



Florida EPPC

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Thanks to everyone who attended this year's Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's annual symposium that was held in Crystal River, Florida. This was the twenty-fifth symposium, which indicates that FLEPPC has been active for at least twenty-six years. This meeting was duly commemorated in print on a soon-to-be valuable collector's T-shirt created specifically for this occasion. This was a successful meeting with good attendance and a great deal of valuable information exchanged. We missed entertainment by "The Weeds" this year, but "Big Wiggler" was an excellent stand-in group, and really did sound like Jeff Airplane much of the time.

Jon Lane provided overall organization for the symposium with valuable assistance from Jessica Spencer and Mike Bodle as always made local arrangement coordination look much easier than it is; it's a great deal of complex work well done. Dianne Owen organized registration and finances, Donna Watkins organized the well-received field excursions. Ben Gugliotti kept CEU credits straightened out for everyone. LeRoy Rodgers coordinated the several valuable workshops, and Bill Kline contacted many vendors for participation. Karen Brown acted as scrivener for the business meeting, and will have a symposium synopsis in *Wildland Weeds*. Tony Pernas provided merchandise in addition to the collector's T-shirt, with an addition this year of a one-occupant watercraft; this was confirmed to float in the hotel pool shortly after it was claimed by the winning participant. Many others not mentioned provided help in many ways to create this successful meeting. The vendors' participation is valuable and very productive for much of the audience, and the Plantation Inn and staff provided a very professional and pleasant venue for our meeting.

Changes in members' activities include Jim Burney stepping down from the Chair position; this was not his first time as chair, but as past chair he accepted the position after two successive chairs accepted other responsibilities early in their terms of office. Jim was good enough to assume the seat and maintain a smooth transition. Hillary Burgess (FLEPPC board secretary) was presented the "Member of the Year Award," and will move on to graduate school in Washington State. She is a good hand and we will keep reminding her of the many opportunities for dissertation projects in our area. Board members Adam Grayson, Todd Olson, and Dustin Hormann finished two-year terms, but we plan to see them participating in other things after this. During the business meeting these seats were filled by election of the membership at hand of nominees Dan Bergeson (SePRO Corp.), Erin P. Myers (USFWS), Mike Renda (TNC), and Michael Yustin (Martin County). Conversation during the meeting was typical for a gathering like this, but one topic besides exotics management was common. It is no surprise that nearly everyone has concerns about economics and current uncertainty that is part of our national and local finances. All are feeling a financial squeeze; symposium attendance was good, but slightly down, and some FLEPPC programs are on hold. This suggests we make some changes for a while, and creates an opportunity to emphasize avenues of development within the organization. Specifically,

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it creates an opportunity for us to put greater energy into development of FLEPPC strategic planning and policy development. This planning concept was started at least two years ago, and has moved forward, but like many things needs some time to build momentum. We have some things partly developed and moving ahead, and we have many things partly developed and moving ahead, and we can build on these things to create planning tools that will help provide structure for strategic development and policy for the future. Specifically, emphasis should be considered for:

Development of strategic planning for FLEPPC; Identification of actions and priorities to accomplish the strategies identified in the plan; Develop time lines for implementation of specific planned actions within the duration of the plan; Have concepts for this general outline put together for review by the Board of Directors by the end of this year. Developing plans involves much time exchanging ideas, and results in policies that will provide consistent direction for interaction with the general public, regulatory agencies, researchers, universities, businesses, and other entities involved with exotic plant control. FLEPPC is well equipped to produce this platform, as the membership is diverse, full of ideas, and always willing to push hard to lead the way. It's the best.

Jim Burch, FLEPPC Chair

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council

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**Florida EPPC Board of Directors Meeting
January 19, 2010 (9:00AM-4:00PM)
IFAS PolyCom Facilities**

Administrative

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Jim Burney at 9.24am. In attendance were Jim Burney, Adam Grayson, Ben Gugliotti, Bob Farley, Todd Olson, Pat Howell, Karen Brown, Dianne Owen, Hillary Burgess, Jim Burch, Ellen Donlan, Donna Watkins (call in), Jessica Spencer (call in as a proxy for Jon Lane) and Bill Kline (call in). This constituted a quorum of the Board of Directors.

