



Florida EPPC

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Thanks to everyone attending the 26th annual Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) annual symposium in Maitland, and especially thanks to the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) for their participation and partnering to form back-to-back symposia the same week. This provided valuable interaction for both organizations, as both share similar goals in managing natural areas in Florida. We are optimistic that we will continue this partnership with FNPS and other conservation organizations. Next year we are considering a similar symposium arrangement with Florida Wildlife Society; this is certain to provide us with information from another perspective that will be valuable for our management interactions and activities.

One of the most important successes we had this year was the return of The Weeds, the most well known exotic plant musical ensemble in this part of the world. Jessica Spencer provided thorough organization for the symposium for FLEPPC, with much overall coordination and facility interaction done by Karina Veaudry of FNPS; Mike Bodle smoothed out many of the local arrangement details. Dianne Owen organized registration and finances to keep us within budget. Ben Gugliotti kept CEU credits straightened out, and also organized the field trips. Todd Olsen and Dan Bergeson coordinated the many vendors' participation. Hillary Cooley recorded the business meeting proceedings, and we will submit a symposium synopsis to Karen Brown for consideration in *Wildland Weeds*. Tony Pernas provided valuable merchandise, with a second annual kayak-available-by-lottery game of chance for a good cause; this was taken home by Chris Lockhart, with a last-minute, impulse purchase of the winning ticket. Many others not mentioned provided assistance in many ways to create this successful meeting. The vendors' participation is valuable and very productive for much of the audience; the Sheraton Orlando North and staff provided a very professional and pleasant venue for our meeting.

The first evening in Maitland, I perused a local newspaper to catch up on the front-page headlines and the rest of the comics. I came across a short piece by a local columnist, and it caught my eye because it mentioned Integrated Pest Management (IPM), something that we routinely consider whenever we evaluate control of exotic plants, especially well-established aliens. In this case the subject of the column was insects in public schools, but the concern about the problem organisms was much like the routine we engage when we consider aliens in the natural areas we manage. I recognized a similarity in dealing with non-native organisms and associated problems that are part of almost everyone's activities, and that the response is generally similar. For us it is what we do for a living and it is perhaps a little more systematic—for others it may be more immediate urgency, but the objective is the same: control the offending organism to support the stability of a desired environment. The desired environment for natural areas managers is generally what we believe will be a nearly natural (with minimal human interaction), native biological system. Part of the mission of FLEPPC and similar organizations, involves promoting the exchange of information that allows us to learn more about methods to achieve this outcome.

For those of us implementing these methods every day, we see continued reductions in resources and our capacity to manage exotics as we feel is appropriate. However, seeing presentations and hearing

Message from the Chair Continued

information at this meeting indicate great resourcefulness and ability to accomplish this management for natural areas. Nevertheless, we continue to face obstacles such as travel restrictions and limited resources. A year ago we indicated how this provides an opportunity to put energy into other things, specifically strategic planning and policy development. This has been ongoing for a few years and has required some time to gather momentum. At the beginning of the symposium, several of us gathered to re-activate this process. We discussed different possibilities for future direction, reviewed past activities, and considered significant challenges that we will have to negotiate as an organization. We agreed to develop a brief survey for members, to feel the pulse of FLEPPC, get feedback from the membership and put this information into ideas related to planning for FLEPPC. This will be a quick and easy survey, but a very important information-gathering exercise, and we anticipate significant response from the very well-informed FLEPPC membership. Many thanks in advance.

Jim Burch
Big Cypress National Preserve

Upcoming FLEPPC Board Meetings

August 16, 2011-Conference call
November 15, 2011-Site Visit for 2012 Symposium
February 16, 2012-Conference call
April/May-FLEPPC 2012 Symposium

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Grant Announcements

FLEPPC Kathy Craddock Burks Education and Outreach Grant

Congratulations to the 2011 winners of FLEPPC's Kathy Craddock Burks Education and Outreach Grants!

Lake County Parks & Trails and CISMA of Lake County "Greener Choices - alternatives to invasive exotic plants booklet"

Orange County Environmental Protection Division "FLIP - a Florida invasive plant mobile phone application"

UF/IFAS Santa Rosa County Master Gardener Association "TREEmendous trees"

Catherine Keogh Lane, consultant, with UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants "Invasive plant identification, mapping and removal activity"

St. Johns County & the Town of Hastings "Invasive plants and the agricultural community of Hastings"

Florida DEP, District 3 & Gamble Rogers Memorial SRA "Plant this, not that! Invasive and native plant family education day"

For further information, contact:

Jennifer Possley, jpossley@fairchildgarden.org

FLEPPC Julia Morton Invasive Plant Research Grant Program

Congratulations to the 2011 winners of the FLEPPC Julia Morton Invasive Plant Research Grant!

Rebekah Outman, University of Miami, "Arbuscular Mycorrhizas in Native and Exotic South Florida Ferns." \$2,037

Amanda Buchanan, Florida State University, "Growth, reproduction, and herbivore resistance in water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)." \$1,612

For further information, contact:

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Minutes from Florida EPPC Board of Directors Meetings

-October 14, 2010 and January 13, 2011 (Please note that there are minutes from two meetings in this issue)

October 14, 2010- Sheraton Hotel in Maitland, Florida and Conference call (Minutes taken by Karen Brown)

Attendees: Jim Burch, Kariena Veaudry (FNPS), Erin Myers, Ben Gugliotti, Dan Bergeson, Pat Howell, Bob Farley, Jessica Spencer; via conference call: Dianne Owen, Jennifer Possley, Hillary Cooley.

