013 grant cycle received their checks in June and are implementing their programs.
 - Invasive plants in retention ponds – website & workshop for students of Bethune-Cookman University
 - Invasive plants commonly sold in nurseries – workshops & brochure for Sumter County
 - Second annual “Plant this, Not That” Invasive Plant Day – festival at Gamble Rogers SP with free native plants and IFAS identification decks for homeowners
- Jennifer received an article for *Wildland Weeds* from a 2012 winner; all winners from that grant cycle have now completed their final reports.
- Jennifer requested \$5000 for the upcoming year for the upcoming grant cycle.
- The RFP and application for the next fiscal year will be sent to the list-serve and posted online on 12/1/13. Closing date is 2/1/14.

Nominations, Jim Burney:

The FLEPPC Nominations Committee is currently seeking nominations from members to fill the four vacating Director positions next April. If you know a FLEPPC member who you feel is qualified and willing to serve on the FLEPPC Board of Directors for a two-year term, please email Jim Burney (jburney@avcaquatic.com), Nominations Chair, with the nominee’s name and contact information. Please take the time to become involved in this important selection process. Without the willingness of people to serve in these interesting and rewarding positions, the daily processes of FLEPPC would grind to a halt.

Also, there are many committees that carry out the mission of FLEPPC in a wide variety of ways. Please visit the website (www.fleppc.org) and sign on with a committee to become involved, even if you can’t commit the time to serve on the Board of Directors. The committee will be accepting nominations until January 24, 2014.

Deah Lieurance is willing to replace Alicia who had to drop out. Karen proposed, Sherry second; approved unanimously by the Board. Vacating board members are Aimee Cooper, Christen Mason, Billy Snyder, and Michael Meisenburg.

Outreach, Christen Mason: The government shutdown prevented Christen from attending one event because the material was locked in her office and she was unable to retrieve it. Some ideas of upcoming events to attend included the Science Festival in September in Ft. Pierce, the Biodiversity Day at Mead Gardens (although it's not well-attended), and the Python Festival in Naples (Cheryl will be attending and could set up the FLEPPC material but will likely not be able to staff the post). Christen instead sent out an announcement to the CISMAs to send the FLEPPC material and fill the post.

Plant Industry Liaison, Sandy Wilson: Sandy is planning to meet up with Doria to see where she left off and how FLEPPC can best benefit from her in this role. Additionally, Sandy will be attending the plant propagation meetings in early November where she will interact with many of the southeastern growers and serve on the board. This could be a good opportunity for her to initiate some dialogue.

Plant List, Pat Howell: At this time Pat did not have any information to give to the board. With the government shut-down, the List Committee meeting was postponed until Friday, December 6.

Website, Chuck Bargeron: Chuck has requested to be removed as the chair of this committee; however Chuck and his team will continue to provide support to the website. Karen will remain the liaison between Chuck and requests for modifications to the website until a new committee chair is appointed. If anyone would like to be in charge of the website, please notify Chuck.

Planning, Jim Burch:

2015 – Jim spoke with Jhanna about the Daytona area. We need to decide whether to do the meeting ourselves or jointly. If we decide a joint meeting Jim will act as the liaison between us and the joint organization. The FNPS has new people so a co-mingle meeting may be a good idea. There is a possibility of hosting with TWS again.

2016 – A joint meeting with Everglades CISMA could be a possibility. Meeting location would be cost free, but accommodations may be costly. FNPS is having a meeting in Ft. Myers and they are staying in the Gulf Coast University dorms for \$40/night. Perhaps we could work with an academic institution to receive similar benefits. Karen said that various people have suggested FAPMS, but their meetings are always in October so it could be difficult to pull off.

Local Arrangements, Sherry Williams: Karen liked the idea of having the fishing tournament again; this was very successful last year, and assuming Safety Harbor has a place, we should do it again. TWS would really like this too and may help with organizing it.

CEUs/Field trips, Keith Morin: A follow up with Keith Morin is needed.

Vendor, Mike Meisenburg: Aimee spoke with Mike on October 28, 2013 and offered to assist him if necessary. They both agreed that contacting corporations/businesses about possible donations should begin soon since most have a policy of being contacted at least 90-120 days before the scheduled event. It has been suggested that we allow a 5-10 minute product information pitch for each vendor and possibly tier the vendor registration where the vendor would pay more for the presentation of their information. Mike suggested connecting with the contractors rather than the companies themselves because FLEPPC isn't herbicide-heavy.

Merchandise, Billy Snyder: Karen suggests machetes in sheaths. Billy will have FLEPPC inscribed and needs to know about how many to order, possibly 75 or so. There is a big push for the Control Freak shirts (navy blue with gold writing, pocket, and both long and short sleeve). No getting hosed on the shirts!

LIAISONS

SE-EPPC Liaison, Karen Brown: A poll of chapters was taken to see whether or not the host chapters should decide when to hold the annual SE-EPPC symposium or to stick to the Spring schedule. It was overwhelmingly voted that each chapter decides when to hold the symposium when it is their turn to host. Georgia will be the co-host for SE-EPPC in November. Chair-Elect is Stephen Enloe with Auburn University.

NA-EPPC, Jim Burch: Jim wasn't able to attend the national meeting. NA-EPPC is trying to get an ASTM standardized protocol for listing invasive species by EPPCs, IPCs, etc. This is currently a work in progress.

TASK FORCES

How often should the task forces be updated? Are the task forces still needed? Updates are probably only needed once a year unless there is new information. It was suggested to add the dates to the website for the management plans so we know if an update is needed.

Adjourned: Mike Meisenburg motioned to adjourn; Billy seconded at approximately 2:30 PM.