



Florida EPPC

Message from our Chair

Welcome to FLEPPC in the digital age! Of course, you have probably known about the wonderful FLEPPC Website <http://www.fleppc.org/> for a long time, but there is now a good chance that you are reading this newsletter on your computer or from your own, selective print-out. In an effort to reduce paper usage and mailing costs, FLEPPC started switching to an emailed newsletter with the last issue. So far, so good but please let us know (by contacting FLEPPC Secretary Dianne Owen at dowen@fau.edu or 954-236-1085) if you have any difficulties with this format, if you would prefer to keep receiving a hard-copy in the mail, or if you want to let us know your email address so that you too can get digital copies of the newsletter.

To prevent inappropriate mass mailings to the FLEPPC membership, we will not be providing our emailing list to anyone one else without the prior approval of the FLEPPC Board of Directors. Our intent is only to contact our members via email concerning specific FLEPPC business or to provide the FLEPPC and Southeast-EPPC newsletters. You may not realize it, but you are automatically a member of SE-EPPC when you join FLEPPC so Dianne will also be sending you their newsletter by email. Now you know that you are a member of SE-EPPC, check out their website at <http://www.se-eppc.org/>.

Our Webmaster, Tony Pernas, does a fantastic job with the FLEPPC website but we are always looking for any suggestions to make it even better (you can provide feedback on the website through the link on the bottom of the homepage <http://www.fleppc.org/feedback.htm>). Use the website to find newsletters, back issues of Wildland Weeds, the Invasive Plant Lists, and many other publications. The website is also a source of information about FLEPPC business such as the annual symposium, how to renew your membership online, the people who are running your FLEPPC, and soon we will post the Standard Operating Procedures so that you will have a better idea of how the Council is run.

Of the many other components of the website, two important interactive ones are the Exotic Pest Plant Database and the List Server. We are always keen to have new sites with invasive plants added to our database (via the Field Reporting Form at <http://www.fleppc.org/database.htm>), and "Watch this space" for further news about the FLEPPC Database, our interactions with other mapping databases, and updates from the newly expanded Plant List Committee.

If you are looking for further information about exotic pest plants in Florida or if you have, or are looking for, relevant job postings, consider using FLEPPC List Server. You can

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council

OFFICERS

Alison Fox, Chair
amfox@ifas.ufl.edu

Jim Burney, Past-Chair
jburney@avcaquatic.com

Dianne Owen, Secretary
downen@fau.edu

Ellen Donlan, Treasurer
edonlan@sfwmd.gov

Karen Brown,
Editor, Wildland Weeds
kpbrown@ifas.ufl.edu

DIRECTORS

Scott Ditmarsen
Scditmarsen@dow.com

Alison Higgins
ahiggins@tnc.org

Jon Lane
Jon.S.Lane@saj02.usace.army.mil

Cheryl McCormick
Cheryl@ufl.edu

Gary Nichols
gnichols@sjrwmd.com

Tony Pernas
Tony_Pernas@nps.gov

Paul Pratt
Prattp@saa.ars.usda.gov

Donna Watkins
donna.watkins@dep.state.fl.us

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

By-Laws

Dennis Giardina
Dennis.Giardina@dep.state.fl.us

CAST Representative

Dennis Giardina
Ken Langeland (alternate)