10am – Met with Kariena Veaudry (FNPS) re: 2011 meeting. She asked if we would like to also host a joint symposium in 2013 as FNPS is already negotiating for that year. It will be at the Tinkle (?) Center as part of UF so part of the venue would be free. She expects it to be a lucrative meeting. She is a paid coordinator and is happy to assist. Reviewed rooms, schedules, field trips, etc. Combined meet & greet first night at social. Affiliations should be prominent on name badges to identify FLEPPC vs FNPS.

Should registration for field trips be done separately? Or in conjunction with FNPS? Jim and Ben asked if it could be sort of ala carte if FLEPPC folks wanted to register for FNPS trips. Kariena said yes. She will be present during the FLEPPC conference and could sign folks up for FNPS field trips. FNPS trips could also be linked from our online registration form. FNPS does not give CEUs for field trips. Beth Jackson is the coordinator for Orange County field trips (Wekiva, Geneva Wilderness Area, Orange County trips). They were FNPS trips but were switched to FLEPPC in order to investigate CEU possibilities.

Banquet will be joint on Thursday night. Awards were discussed and it was decided to give FLEPPC awards during the general business meeting to avoid boring the FNPS folks during the banquet.

Karen – will get ad material from Kariena for their meeting for Wildland Weeds.

Pat Howell motioned to approve the minutes from the last board meeting; Dan Bergeson seconded. Unanimously approved.

No correspondence from the Chair.

Hillary will follow up with Jim Burney to be sure he sent a letter of acceptance of their codes of conduct. There were a few issues that he wanted to address.

Treasurer's Report – Dianne thought the meeting was next week so doesn't have a report ready yet. Dianne has only heard from a few people with regard to the budget on WWs, symposium related items, and the Education Grant committee. She thinks WWs and the symposium should have separate budgets since they are revenue producing. Discretionary budget items are Chair's discretionary spending and Editor's discretionary spending. Research Grant funding needed as well. Will circulate a proposed budget via e-mail next week. Jennifer asked for a \$25 check that she has been requesting for a FLEPPC at the Fairchild Ramble; DO said she would send it today. Jennifer reviewed her request for \$6,000. Dianne said the board should decide if it could be that much since there has not been much revenue. Ben asked if it was too late to put in a budget request for field trips. Ellen has been trying to set up a Finance Committee meeting but Dianne was the only one to call in.

Editor's Report – Karen reviewed the Wildland Weeds Strategic Planning Meeting (report submitted) which suggested dropping advertisements and increasing the contribution per member per chapter from \$5 to \$10 annually. The board agreed to this suggestion although we are waiting to see what SE-EPPC decides to do at their next board meeting. AL-IPC has agreed to the increase.

Bob Farley said we should put our efforts into recruiting new members rather than selling ads. It's a normal progression for the group.

Erin proposed having a joint meeting with the Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society at some point. They are land managers, too, and some don't even know about FLEPPC. Bob thought it would be good to invite wildlife folks or include them as much as possible. He would like to reach out more to professional orgs such as the American Society of Landscape Architects (affordable \$300.). FL Engineering Society charges \$1,200 and doesn't care if you're non-profit or not. Bob to submit a budget item for \$300 to have a booth at ASLA; others too expensive.

Ben asked if the last FNPS meeting was successful – financially? Enjoyment wise? Otherwise?

How to recruit new members? Karen tried to encourage a graduate student group but it didn't form. Erin and Bob mentioned that you really need faculty and mentors because graduate students graduate and move on. Karen mentioned that we need to include the Finance Committee on discussions of future joint meetings. Jessica pointed out that she thinks Kariena is looking toward the 2013 meeting. Plantation Inn in Crystal River asked if FLEPPC would like to return for a future conference at some point. It would be easier to arrange at repeat locations but not so good for field trips.

Secretary's Report – (Hillary Cooley) H. Burgess sent out the last newsletter. HC needs a message from the Chair. Hillary reformatted from InDesign to Word. She's trying to get up to speed, having not been on the board before. Might put a timeline or calendar in the next newsletter so people will have a reference. Hopes to get the next issue out in October.

Committee Reports

Education Grant- Jennifer stated that she needs to make some SOP changes but the bylaws chair has been difficult to contact. RFPs to go out soon for next year. She doesn't know what her budget will be yet. Her report explains the situation of returned funds and what to do with the money. The committee doesn't necessarily want to return it to FLEPPC's general coffers; they would like to keep it and redistribute it to other Education Grant proposals. Two \$1,000 checks were returned. Jim Burch to contact Ellen and Dianne to involve them in the financial aspect of Jennifer's proposed changes.

Bylaws – need a new chair as this person also reviews the SOPs annually but has not been available.

Symposium Program – Jessica Spencer (as Program Chair) will update and manage the checklists once she receives the newest version from Jim Burch. [note: Karen sent them to Jessica, 10/26]

Erin suggested that workshops be held to bring in members (Wildlife Society does this). Centrally located; one day. Something to consider. Get CEUs. WS meeting in two weeks in Ft Lauderdale offering CEUs, python handling. Plant ID – landowners, current members.

Symposium Program needs graphic, keynote speaker, ideas, theme. Jessica needs info within next few weeks. FNPS might have a theme we could tie into or play off of. Someone will contact Kariena. Burney sent info on an Invasive Species Artshow – might be a source for a graphic: www.lampinfo.org Pine Jog Environmental Education Center Invasive Species Art Show Oct 16 – Nov 5. Bob Farley had suggested a competition once before and agreed to try and set one up again for a symposium graphic.

CEUs – Ben G. –this is more of a back-end activity that needs abstracts, program etc. before CEUs can be applied for (FDACS). Erin is also an approved provider. Last year FLEPPC provided 25 CEUs for different categories. Hillary spoke to Jon Lane about getting CEUs for CORE credits; maybe get a speaker to address a CORE topic. Ken Gioeli might be a possibility, or Alison Higgins. Ben will contact one or both of them.