Approval of Last Minutes

Hillary Burgess motioned and Adam Grayson seconded to approve the minutes of the previous board meeting.

Chair Activities

2009-10 FLEPPC Symposium Conference Calls- Jim has been leading these and thinks they have been doing well.

Correspondence - Jim has been answering questions or forwarding them to Kris Serbesoff-King and Keith Bradley. Karen asked if e-mail requests or questions are saved and put on file. Jim responded that he had not copied them to the secretary for the FLEPPC files but could begin doing so.

Treasurer's Report - Dianne Owen - Report available from secretary. Dianne is reimbursing Hillary for the \$25.00 registration fee for outreach at Fairchild Tropical

Botanic Garden's Ramble event. Registration dates and costs for the symposium need to be established. The checking account is at approximately \$14,000. Donna asked for \$700.00 up front to pay for field trip lunches that would be reimbursed after registration fees had been collected. Dianne is concerned about how this would work in the budget balance, and increase our expenses.

Editor's Report - Karen Brown - Cleared \$1000 or less on the Fall issue, Winter Issue goes to press today (1/19/09). It is a 28 page issue. Invasive Plant Control is nearly the sole ad support. If they drop there may be a need to re-examine support for the magazine. Karen thinks this wouldn't need to be a BOD meeting concern but perhaps a separate Wildland Weeds meeting to address issues of the magazine. So far the magazine is still doing okay and is able to fund itself, but is just not bringing in the money that it used to. Karen has received the annual chapter contribution from SE-EPPC and it has been forwarded to Dianne.

Secretary's Report - Hillary Burgess - Hillary sent out a newsletter on January 14th. She will send out the next newsletter as soon as the registration form is completed, and she receives the slate of nominees for the new members of the board, and the program at-a-glance.

Jim Burney motioned and Adam seconded to accept the officer reports. This motion was accepted unanimously by the board.

Committee Reports

Bylaws - Sandra Vardaman - No report. She sent an updated copy of the by-

laws to Hillary for the secretary's records.

Control and Evaluation - LeRoy Rodgers - Jim Burney reported that plans are progressing for the Withlacoochee State Forest Demonstration Project field trip for the upcoming symposium.

Education - Jennifer Possley - Report available from secretary.

Finance - Ellen Donlan - No report. Ellen wondered if it was too late for the finance committee to review the budget for this year. This was something that was discussed last time. Dianne commented that the grants would have to come out of the savings this year unless there was a really large profit coming from somewhere this year, which seemed unlikely. She recalled that the board decided at the last meeting that it was important to continue with the grants. Jim Burney thought it would be important for the Finance Committee to discuss which account of FLEPPC savings the grants would come out of. Dianne commented that this might not matter since none of the accounts are making money at this time. Ellen requested that they plan a finance committee meeting and that Dianne attend. Dianne agreed that they would hold a phone meeting. Jim suggested that since the CDs are not making much money at this time, it might be worth not renewing them when they come due.

Legislative - Matt King - Report available from secretary. Jim commented that there could possibly be a need for a letter of support to senators regarding the 100th Meridian Invasive Species State Revolving Loan Fund

Merchandise - Tony Pernas - Jim Burch gave an update from Tony. He is

planning to get t-shirts. He is concerned about putting the date of this year's symposium on the t-shirt because they don't sell the following year. The question to the board is whether or not to make them with the date on them. Jim Burney suggested that because it is themed to the symposium it should have a date. Ellen suggested ordering fewer this year so that there is higher demand and that we don't have too many extras. Jim Burney agreed, noting that we already have generic FLEPPC t-shirts that lack dates. Dianne suggested that there need to be a couple of size XXL shirts because there are always requests. Karen noted that the t-shirt does not contain the date or location of the symposium or the website address. Jim Burch will mention this to Tony and will see what his thoughts are regarding the content of the t-shirt. Karen also asked if there would also be Control Freak shirts.