Education

Leesa Souto
lsouto@mail.ucf.edu

FNGA/FLEPPC Liasons

Doria Gordon
Dgordon@tnc.org

Legislative

Matthew King
Mking@co.palm-beach.fl.us

Local Arrangements

Mike Bodle
mbodle@sfwmd.gov

Outreach

Katy Roberts
Kroberts@ij.net

Control and Evaluation

Michael Meisenburg
mjmeisenburg@ifas.ufl.edu

Merchandise

Tony Pernas

Nominations

Jim Burney

Plant List

Keith Bradley
Bradley@regionalconservation.org

Research

John Volin
jvolin@fau.edu

Training

Jim Duquesnel
james.g.duquesnel@dep.state.fl.us

Vendors

Todd Olson,
Todd@avcaquatic.com

Website

Tony Pernas

TASK FORCE CHAIRS

Australian Pine

Rob Egan
HabitatRR@yahoo.com

Brazilian Pepper

Jim Cuda
jcuda@ifas.ufl.edu

Carrotwood

Chris Lockhart
Chris.lockhart@habitatspecialists.com

Casuarina

Tony Pernas

Colubrina

Cheryl McCormick

Dioscorea

Bill Overholt
waoverholt@mail.ifas.ufl.edu

Grasses

Greg MacDonald
gmac.mail.ifas.ufl.edu

Lygodium

LeRoy Rodgers
Lrodgers@sfwmd.gov
Kris Serbesoff-King
kserbesoffking@tnc.org

Skunkvine

Brian Nelson
Brian.Nelson@swfwmd.state.fl.us

Chinese Tallow

Drew Leslie
drew.leslie@dep.state.fl.us

Melaleuca

FrancoisLaroche
Flaroche@sfwmd.gov
Cressida Silvers
csilvers@saa.ars.usda.gov

subscribe (or unsubscribe) via the FLEPPC website or at <http://www.fleppc.org/listserv.htm> and this is an excellent way to keep your finger on the pulse of what is going on or being discussed in relation to invasive plants in Florida. Having this tool allows us to direct most requests that we receive to publicize relevant events, job vacancies, and online discussions to the List Server instead of to the whole FLEPPC membership list. Of course, you will not see those postings if you have not subscribed to the List Server so consider signing up if you have not done so already. Thanks to users acting responsibly in their posting to the List Server, it has proven to be a wonderful communication tool and its influence will only improve as more people sign-on. For a more regional perspective, also consider joining the SE-EPPC List Server at <http://www.se-eppc.org/listserv/>

As you will see from the Minutes we had another productive Board of Directors meeting in September. Some specific highlights to look for are: the FLEPPC donation in memory of Kathy Burks to the R. K. Godfrey endowment fund at FSU and the decision to name the grants provided by the FLEPPC Education Committee after Kathy; the adoption of Codes of Conduct by the Florida Department of Transportation that explicitly call for phasing out of any use of FLEPPC Category I and II species; formation of a new committee the "Control and Evaluation Committee" with Michael Meisenburg as the new Chair; and notice that the **2007 Annual Symposium** will be held at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront, Cocoa Beach from **Monday April 30th through noon on Thursday May 3rd** with an afternoon of field-trips in the middle. Hold those dates and watch the website for more program information – we hope to see you there!

Alison Fox, Chair

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
 Sept 19, 2006
 Eldora House, Canaveral National Seashore
 New Smyrna Beach

These minutes will be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval at the meeting scheduled for January 23, 2007.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM. Minutes taken by Karen Brown.

Attended by: Karen Brown, Jim Burney, Scott Ditmarsen, Ellen Donlan, Alison Fox, Doria Gordon, Alison Higgins, Matthew King, Jon Lane, Chris Lockhart, Cheryl McCormick, Michael Meisenburg, Gary Nichols, Paul Pratt, LeRoy Rodgers, Donna Watkins. Guests: Dr. Bill Castle, UF/IFAS-Lake Alfred REC; Mr. Peter Spike, The Orange Shop, Citra.

Matt King served as proxy for Tony Pernas.
 Ellen Donlan served as proxy for Kris Serbesoff-King.

ADMINSTRATIVE AGENDA

Approval of Previous Minutes

Jim Burney made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting, after Alison Fox reviewed the Addenda concerning two email votes. Paul Pratt seconded and it was unanimously accepted.

Treasurer's Report – Ellen Donlan, proxy for Kris Serbesoff-King

The budget was presented for discussion and approval. It was suggested to eliminate the use of American Express due to excessive charges so Ellen is going to find out what the charges are including web use versus non-web use (not using it as an online option). The budget requests for two committees (Education and Plant List) needed further explanation, particularly because it seemed likely that money was being budgeted for travel which is not typically approved in the budget. It also needed to be established if printing of a new plant list next year was included for the Plant List committee. A motion was made by Donna Watkins to accept the budget with the exception of Education, Plant List, Biological Control, and Operational committees (the latter two being new or proposed committees that have not discussed budgets yet). Paul Pratt seconded. The

motion was accepted unanimously. It was subsequently established that the Biological Control committee did not need a budget.