Field trips – Ben spoke to Kariena and has looked at the checklist and has a few in mind together with the C&E committee. Erin to send info for Graham Williams (husband of Sherry) as a contact for one of the areas. Leroy is working on the C&E end, according to Ben. (C&E = Control & Evaluation Committee)

Vendors – Bill Kline can't attend but the material is well-organized. Dan Bergeson and Todd Olson have agreed to take on that task and have spoken to Mike Bodle. Bill Kline submitted comments via e-mail.

Monthly Symposium Conference Calls: Jim Burch said we should begin them starting November. Karen suggested a Doodle poll to set up the time and date and HC will look into that. Burney or Jessica can supply conference call capabilities.

Plant List Committee – nothing to report per Pat Howell. Last meeting was cancelled. No further action on the TBW list. (TBW = To Be Watched)

Position Paper – Jim submitted a draft outlining reviewing position papers. Can keep this as an operating plan for writing position papers in the future. Will be kept on file.

Scholarship Committee – Jim Burch mentioned the need for SOPs to Tony.

Strategic Planning Committee – Dan Clark offered to chair this committee since no action has taken place. Jonathon has asked to step down from this role, according to Hillary. Jim Burch says it is not official because he wants to talk to him first.

Local Arrangements – Bodle is on board but did not report.

Karen to check to see if newsletter and/or minutes are online. (Yes-<http://www.fleppc.org/newsletters.htm>)

SE-EPPC Liaison – Karen said they are introducing a grants program; next annual meeting in Lexington, KY.

NA-EPPC – Jim Burch attending the next board meeting in conjunction with NAA (Natural Areas Association) meeting. Tony Pernas will probably attend as well.

Management Plans – Kris Serbesoff-King trying to get a Lygodium plan finished and may submit a budget item for printing. She has several folks working on this, including Corrie Pieteron.

New Business:

Minutes posting – minutes have been going out in the newsletter. Bylaws say they “will be made available” but not necessarily in a newsletter so perhaps we could put them on the website instead. This would simplify the task for the secretary and would serve to refresh the website on a quarterly basis. Hillary and Karen will investigate further and the board was agreeable to a change.

Karen suggested contacting the NPS – SE Region for annual conference support as SE-EPPC obtains it every year. Jim will talk to Tony about it. Tony said a letter stating relevance, etc., should be enough for an initial request.

Karen motioned to accept all reports; Erin Myers seconded.

Next board meeting: January 13th via conference call.

Bob Farley motion to adjourn. Dan Bergeson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:19 PM.

January 13, 2011-Conference call - Minutes taken by Hillary Cooley (FLEPPC Secretary)

Administrative

Call to Order/Roll Call-10:06 AM

Attendees: Jim Burch, Karen Brown, Ben Gugliotti, Dan Bergeson, Pat Howell, Jessica Spencer, Dianne Owen, Mike Renda, Jim Burney, and Hillary Cooley. Called into the meeting later Kristina Serbesoff-King, Matt King and Rosline Rowe.

10:06am – Jim Burch calls meeting to order and calls roll call.

Approval of Last Minutes (October 14, 2010): No changes to the minutes were proposed. Hillary Cooley motioned and Jim Burney seconded to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2010 meeting. This motion was approved unanimously by the board.

Chair Activities-

Better Homes and Gardens response letter-Jim Burch co-signed FNPS response letter to Better Homes and Gardens as a reply to the magazine’s recommendation to use Brazilian pepper as a landscape plant. FLEPPC and other co-signers do not endorse exotic vegetation.

2011 meeting-Jim Burch suggested that for the 2012 FLEPPC symposium the meeting could be held in coordination with a University. Jim Burney said that it had been awhile since FLEPPC has had a meeting coordinated with a University. This may help get some new members in the organization? No particular university is in mind at this time. It was also suggested that we do not want to move the month/time of the meeting too much and if we have the meeting in coordination with a University that we may need to move the symposium to an earlier time of the year in order to get better participation from Universities? Having a shared meeting with the Florida Academy of Sciences (FIT) was also suggested; they think their meeting is in the Spring (March 11, 2011 in Melbourne). Also discussed that the meeting could be held at a University, but people would need to stay in an off campus hotel. It was mentioned that food through a University could be expensive and that parking on campus during the semester could be very difficult. A few people are checking with their associated Universities about the idea. A few different Universities were mentioned including UF, FAU, UM, FIU and Florida Southeastern and that maybe during Spring Break would be a better time. The location of Gainesville, FL was mentioned as a strong possibility since there are hotels near the University, and meeting in the past held in Gainesville were well attended, and UF already has a lot of people interested in the exotic plant topic. If done in Gainesville, it may be better to do in a hotel and not go through the University? Other consideration is that hotels may be more likely to honor government per Diem or reduced hotel rates if we also book conference rooms through the hotel. Jim will send out an e-mail in the next few weeks for the FLEPPC meeting in 1.5 years to get more ideas, but Gainesville is looking like a strong contender. **Correspondence follow-up-**Hillary will contact Karina with FNPS to get copy of response letter to Better Homes and Gardens with all the co-signers signatures.

2012-2013 meetings-Jim Burch also mentioned that Erin Myers had suggested holding a meeting in coordination with the Florida Wildlife Society. Dianne may be able to devote more of her day job time to help with symposium planning if held in conjunction with Florida Wildlife Society. The website shows that that their annual meeting is March 22, 2011 in Safety Harbor. Erin had said at one of the last FLEPPC BOD meetings that many of their members had never heard of FLEPPC. Dianne said that she would follow-up with Dale about the idea and that this would likely be for the 2013 meeting.