Nominations - Jim Burney - Jim made a last call for nominations. Many names have been suggested so far. There are four positions to be filled. Jim Burch, Dustin Hormann, Adam Grayson, and Todd Olson are outgoing. The call for nominations will be open for another week and a half or so. Then they will begin narrowing down nominees and should have a final slate by a week from Friday.

Outreach - Robert Farley - Bob wondered what the money allocated for outreach was in this year's budget. Dianne stated that \$200.00 was the amount. Katy Roberts took materials to the FDAC CEU class and a Florida Native Plant Society meeting. Katy will also attend the Tampa Bay Growers show. Bob will send out a request for assistance with the Tampa Bay Growers show. Bob commented that registration fees for tables could potentially be cost prohibitive. Karen commented that generally fees are waived because

we are a non-profit organization. Karen commented that Bob's company printed out membership forms for free. Previously, Dianne had suggested a poster be made that could be sent via e-mail and then printed on-site by folks that are doing outreach, rather than sending the materials via mail. Karen will revisit this idea. Adam had previously offered to help Karen. Bob offered that he has access to a graphic designer that could help.

Plant Industry Liaison - Doria Gordon - Report available from secretary.

Plant List - Keith Bradley - No report. Jim Burney mentioned that a new *Mikania* has been discovered in the Redlands and that Keith is assessing the status and range of this plant.

Position Paper - Jim Burch - Jim has spoken with Doria and has begun outlining something. He will send out an update in a couple of weeks.

Research - Betsy Von Holle - Betsy sent Karen an RFP for Wildland Weeds. Both the Research and Grants RFPs are on the website, though the one for research is not updated. Karen will contact Betsy to send an updated version to Chuck.

Scholarship - Tony Pernas - No report.

Strategic Planning - Jonathan Taylor - No report.

Symposium Local Arrangements - Mike Bodle - Mike called around to find an off-site location for the banquet. There were no good leads so he will be moving forward with the hotel, focusing on the least expensive options. Mike feels that the options are not unreasonable, and are cheaper than last year. Jim Burney stated that the facilities are adequate. He also suggested that the website

should include information about attractions and activities near the symposium location in an effort to attract people to come and to stay. He already has some ideas.

Symposium Program - Jon Lane - (Jessica Spencer called in as a proxy)

The program is already mostly laid out. They are awaiting communication from Keith Bradley about doing a presentation. The program-at-a-glance will be ready to go by the end of the week. This will be sent to Ben for application for CEUs soon. Online registration is the next pending issue. Donna brought up the thought that \$15.00 might be a better price (last year it was \$20.00) since FLEPPC is no longer providing transportation. Dianne commented that there are costs associated with the field trips that still need to be covered. It was agreed that the costs will remain at \$20.00 due to costs and a lack of revenue this year. Hillary will consolidate the needed information for the registration form, including workshop descriptions that Jessica will send, and then forward to Chuck.

Donna will send the descriptions to Ben so that he can use them to apply for CEUs.

Jim brought up the symposium registration fees and asked the board whether or not the fees should be changed. There was no disagreement with the previous fees and so everyone agreed to keep the fee at \$120 for early, and \$150 for registration two weeks or less from the symposium. As for the dates of registration, the early cost will end two weeks prior to the symposium. Registration will begin as soon as it is up on the web.

Ellen asked how free membership that is gained via symposium registration was handled. Dianne flags the membership database as to wheth-

er or not folks are eligible for free membership for that year. If they have already renewed and register for the symposium, they receive a free year when their current year becomes due.

CEUs - Ben Gugliotti - Ben will apply for CEUs once he receives the agenda, field trip and workshop descriptions. Once they have been confirmed they can be placed on the website to entice registration.

On-line registration - Dianne Owen - This was addressed above.

Symposium Field Trips - Donna Watkins. No Report.