It was further suggested that justifications be provided with budget requests in the future. For example, line-item budget requests would be required but once the total was approved, committees would be accountable for the total expenditures not by line-item. It was also discussed that the budget should provide income information side by side with expense information, to give a more accurate picture of the true budget for the year. For example, Karen Brown noted that income (e.g. from Wildland Weeds supporters) is not listed, which changes the overall Editor's budget from a negative balance to a positive and the Symposium income changes the financial picture, as well. Although it was suggested that we might have an auditor or accountant review our finances it was decided that Ellen Donlan (MBA) should be given time to take over as the new Treasurer before this is considered further. Ellen stated that she did not want to immediately start rearranging our financial records until the budget was approved and she had a full understanding of our activities. She will re-circulate the new budget once it is finished.

Old Business – establishment of an Operational Committee – Scott Ditmarsen

This item of Old Business was moved forward since it pertained to the budget and the Alison Fox wanted a decision to be made whether to form this new committee. Scott reviewed the Standard Operating Procedures that he had proposed for this new committee, and the comments he has received from Ken Langeland and Paul Pratt. Scott considered himself to be the spokesperson for this committee but did not want to be chair. A motion was made by Paul Pratt that FLEPPC establish an Operational Committee with SOPs and other details to be developed later. Jon Lane seconded the motion. There was considerable discussion about its possible functions (e.g., control reviewing trials being done in the state; development of Best Management Practices; include demonstrations and field days) and name. A friendly amendment was made, and accepted, to call it the Control and Evaluation Committee. The amended motion was

accepted unanimously.

Michael Meisenburg (present) was nominated and approved as chair of this new committee and he was requested to work with Scott to refine the SOPs and to decide how much input the FLEPPC Board of Directors (BOD) should have with regard to the committee's operations and approvals of findings. For example, the FLEPPC BOD could make recommendations regarding which plants might be researched and other priorities. Alison Fox directed the new committee to develop the detailed SOPs and provide specific proposals of what the FLEPPC BOD should be asked to approve so that these can be voted upon (e.g., how much the committee interacts with UF-IFAS and their statewide extension recommendations and whether the FLEPPC BOD needs to endorse the committee's finding about specific control methods). Scott and Jim Burney agreed to work with Michael on this committee. Later in the meeting, Michael announced that this committee plans to have a Brazilian pepper treatment demonstration as a field trip at the 2007 symposium

Editor's Report – Karen Brown

The Fall issue of Wildland Weeds has been published and mailed and a profit was made. The possibility of not publishing the 2007 FLEPPC calendar due to time and energy constraints was mentioned but no decision was made. Favorable comments about uses of the calendar convinced Karen to pursue publication after all. Scott asked if revenue from the magazine was pretty consistent and Karen replied that it was.

Secretary's Report – Dianne Owen (report presented by Alison Fox)

Alison Fox considered that there needs to be clear oversight of BOD votes conducted by email between meetings. The Chair should organize electronic motions with no voting until the Chair indicates it is appropriate it would be a duty of the Secretary to keep records. A concern is that there is usually no discussion between a motion being made and the vote and that not everyone can participate if they cannot check email

as often as others. Electronic motions would be accepted from individual board members but the Chair would provide a set time (maybe 3 and 5 days) for discussion prior to voting so that all would have time to participate. Alison proposed that this should be an SOP item and agreed to work with Dianne to develop this and add this information as an addendum to the minutes of the current board meeting.

Dianne is still analyzing how many people are agreeing to receive their newsletters as email attachments. She asked if the newly updated mailing list, which includes email addresses, should be shared with SE-EPPC and anyone else for mailings. It was proposed to publicize the FLEPPC list server in the next newsletter to encourage people to sign up and make it a more useful avenue for dissemination of information, but to not share our email listings with others except with FLEPPC BOD approval. Dianne would be asked whether dissemination of the SE-EPPC electronic newsletter to FLEPPC members was an acceptable addition to the Secretary's duties.