Mike Renda suggested coordinating a meeting with the FIT and/or the Florida Academy of Science. Jim Burney though this might be a good meeting to coordinate with since a lot of people are doing their first presentations there. Mike said that he could find out who the point of contact is for the Florida Academy of Science and see if they were interested. Wildlife Society website shows that on March 7, 2011 they are doing a Natural Areas Training Academy workshop called "Vegetation monitoring in a management context." Keith Bradley did a workshop for them in December about invasive plants.

Treasurer's Report – Dianne Owen sent out an e-mail earlier this morning with last year's budget vs. the proposed budget for this year. Dianne said that we are not that bad off, but she anticipated that we would have to draw down our cash reserves by \$3,500. But we are actually only down by \$1,800. This is partly because the Research Committee did not spend all of the money they were allocated last year. There were some other things that we overspent on, but primarily we made more of a profit on the symposium than we anticipated. Dianne said she based the 2010-2011 budget on requests and that she used estimates from 2009-2010 budget for this year's budget. Doing it that way we actually come out with a cash drawdown of about \$1,500. Budget is supposed to be balanced but realistically there is a difference between anticipated expenditures and anticipated incomes, so this is why Dianne started putting what we expected to draw down from the money we have in our checking and savings. Dianne estimated for Wildland Weeds since it is sort of an off budget item in that it generates income to cover its expenses.

Karen said that we are talking about cancelling advertisements and changing to a reliance on the annual contribution from SE EPPC, but realistically this will not happen until the beginning of next fiscal year, which is a couple of issues away. She does not know what advertising is going to be, so is trying to create the magazine with whatever money we have available. Last issue almost exactly broke even, or within \$100. Invoice was sent to SE EPPC to get their contribution. Dianne did not show a SE EPPC contribution for 2009-2010 but Karen said that we had one. Karen said she could look-up how much it was. Dianne said she may have booked it in with advertising? Dianne can go back through transactions to see if she can find. Karen finds that on November 3, 2009 they made a payment of \$2,960.00. Dianne said that that amount is then showing up in the fiscal year 2009-2010 budget as Wildland Weeds advertising. Dianne can split that amount out in a revised budget for that year to show that. Dianne put the same amount in budget for 2010-2011. Dianne estimated same amount for symposium and same amount as last year for Chair; we always allot \$1,000 in discretionary spending to Chair. So what we need to look to balance the budget are the Research grants and Education & Outreach grants. Jim Burney said that Robert Farley brought up a year or two ago that we could use a little bit bigger budget for the Outreach budget to attend conferences and pay for table fees. At one time we kicked around the idea that we may need a line item of about \$300-\$400 to cover conferences that are outside our normal realm. It was said that the Membership/Outreach is that amount. The number was put there last year (\$200), but what we actually spent last year was \$25 for the Fairchild Ramble. That is one budget item where the estimated expenditure was put instead of the amount spent from last year. Jim Burch remembers that we did talk about getting out to some of these other meetings, such as America Society of Landscape Architects, and that it was going to be a couple hundred dollars and there was another one that was several hundred dollars and probably out of our reach. There was a question that if we want to do something more than \$200, is that something that could come from the Chair Discretionary Fund? There was also discussion about the requests from Betsy Von Holle (Research Committee) and Jennifer Possley (Education Grant Committee) to increase both Research Grants and Education Grants by \$1,000 (From \$5,000 to \$6,000). Betsy budgeted \$5,000 last year, but only spent \$1,500. Dianne and Karen have not seen a call for proposals from her. If we are having trouble balancing the budget then maybe this is someplace we can make a cut. They awarded more than that last year, but one of them fell through, so we only ended up paying for one of the grants. The BOD recommended keeping both Education and Research grant programs to \$5,000 each and not increasing either of them to \$6,000 since this would keep the budget closer to balanced, unless Betsy has some reason to increase it to \$6,000. The FLEPPC website was checked and Betsy has not posted a RFP and deadline for the last one was February 2010. Dianne will check with Betsy to see what she wants to do. Question was asked if symposium budget was based on last year's budget and if this year it is less, since we are sharing with FNPS? Yes, the costs are based on last year because we do not know the actual banquet fees. A lot of the symposiums costs are those that re-occur, like door prizes, field trips, keynote speaker, and the program, etc., so theoretically it should not change that much from last year. Dianne said that she needed to talk with Karina about banquet and social costs. Question: have we given Karina recommendations about what to negotiate for our shared social? No, not to anyone's knowledge. We have been doing everything through Karina. Jessica said that FNPS charges their members for a lot of the costs directly. It was suggested that we have a follow-up conference call with Karina and the FLEPPC Finance committee. Ellen should be involved with the decision since that is one of the purposes of the Finance Committee. Jessica said she would set up the call with Karina, Ellen, Mike, Dianne and Hillary.

Karen motioned to approve the FY10-FY11 budget with modifications to the Education Grant budget down to \$5,500 and Research Grants budget down to \$5,000; Ben seconded. Jim Burch mentioned that this was something that could be amended later on if we have a fortuitous event. Dianne said that the budget is really an idea of our expected income and our expected expenditures.

We are now paying \$2,000/year because we have two banks. Bank of America is our main bank but Chuck could not get it to work on the website. So, we are still using Sun Trust for the website. The modified budget was approved unanimously by the board.