Vendor - Bill Kline - Bill has confirmed approximately 16 vendors. Bill called in via telephone. He sent out letters in December to vendors that have participated in the past telling them when/where the symposium would be. Bill also sent a separate letter to prospective vendors. Bill expressed some anxiety that registration was not yet open given the needs to confirm vendors and get them registered. Karen commented that it should be ready within the next few days.

Jim brought up the thought that was discussed last meeting of requiring ads on our website or in Wildland Weeds for vendors. Karen didn't think this was a good idea for this short of notice. Bill suggested that 2010 vendors could opt to advertise on the website, either for free or a small cost. Jim Burney suggested that Ellen and the Finance Committee could look into it. Bill thought that he could present the idea this year at the symposium to the vendors and gauge their interest. Dianne suggested that the symposium section of the website could list the vendors/sponsors. Once they reg-

ister they would be added. It was agreed that this would be a great way to recognize vendors. She offered to discuss this with Chuck. As far as greater website presence or ad space in Wildland Weeds, the Finance Committee can do a feasibility study in the future, and Bill can gauge interest.

Website - Chuck Barger - No report.

Liaisons with other organizations

SE-EPPC Liaison - Karen Brown/Tony Pernas - No report.

NA-EPPC Liaison - Matt King / Tony Pernas - No report.

Operations

Old Business

Acceptance of FNPS Code of Conduct - Bob Farley motioned to endorse the FNPS Codes of Conduct. Hillary seconded the motion and it was accepted unanimously by the board. Jim Burney will write a letter to FNPS stating our endorsement and addressing the concerns about how the codes are suggesting the use of the FLEPPC List.

FNPS/FLEPPC Joint 2011 Conference - Karina Veaudry sent an e-mail recently wanting to set up another call. Jim Burch will take this on and will be the point person moving forward for coordinating this event. Karina also had some questions that Mike Bodle will be able to answer.

Disclaimer on Plant List - This was brought up at a previous meeting when it was suggested that there be an explanation on the list that states that it was developed for educational not regulatory reasons. In some cases, agencies are using the list as a guideline in contracts for plant removal. It was decided that this is okay as long

as it is recognized that the FLEPPC list has no regulatory authority. The list has already been printed for this year but the topic can be discussed for future years.

Registration Fees and Final Registration Form - The form has been completed and will be sent by Hillary to folks for review prior to sending it on to Chuck. This will be done ASAP.

New Business

Posting list of vendors on website, requiring ad in WW - This was covered with Bill Kline earlier.

Budget Amendment, \$700 for field trip lunch upfront cost - Ben motioned to accept the above budget amendment. Todd seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by the board.

Developing a Speakers Bureau. There was an idea of developing a list of members that would be willing to give talks on topics. Jim Burney wondered about developing a PowerPoint presentation that could be given. Jim and Bob Farley agreed that this might be a task for outreach. Jim Burney already has one developed. There can be others added to the library. Bob will work on this. Karen received and forwarded an example from the Mid-Atlantic-EPPC.

Brochures and web links to attractions local to the 2010 Symposium. Jim will work on this and send to Hillary to send on to Chuck Barger.

Discuss FISP resolution

Karen motioned to endorse the Florida Invasive Species Partnership (FISP) resolution, Hillary seconded the motion. It was accepted unanimously by the board. Jim will sign the resolution and send to Kris Serbesoff-King.

Bob Farley Brought up that the graph-

ics needed for the t-shirt and website logo require an additional \$90.00. Jim Burney offered that this money could come from the Chair's discretionary budget.

Jim Burch brought up that FLEPPC brought education/outreach materials to the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Ramble in November as well as to the Invasive Species Meeting in the Panther Refuge. Hillary/Jim Burch will send information to Bob Farley regarding this for his annual report on outreach efforts.

Next BOD meeting April 5 @ 2:00 pm.
Plantation Inn, Crystal River.

Jim Burney motioned, Karen Brown seconded and it was approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:25pm.