Jim Burney moved to accept the officer's reports. Donna seconded. Unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

By-Laws – Dennis Giardina (report presented by Alison Fox)

Responding to suggestions made at the April 2006 FLEPPC BOD meeting and to resolve a conflict with Article X section 4, Alison proposed a change to bylaws that would eliminate the membership fee schedule from the bylaws (Article X section 8 –was mis-numbered as 6). Other references to this fee schedule would also be removed (Article III sections 1 and 2). Also in Article X, in section 6 "general membership" would be changed to "Board of Directors" to accurately reflect the budget approval process that occurs at the Fourth Quarter Directors Meeting. It was discussed whether the general membership needed to approve the budget in addition to the BOD but this has not been the previous procedure. Instead the newsletter and the Treasurer's Report at the annual business meeting present information on the budget to the general membership. It was proposed that the approved budget be included in the newsletter along with the last year's incomes and expenses so

that the general membership could see the budget in a more realistic context.

Article IV section 5 would be clarified to indicate that an annual audit would be made in cooperation with SE-EPPC, and the word “mail” in Article IV section 6 would be changed to “distribute” due to include email. Two other changes were purely spelling and grammatical. It was suggested that when any revisions are approved the revision date would be changed and the word “Accepted” would be added to the amended bylaws.

Jim Burney made a motion to accept the changes to the By-Laws as presented and Alison Higgins seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Alison Fox will work with Dennis to put the proposed By-Law changes into the pre-symposium Newsletter for the general membership to review before voting on them at the Annual Meeting.

Approval of the SOPs was tabled until further reviews are completed. Some changes will be made as a result of the current meeting (e.g., adding the new committee and standardizing committee names). A SOP for the SOPs is needed to specify who will keep track of them and to indicate whether or not the board has to approve changes. Once approved, the SOPs will be posted on the FLEPPC website.

Donna Watkins reported that the FLEPPC officer and committee checklists and calendar were still in progress. It was agreed that further direction was needed, and will be provided, from the Chair. The objective will be to have the calendar and checklists online so that it will be available for future officers and chairs and so that the general membership can get a clearer understanding of how FLEPPC operates. Once completed, it will be necessary in the SOPs to assign someone the task of keeping these documents up-to-date.

The opportunity was taken to discuss standardizing the committee names. The following committee names were agreed as the standards: Plant Industry Liaison; Symposium Program; Symposium Program – Field Trips; Website (the chair

can still be the Webmaster); Outreach (instead of Membership and Publicity – the existing Outreach committee will be deleted as discussed below). Several officers and committees have responsibilities for the Symposium and the possibility of making these sub-committees of a Symposium committee will be considered in the future. Clarification of some current chairs included Tony Pernas as the chair of the *Casuarina* task force and LeRoy Rodgers and Kris Serbesoff-King being co-chairs of the Lygodium Task Force.

Guest presentation – Dr. Bill Castle, UF-Lake Alfred REC and Pete Spyke, a third-generation commercial citrus grower

Bill and Pete had requested to give a presentation about how *Casuarina cunninghamiana* might be useful for windbreaks to reduce the spread of citrus canker now that the eradication program has ended in Florida. Their specific request was for input from the FLEPPC BOD on their proposal and an opportunity to continue such discussions with a wider audience at the Annual Symposium. The slide presentation showed the symptoms of citrus canker which is caused by sticky bacteria which are dispersed by wind, animals, people and can be move 50-60 miles by hurricane winds. Millions of dollars are at stake in Florida due to horticulture problem (selling nursery citrus plants), reduced tree productivity, and unsightly fruit which causes restrictions on shipping. Citrus growers have been looking in South America, where they are successfully dealing with the problem largely by using disinfecting equipment and establishing windbreaks that keep wind from spreading the canker. Windbreak trees can protect citrus trees for a downwind distance of 10 x the height of the windbreak trees, thus 60 ft tall trees are needed to allow 10-acre blocks to be effectively surrounded with wind-breaks (there being no predominant wind direction in Florida). *Eucalyptus grandis* and *Grevillea robusta* (silk oak) and *Casuarina* are considered in South America and South Africa to be the only trees tall enough to be useful. Eucalyptus is not ideal because it has few lower branches, has to be planted very closely together (expensive) and has a very competitive root system so citrus has to be planted 90 ft away wasting land. Pines are a possible native option but they are slower growing and have fewer lower branches, so a

second row of something else has to be planted for lower level windbreak protection. Silk oaks lose lower branches and the tops break out and are not replaced. Bamboo grows too thickly because 40% of the wind must pass through or turbulent flow over the windbreak will continue to spread canker on the citrus.