Editor's Report – Karen said that the Fall issue went out in December and we broke even. Karen mentioned she had not heard from one of the bigger adds (Syngenta), they have been renewing at the beginning of the year. If they do not renew then she will reduce the magazine down to try and compensate. However, some of the expenses are kind of static. Karen mentioned possibly combining the Winter and Spring issues to catch-up. SE FLEPPC is still collecting votes to see they are going to approve bumping their annual contribution up from \$5.00/member to \$10.00/member, but that would not be effective until next fiscal year (Oct 2011). Most of the chapters have agreed to do that and FLEPPC agreed to do that. Jim Burch asked if Wildland Weeds has ever done a symposium proceedings issue. Karen said not to her knowledge, and a lot of groups are putting their abstracts and power points online and that she had spoken to Jessica about that. SE EPPC does that and the authors of the papers are told up front that we are going to publish these on the website and they can sign a waiver if they do not want it published on the website.. Karen said that the symposium abstracts would probably take up too much space in Wildland Weeds and also it is a southeast regional magazine and that it would not be fair to other chapters if FLEPPC took up the entire issue. Karen said she usually does an article for Wildlands Weeds about the symposium, but a better way to go is to publish the symposium proceedings on the website. Jessica did get the waiver form from Karen and Jessica is going to include that with the letters of acceptance. Dianne mentioned that maybe we could ask for electronic copies of posters so we could put them on line also. Power points are usually collected at the time the presentations are given and then saved on a laptop. Dianne also mentioned that maybe we could get more members by making the most current issues of Wildland Weeds available to members only. Karen was going to find out from Chuck if we could restrict the access to resent newsletter on the website to members only? Also see if the online ads could have active links to websites. This could be more attractive to advertisers? Karen asked for articles and in particular Jessica's article about the Tamarisk on the spoil mounds.

Secretary's Report – Hillary Cooley sent out the last newsletter (October 2010) and it contained the minutes from the April 5th, 2010 meeting. Hillary has only briefly begun working on the newsletter for the next newsletter. Her hope was to get it out in January and include the minutes from the July 2010 meeting, so if people want to add something to the newsletter then they need to get it to Hillary. Jim Burney had mentioned wanting to get the call for nominations in the next newsletter and Hillary needs a message from the Chair from Jim Burch. Karen checked to see that the October 2010 newsletter is up on the FLEPPC website. Jim Burney will get Hillary a blurb about a call for nominations. We may also want to put in a call for RFPs from the Education Grant and Research Grant Committees if the newsletter is out before their deadlines. Question was asked if there will there be another newsletter before the symposium; if so then we can do a call for nominations now and a follow-up with the slate of nominees in the newsletter before the symposium meeting. We may also do a separate announcement of the nominations by e-mail before the symposium meeting. It may be a good idea to still send out a separate e-mail about the slate of nominees even if we do get the newsletter out, so that we get everyone's attention about the topic. Dianne said that there are about 10 new members to add to the mailing list. Dianne also mentioned that we got a \$200 donation from the Jelks Family Foundation. In the past we have sent a thank you letter to them. Dianne will send Jim Burch the details.

Committee Reports

Bylaws – need a new chair. Committee nominations are separate from the officers nominations. This may be something to advertise in the upcoming newsletter too? This was in the last newsletter and on the list serve and no one has contacted Hillary, so we may need to talk to people directly. Karen reminded us that the bylaws say that 30 days prior to any business meeting (which is the annual meeting) a written notice needs to be sent and this can be by e-mail. This is where we would need to get the slate of nominees listed. Jim Burch asked if anyone here was interested in doing bylaws. Basically this position is just making sure that if there are bylaws questions then they are clarified and if there are changes they are voted on and changes inserted in to the bylaws and uploaded to the website. Karen nominated Mike Renda. Mike would like to speak to the person that chaired the committee before. Sandra Vardaman is the current chair. Karen said that she could send Mike her contact information. Mike also needs to check with his supervisor. Karen said that there is also a Standard Operating Procedure on the website and that she could send Mike the link. Mike is considering this position.

Checklists (Symposium)- Jessica and Ben have checklists. Jessica is stalled until she gets more abstract submissions.

Control and Evaluation- LeRoy sent report. Chinese tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*) demo plots have been set up and are possible field trips for the symposium.

Report: -The Control and Evaluation Committee, in collaboration with Salvador Medina (AVC, Inc.), Ken Langeland and Greg MacDonald (UF), and Sherry Williams (Seminole Co.), developed a Chinese tallow demonstration plot at the Geneva Wilderness Area in Seminole County. Herbicides being evaluated include imazamox (Clearcast™), aminocyclopyrachlor (MAT 28™), and triclopyr (Garlon 4™). We anticipate that the demonstration plot will be one of the stops on the Geneva Wilderness Area field trip. We will complete ratings on the treatments in late April in order to provide summaries of results to field trip attendees.

Education- Jennifer sent a report and is hoping for a bylaws chair to consider some proposed changes to the Education and Outreach Grant committee SOP. She requested \$6,000 for her budget but may get less than that.

Report: -I have requested \$6000 for the Education Grant budget but I don't know how much was granted-- is the FY2011 budget out yet? - So far (amazingly) I have received no applications for the Ed Grant, but they usually all pour in at the last minute. The closing date is April 1, 2011. I will re-post the RFP to the listserv in another month or so.

Finance- Ellen was not on the call, but sent a report to say no action with the Finance committee.

Legislative- Matt King submitted a report and called in. Looks like the EPA is going forward with the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System). This will have a pretty substantial impact as far as the reporting and permitting process for herbicide application in the state and across the nation. In that approved herbicides will be treated as pollutants and permits are being administered through the National Pollution Control Standard, there will be additional requirements and a public comment period for aquatic use. This could also affect terrestrial herbicide use when going after melaleuca in dry areas or transitional wetlands. EPA is just now coming out with their final language and all the public comment periods are over, but there will be some changes on the permitting process for Florida and throughout the nation. In Florida the DEP is drafting these rules right now to match the EPA requirements. FLDEP has the draft on their website. The comment period is over and they have had workshops, and it all has to be done by April 9th. There are still questions from folks about how this all is exactly going to work. What they are going to make folks do is to apply for a permit and it is a notice of intent basically saying where they are going to be treating and what they are going to do to avoid discharge to waters. Still not known if it is going to be a site by site basis or could, for example, the Water Management District give all of their notices of intent for the year or for five years?