Casuarina spp. grow fast, very tall, with a bottom to top canopy and do not compete with the citrus trees. *C. equisetifolia*, *C. glauca*, *C. cunninghamiana* are the species in Florida with *C. equisetifolia* and *C. glauca* being the worst problems FLEPPC category I. *C. cunninghamiana* is considered to be "better-behaved" (FLEPPC category II) since it rarely produces suckers and the species is dioecious. The proposal is for a licensed nursery to provide only male plants for establishment around citrus groves and possibly include a tax per tree which would go into a fund for control of *C. equisetifolia* and/or *C. glauca*. The growers would support getting permits from DEP (as opposed to delisting the species) because *Casuarina* spp. are prohibited by DEP rule. On initial enquiry, DEP has said that it will not consider permitting this species for this purpose. The citrus industry representatives would like to formally present a more comprehensive proposal that considers all the likely objections. Time is a critical element for the growers who could not tolerate several years of compromised production along with reducing costs and the areas of non-productive land.

The following feedback was provided by members of the FLEPPC BOD: Cheryl McCormick expressed concern about introgression being a possible problem and male trees being a large reservoir for hybridization. There has been hybridization in the past between species but hybrid vigor is not known with certainty and more research is needed. Ellen Donlan noted tha hurricanes could easily knock *Casuarina* trees down. LeRoy Rodgers and Paul Pratt noted that biocontrol agents are currently being sought for *Casuarina* spp. They anticipated that either the windbreak trees could be impacted by introduced agents or, if the species became an important tool for growers, the search for useful biocontrol agents could be seriously compromised if enemies of *C. cunninghamiana* had to be avoided. Doria Gordon asked whether species that were recently seen in NZ

such as podocarpus and other pines were being considered. Dr. Castle said CREC has a website with a comprehensive windbreak section and that after all the research they have done it all comes down to *C. cunninghamiana* being the best idea so far. Although fully sterile cultivars might alleviate any hybridization concerns, they would take time to develop and this does not resolve the biocontrol conflict.

These discussions were continued through lunch. Various suggestions were made to increase the opportunities for input by FLEPPC members such as sending out a message on the list server, putting an article in Wildland Weeds, and presenting the topic for discussion at the 2007 symposium.

Memorial Contribution Standards *ad hoc* committee - Jim Burney

Jim proposed a document formalizing nominations for memorial contributions. There was some discussion about the need for this, what other forms of recognition might be appropriate, and how such as system would be implemented. Jim and the *ad hoc* committee will review this further.

Concerning a specific decision on an appropriate memorial for Kathy Burks there appeared to be interest from other organizations in contributing to an endowment or fund but it was concluded that FLEPPC might not be large enough to manage or support a new program. Instead it was recognized that the existing RK Godfrey endowment for the study of botany by a full-time FSU graduate student for MS or PhD was already established and had been identified by Kathy's family. Karen Brown made the motion that FLEPPC contribute \$500 to the RKG endowment fund in the name of Kathy Burks. Jim Burney seconded. Money from FY 05/06 will be used. After some discussion about the proposed amount and whether another mechanism of recognition could be established, the motion was passed unanimously. Donna Watkins moved to name the funds dispersed by the Education Committee after Kathy Burks (similar to the Julia Morton Research Awards. Karen Brown seconded the motion which was passed unanimously. The additional idea of a student paper competition and prize named as a memorial was tabled for further discussion at a

later board meeting.

Education Committee – Leesa Souto and Chris Lockhart

In response to the question raised during the budget discussion concerning the request from this committee for \$1,000 in travel reimbursement and supplies, Chris Lockhart indicated that she did not think that Leesa could attend most FLEPPC BOD meetings without some financial support. There was some discussion about whether a policy did, or should, exist on the issue of reimbursing officers and committee chairs for travel expenses as a budget item. In view of the Board's hesitancy to make this a routine expectation for any officer or committee, Alison Fox suggested that perhaps such travel funds should be requested as needed from the Chair's discretionary funds rather than funding travel in the annual budget. Alison will formally contact Leesa and Keith Bradley (who made a similar request). Chris then altered the budget request for the Education Committee from \$6,000 to \$5,250 to allow \$5,000 for grants and \$250 for expenses. Alison Higgins made the motion to accept this revised budget for the Education Committee and Jim Burney seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Leesa's committee report also discussed a proposal to conduct a survey of public perceptions and behaviors regarding invasive plants. This might be done in conjunction with the Native Plant Society but which could cost approximately \$50,000 and Leesa wanted to know whether FLEPPC would be interested in cost-sharing (although it was not clear exactly what this meant). Paul Pratt indicated that a survey idea was good but very expensive and would require an equally expensive follow up survey. A major question was what would be done with any information gathered, i.e., what was the long-term objective? Paul reported that the Florida Invasive Species Working Group (ISWG) also recently did a survey but it was not clear what had been the resulting benefits. TAME Melaleuca tried a survey as well and ended up firing the people they contracted with little learned. It was concluded that the FLEPPC BOD needs more details on what other groups were doing, and what the objectives, timeline, and long-term goals were. Leesa would be encouraged to prepare a presentation on this for the

next BOD meeting.

Legislative Committee – Matt King

Several items of pending and current legislation as noted in Matt's report were reviewed. Matt also discussed the two letters to be sent by the National Associations of EPPCs (NAEPPC) that the board recently voted by email to sign. NAEPPC is working on a better protocol for obtaining votes on position papers and/or letters, etc. For example, does support have to be unanimous? These two letters were test cases, hoping that all Invasive Plant Councils (IPCs) and EPPCs would endorse them. They were concerning Public Law 108-412, the Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Act, which was signed into federal law but not funded, and Senate Bill 1288, Natural Resources Protection Cooperative Agreement Act which is intended to allow the National Park Service to work on private lands adjoining their property. Other agencies have this permission but NPS does not. The NAEPPC board was to meet on Sept 20, 2006 to discuss the final letters which have been endorsed by most, but not all, affiliated groups. Matt addressed the question of the amount of lobbying that we are allowed to do as non-profit organizations, and assured the FLEPPC BOD that we are well within those limits. Another option is to advertise NAEPPC as an information source concerning such legislation but not actually suggesting how legislators vote. It was proposed that we get feedback on the role of NAEPPC in relation to such matters. Tony Pernas (NAEPPC President) and Matt (Legislative Committee Chair) and Mike Bodle (NAEPPC Secretary) can serve as our liaisons with this group.

Local Arrangements – Mike Bodle

The 2007 meeting has been booked for the Holiday Inn Oceanfront, Cocoa Beach, from Monday April 30th through noon on Thursday May 3rd. There was some discussion about whether there was a local person available to take care of the symposium arrangements after the symposium contract is signed. This was tabled until after further discussions with Mike Bodle and investigation of whether there was anyone local to the area who could help.

Membership – Katy Roberts

Karen Brown indicated that she will help

Katy to update graphics for the display since the Editor has access to professional layout services. Alison Fox proposed that the committee name be changed to be more reflective of its current function, which is predominantly tracing and staffing the FLEPPC display and encouraging new members. Given that the existing Outreach Committee had essentially ceased to function in terms of providing media and public relations since Tom Fucigna's resignation as chair, it was decided to abolish that committee from the SOPs. Instead the name would be transferred to the duties that Katy Roberts' was fulfilling and the Membership Committee would become the Outreach Committee. The SOPs will be changed accordingly and Alison will help Katy with defining the roles of this committee and she will find out what has been accomplished to date with regard to the display.

Merchandise – Tony Pernas - No report

Nominations – Jim Burney

The first call for nominations will occur in Sept 2006; the second call in Oct. 2006; nominees will be contacted in Nov – Dec 2006; and the slate will be submitted in Jan 2007. Jim circulated a nominations form and it was noted that Chair-elect will be needed this year in addition to four Directors. Karen Brown and Dianne Owen had volunteered to serve on the nominations committee. Jim volunteered Dianne for the committee in her absence. Jim will request that the nominations form go on the website so that the general membership can have access to it.

Vendors – Todd Olson (report presented by Jim Burney)

Once Todd has received the symposium pricing and location information from Mike Bodle he will establish prices for vendor spaces and begin contacting vendors.

Plant Industry Liaison – Doria Gordon

At the suggestion of The Nature Conservancy and FLEPPC, when the FL Department of Transportation (principal liaison - Jeff Castor) was revising their landscape codes they also adopted Voluntary Codes of Conduct with regard to invasive plants based on the broader codes developed at the Missouri Botanical Congress. A letter of recognition will be sent from FLEPPC to FDOT to commend

them for this action. This is a major achievement since FDOT is one of the state's largest users of plants.