We may want to have an article about this in Wildland Weeds. The aspect that concerns us the most is the public comment period and can one component of an herbicide program or a public comment period hold you put as far the permitting goes on each one of them. Florida is already a little bit better off than some of the other states, since Florida already has an aquatic herbicide application process in place anyway. So, it is really just the unknown about the public comment period about what can hold up a project and what cannot. Two other issues that have been brought up are that we all fall under a category that is called aquatic weed and algae control and that really applies for herbicide use in natural areas and not just aquatic use as we think of it as treating lakes and rivers in that it affects wetland work so any water that discharge into other water bodies is considered. So for example, if you are treating melaleuca at Loxahatchee Refuge, that technically is aquatic work and you would fall under that regulation. Good or bad thing depending on who you are. Local governments like city and county, and NGOs like The Nature Conservancy, fall under this, but they do not have to fill out a notice of intent if they fall under a statewide general permit, so really no more work than what local governments or NGOs already have to do. The Public Comment is only for the overall permit, basically when each individual person applies for or submits a notice of intent, it does not go out for public comment., General permits are to be a sort of streamlined process that goes through this procedure up front to create this permit, but once the permit is created there is no additional public comment, you just have to determine if your project qualifies.

Report: NEW LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

1. National Invasive Species Awareness Week, February 28 – March 4, 2011, Washington D.C.
2. USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service amended sections of the Code of Federal Regulations - 7 CFR Parts 319, 352, 360, and 361

, effective 12/10/10. Summary of the amendments:

“... amending the regulations governing the importation and interstate movement of noxious weeds by adding definitions of terms used in the regulations, adding details regarding the process of applying for the permits used to import or move noxious weeds, adding a requirement for the treatment of Niger seed, and adding provisions for petitioning to add a taxon to or remove a taxon from the noxious weed lists. These changes will update the regulations to reflect current statutory authority and program operations and improve the effectiveness of the regulations. We are also adding seven taxa to the list of terrestrial noxious weeds and to the list of seeds with no tolerances applicable to their introduction. This action will prevent the introduction or dissemination of these noxious weeds into or within the United States.”

ONGOING/PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

1. USDA Q37 Protocol. On October 21, FL EPPC submitted comments on the proposed revisions for the USDA Q37 protocol. The main revision to Q37 involves the creation of the NAPPRA (Not Authorized Pending Pest Risk Analysis) import category. FL EPPC is in favor of the creation of this new category. USDA is “currently in the process of analyzing and responding to the comments.” APHIS is asking for comments on their strategic plan, NA EPPC is going to use that process to have them move forward on the Q37 process.
2. National Pollutant discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Pesticide General Permit: On January 7, 2009, the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals vacated the EPA's 2006 rule that said NPDES permits were not required for applications of pesticides to U.S. waters. As a result of the Court's decision, discharges to waters of the U.S. from the application of pesticides will require NPDES permits when the court's mandate takes effect, on April 9, 2011. As a result, the EPA drafted a Pesticides General Permit (PGP). Any use patterns not covered by the proposed draft permit would need to obtain coverage under an individual permit or alternative general permit if they involve pesticide application that results in point sources discharges to waters of the United States. The EPA PGP only provides coverage for discharges where the EPA is the NPDES permitting authority. In Florida, The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) is responsible for drafting a PGP that will follow the EPA NPDES template but will address Florida's specific needs. FDEP held public workshops during October 2010. The current draft documents are available at the FDEP website:

Draft Rule: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/docs/rules_dr/rule_62-621.300-8-pesticidegp_draft.pdf

Draft Generic Permit: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/docs/rules_dr/draft_permit_pesticides_62-621.3008e-workshop%20draft.pdf

Draft Notice of Intent Form: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/docs/rules_dr/62-621.3008f_noi-pesticidegpdraft.pdf

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Draft Notice of Termination: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/docs/rules_dr/62-621.3008g_not-pesticidegpdraft.pdf

The main issue with the Florida PGP involves new reporting and tracking requirements for most (if not all) of the state and federal agencies that conduct invasive plant management. These agencies would fall under the Rule's "Aquatic Weed and Algae Control" Use Patterns, which is defined as the application of pesticides "to control invasive or other nuisance weeds and algae in or on water and at water's edge, including irrigation ditches and/or irrigation canals." This also includes jurisdictional wetlands. These State and Federal entities will be required to submit a 5-year Notice of Intent form and supporting documents that will require the extensive [?]

Local governments and other entities not identified specifically in the Rule are considered automatically under the State PGP and not required to submit Notice of Intent for herbicide work, though they must still follow the guidelines in the PGP in order to reduce discharges to water bodies.

LEGISLATIVE STATE/FEDERAL TRACKING LIST

None

OTHER NOTABLE NEWS

1. Texas (Parks & Wildlife Department) is implementing a white list of non-native plants. More info here: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/species/exotic/aquatic_plants/proposed_list.phtml
2. According to the National Council of State Legislatures, in 2010 over 250 Bills were introduced in all states dealing with invasive species. Of these, 31 Bills in 29 states were enacted.

Merchandise- Tony not on call and did not send report.