Doria continues to look for feedback as to whether anyone finds Lowes Home Improvement stores that are still selling any of the species that the FNGLA agreed should be removed from the market.

Alison Higgins reported on a statewide list of alternatives to invasive species. It has been created in conjunction with FNGLA and is mostly complete due to work by Doria. Alison Higgins will compile the information so that Doria can present it to the industry representatives. Alison Higgins will be submitting an article to Wildland Weeds on the Green Thumbs nursery certification program organized by TNC in the Keys and she will also talk about this at the symposium.

Plant List – Keith Bradley

New members to committee are: Pat Howell, Colette Jacono, Chris Lockhart, Gil Nelson, Jimi Sadle, Bob Simmons, and Sandra Vardaman, bringing the committee membership to 14 (two former members have stepped down). A committee meeting is planned to occur soon.

Research Committee – John Volin

The low number of proposals submitted this year indicates that directing emails with the Request for Proposals to potential recipients or advisors has been an effective mechanism to publicize this program in the past. The timeline for sending out RFPs needs to be included in the FLEPPC calendar and provided to the Editor for inclusion in Wildland Weeds.

Training – Jim Duquesnel

Jim has expressed concern as to whether he has enough time to continue chairing this committee. Donna Watkins offered to help him with logistical matters such as entering CEU data from the symposium.

Website – Tony Pernas

Alison Fox stated that she would encourage members to sign-up for the list server in her next newsletter article. She will also check with Tony as to whether archives of the list server discussions

could be made available as per the request of Mike Meisenburg who saw that some control methods discussions might be useful to the Control and Evaluation Committee.

TASK FORCES

Australian pine – No report

Brazilian peppertree

The management plan will be provided on a CD in Wildland Weeds and Jim Cuda's report outlined studies on wax myrtle competition with, and biological control of, Brazilian peppertree.

Carrotwood

Chris Lockhart reported she now has some help on the management plan with an offer from Cheryl McCormick and Aimee Cooper. It should be ready before the next symposium.

Chinese tallow

Cheryl McCormick reported that the management plan is on the website; she's collecting new research data.

Colubrina

Cheryl reported the management plan is done, except for one case study. It should go on the next CD in WWs.

Dioscorea

Bill Overholt is waiting for case studies to hopefully finish the management report by the end of the year.

Exotic grasses – No report

Lygodium

A task force meeting will be held soon (after postponement due to storms). LeRoy Rodgers had many requests for the management plan in response to an Orlando Sentinel notice, so he had several print copies made and more CDs. They plan to address *L. japonicum* soon.

Melaleuca – No report

Skunkvine – No report

OLD BUSINESS

The proposal for FLEPPC to become a named cooperator of the Plant Conservation Alliance was tabled again.

Discussion about developing position Papers was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

Cheryl McCormick reported that the second edition of the Langeland and Craddock Burks book, titled *Non Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas*, will cover all FLEPPC Category I and II species and the manuscript is now at IFAS Publications. It will be spiral bound, for sale in regular bookstores, and for sale at the 2007 symposium.

Doria Gordon reported that Progress Energy is again planning to plant large areas of *Arundo donax* as an energy fuel. Doria considers that FLEPPC should voice opposition before this happens by writing a letter to the state government expressing concern. She will draft a letter for discussion at the next board meeting. This species is a serious invasive weed problem in California but it is not on the FLEPPC Invasive Plant Lists and the IFAS Assessment of the Status of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas indicates not a problem species in Florida at this time. Prediction studies put it in the *Evaluate Further* category. Karen Brown reported that David Spencer at UC-Davis had completed comparative studies between CA and FL plant material and their growth characteristics were essentially the same. These data are to be published.

Next Board meeting – will tentatively be on January 23; in Cocoa Beach to evaluate the symposium facility.

Karen Brown made the motion to adjourn that was seconded by Ellen Donlan and unanimously accepted

Attachments referenced in the minutes can be obtained by contacting the board member, committee chair or task force chair who presented that agenda item.



**NEXT FLEPPC BOARD MEETING:
JANUARY 23, 2007
HOLIDAY INN OCEANFRONT
COCOA BEACH, FL**