Nominations- Jim Burney said that he has only received one nomination for directors. Next year is the year we do a call for the chair-elect. We need more nominations. We need to put call for nominations in newsletter to the members as well as one more plea to the BOD and immediate chair. Nominee needs to be a FLEPPC member. Jim Burch asked if we need to do the chair this year, so the chair-elect can be on for a year? Yes, so we do need a chair-elect as well then. We could get some nominees coming in and approve the slate by e-mails prior to the next BOD meeting, and then we can advertise the slate of nominees on the website to the general public. Maybe don't need to do an additional newsletter, just for this, but an e-mail telling everyone the names and to check out the bios on line. There are two candidates that we can check and see if they are willing to accept. Jim Burney sent out a letter back in November. We would like to have about 5 or 6 nominees and then the nominations committee (Karen, Dianne and Jim Burney) goes through and develops a slate of 4 to be presented to the BOD for approval and once the BOD approves the nominees then they are presented to the general public and voted on. The vote is to approve the slate or not and if there are any nominations for the floor at the general meeting. A few names were mentioned as possibilities and Karen checked to see if they were members. If they are not currently members then they will need to join.

Outreach- Bob not on call. No report submitted

Plant Industry- Doria not on call and no report was submitted.

Plant List Committee -Keith not on call. It is about time that we get working on that again. The plant list gets revised every other year. Jim will give Keith a call to remind him.

Position Paper – Jim Burch said this was finished.

Research-Betsy not on the call and we have not heard from her in awhile. Funding for this has already been discussed. Dianne will give Betsy a call and find out about RFPs.

Scholarship Committee – Tony not on call.

Strategic Planning Committee – Position is vacant and we need to fill the position. Jim Burch has talked to a few people about this and is interested in being involved, but does not think that he should chair it. Dan Clarke may be interested, but Jim says that Dan is very difficult to reach now since Dan is in an area with limited links to communication. Mike Renda may also be interested. Jonathan Taylor indicated that he is still interested in participating on this committee, but not being the lead. Kristina Serbesoff-King is also willing to be on the committee, but not able to chair. Kris has notes from the first and second Strategic Planning Committee meetings and will resend to Jim Burch.

Local Arrangements – Mike Bodle not on call. Jessica has not talked with Mike but Kariena has pretty much taken over all the local arrangements. She has been our contact as far as anything hotel related.

Symposium Program – The deadline to submit abstracts is Saturday, January 15, 2011. So far, only 6 abstracts received. We will extend the deadline, but need to get the word out to submit abstracts. We need to get more abstracts. Jessica is on hold until she gets the abstracts, as far as figuring out the program and sending out letters. Let Jessica know if anyone has any more ideas about where to post call for abstracts. The dates of the meeting are May 17th to 20th, 2011. It would be nice to get registration information up on line. Maybe this is something that we can discuss at our FLEPPC budget meeting with FNPS (Kariena Veaudry). FNPS does not have their registration up either; they say it will be up by February 1st. We have not discussed what the registration amount will be. We have given Kariena information about our fee structure and she should have that information. We just need to have this call to hammer out all the details. But we should get the on-line registration up as soon as possible. As long as we are within a similar range (of registration fees) as to the past, ours should be similar to FNPS and as long as that is similar to the past it does not necessarily need to come back to the Board. Do we want to do one day registration? FLEPPC registration will be done separately from FNPS. We will have a discussion based on the results of that phone call. Maybe we should discuss at the same time how the registration should be structured? How will the two organizations link the registration websites? We should be able to get this set-up with Chuck; it is just a matter of getting a link put on their site. Kris Serbesoff-King stated that if Jessica ends up having space available then maybe CISMAs could give presentations. So, if there was more space we could do a morning session and do the panel discussion. We should have at least 12 of the CISMA there.

CEUs – Ben G. – Ben talked to Jessica about adding 50 minute sessions for CORE. Ben needs to contact some of the FDACS people to follow-up about CORE CEUs. Most of the CEU stuff needs to be done after we have the abstracts and Bios. Critical time is about a month so if Ben can get 6 weeks to a few months out that would be great. But applying to the Department of Agriculture takes about a month and that is based on the abstracts.

On-Line Registration- Already discussed. Dianne will talk to Chuck. Dianne or Chuck will be on budget/Finance Conference call to get information for on-line registration.

Field trips – Three field trips: to Geneva Wilderness Area for demonstration plots, Wekiva State Park, and also working with Rosalind Rowe of TNC on a project on private land (Green Swamp Lodge) for lygodium control. There are some concerns about liability on private property. Liability letter would need to come from FLEPPC or the landowner; TNC would not provide. This is being done through the FLEPPC conference and not TNC. Green Swamp Lodge does have people that come on the property, but not know if they have a form for that or not. Has anyone asked Karina? Does not the FNPS have people sign a field trip form? Maybe FLEPPC should have something like that for all the field trips? Maybe we could steal a form from FNPS. Ben will touch base with Karina to get form.

Training- Covered under CEUs. Need to take this off of agenda for next BOD.

Vendors – Dan Bergeson is in contact with Bill Kline. Dan is in the process of getting Vendors list. Last year there was a concern that the vendor presentations were at the same time as some of the other presentations, so the vendor presentations were not well attended. Suggestion was made not to have vendor's session in a concurrent session. Jessica will have to see how many abstracts we get and if we do have space we will make that available to the vendors. Jessica said that vendors can also submit abstracts. Dan will invite the vendors to submit an abstract. Dan Bergeson and Todd Olson are taking on organization this year since Bill Kline cannot attend the meeting.

Website- Chuck not on the call. No report submitted. Karen stated that website is up to date. Most recent issues of Wildland Weeds are on the site.

Other Organizations-

SE-EPPC- This year's annual meeting is in Lexington, Kentucky and is being held with University of Kentucky. Karen is going. They received a grant from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for an 8 month position working to evaluate plant lists from the different states and perhaps compare the EPPC chapter plant lists with the Department of Agriculture Lists. The job should be posted soon for an 8 month position. They are going to start offering a grant for Research. Their meeting is May 3rd-5th, 2011 in Lexington, KY.

NA-EPPC -Jim attended the National EPPC meeting last Fall. The NA EPPC meeting was held in conjunction with Natural Areas Association meeting. Jim said the meeting was not well attended by EPPC people, so there were no votes or decisions made. There was a discussion about moving closer to Natural Areas Association. Jim did not understand the discussion very well, so cannot report details on it, but it was basically a discussion on the administrative methods.

Task Forces

Lygodium- LeRoy and Kristina Serbesoff-King are stepping down as chairs and Rosalind Rowe (TNC) and Corrie Pieteron (formerly with the University of Florida) are taking over. Kris has e-mails from both of them to take over as co-chairs. Kris and LeRoy will still stay active, but Rosalind and Corrie are doing the real work and should be given credit. Rosalind will take on OldWorld climbing fern and Corrie will take over Japanese climbing fern. Rosalind is hoping to pull together a one day symposium for both lygodium species trying to get everybody at the same table. The symposium would be to get a comprehensive up date about what is going on for control strategies and across agency work. See how we are doing, see what is next, see what our priorities are, see where we might re-direct research. It was suggested that this meeting could be held in conjunction with the annual 2011 FLEPPC Symposium. May be this could be a workshop? There are three hot button items as far as the management plan goes and research. One of them is management sequence: are there any examples out there as far as chopping, treating, burning? The other topic is vector control: who is doing what as far as decontamination procedures. Also spore

Lygodium continued- germination and control. Greg Jubinsky was trying to get together an SOP that was more uniform across the state for their projects. This discussion may take longer than a typical workshop, but it may be a way to get things started. Jim and Hillary agreed to help with the workshop. Rosalind will send Hillary sample questions and Hillary will help refine the questions. Rosalind will talk to Jessica and LeRoy about workshop. Jessica may be able to put a place holder in for this workshop even if an abstract is not ready at this time.

Brazilian pepper- Jim Cuda sent an e-mail saying nothing new to report.

Old Business:

-Budget - Already approved the 2010-2011 budget and budget requests.

-Scholarship Committee - Jim Burch talked with Tony about the Scholarship Committee and Tony is working on SOP. Hillary sent an e-mail to Tony about this.

-Letter of acceptance for Codes of Conduct - Jim Burney said that so far his answers have been, yes, no and I do not remember, but then Karen came up with a conversation that we had actually adopted it. Jim Burney thinks that there was some confusion on his part about the intended audience (private organizations and government organizations) and that we were not really supposed to adopt it as much as to endorse it. Karen sent an e-mail awhile back saying that we had actually adopted it and sent us signed copies. Not real sure where we are with this, may be something to follow-up on with Kariena. At minimum we endorsed it and maximum we adopted it. This is codes of conduct to deal with invasive plants in landscape, and to select plants for landscape that are not invasive. This was with the FNPS and we were supposed to send a letter, because FNPS was referring to FLEPPC list as if it was regulatory. Karen thinks that this was when she was taking notes and can look and see if she can find it. Jim Burney said that there was a Board vote on it at one time. This was tabled and needs to be followed up on for the next meeting. Jim Burch will call Karina about this.

-By-laws chair - Already address earlier.

-Check-lists - Jessica indicated she is O.K.

-Strategic Planning - Already talked about and is being worked on.

-Funding for Symposium - Jim Burch talked to Tony Pernas about seeing if there was funding from the regional Park Service Office for the symposium. Florida EPPC has never gotten it before, it was SE EPPC that gets the money on a routine basis. So, Karen suggested that FLEPPC look in to funding also, but FLEPPC has not gotten it so far. Since the NPS is still under a continuing resolution, the NPS may not know their FY2011 budget yet.

New Business:

-Other new items- Kristina Serbesoff-King mentioned that maybe FLEPPC might want to pair up with Florida Natural Areas Academy for training. (Kris sent Jim e-mail on January 7th). This may be something to discuss at the annual meeting. One of the things talked about in 2008 with the Strategic Planning Committee was what we want to do to serve our members and one of the things that came up was a stronger training component. If anyone has a chance to look at the California IPC website they actually provide full day trainings on herbicide and monitoring

New Business continued:

natural areas. They also have paid staff, so this may not be something that we could take on as a volunteer organization. But Kris works with the Natural Areas Training Academy, now out of the University of Florida, and Linda Demetropolis puts on programs. Linda would organize and set-up; FLEPPC's role would be to sponsor and help provide the training. Money generated would go to University of Florida to help with Linda's business training expenses. Could be a win-win, we could get some training, and someone else would get paid to do it. FLEPPC would want to help design the training, help with giving the training. FLEPPC would not have to do the logistics or find people for the training. Maybe we could replicate one day training from Cal-IPC and adapt to Florida, or full day of Natural Areas Herbicide training. Maybe we could organize a training day with Natural Areas Academy around next year's symposium? Maybe we should bring Linda to our annual BOD meeting at the symposium and see what Linda and FLEPPC are thinking. There is now also prescribed fire training through the Natural Areas Academy. FLEPPC plans to set time at Business meeting for this topic. Kris will follow-up with Linda to see if she can come to FLEPPC Business meeting. Kris will copy Hillary on e-mail to Linda. -We need to have another symposium planning meeting in about a few weeks.

Next board meeting: Will be at the symposium on the Monday before the symposium in Maitland, Florida.

Dianne Owen motioned to adjourn. Karen Brown seconded. All of BOD in favor and none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 1:14 PM.