



MID-ATLANTIC EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL

Annual Business Meeting - August 9, 2006

Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown, NJ

October 27, 2006 (Final Draft for Approval)

Meeting called to order at 5:45pm by Jil Swearingen, Vice President, in the absence of the President.

Officers Present: Jil Swearingen, Vice President

Board Members Present: Carole Bergmann; Michael Van Clef; Marc Imlay; Andrea Grosse; Steve Young; Mary Travaglini; Dave Scamardella; Larry Hurley

Also present: John Peter Thompson, former President, member-at-large; and Kasey Spriggs, member-at-large, Arlington, Co, Virginia

In the absence of the Secretary, Larry Hurley served as Secretary for this meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Swearingen to run the meeting informally. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

SPECIAL NOTE: Due to urgent and unforeseen personal circumstances, President Jan Ferrigan notified the board on Aug. 4, 2006, that she needed to resign immediately and that she would not be able to attend the upcoming workshop. As a result, the board pursued emergency procedures to find a replacement for her and, during the business meeting on Aug. 9, Jil Swearingen, Vice President, was nominated and elected to be President and Mary Travaglini, Board Member, was nominated and elected to be Vice President. However, several weeks after the workshop, Ms. Ferrigan updated the board on her family situation and indicated a willingness to resume her participation on the board as President if the board was agreeable. The board was agreeable to returning to the previous arrangement through Aug. 2007, specifically that Ms. Swearingen would resume her Officer position as VP and Ms. Travaglini would resume her position on the board. All other new elections to the Board and the Treasurer position would remain as at the conclusion of the annual business meeting.

1. Emergency Resignation of the President. Ms. Swearingen reported that President Jan Ferrigan announced her need to resign for personal reasons effective immediately as of this date. The board wishes to thank Jan for her service and wish her the best. Ms. Ferrigan's request was verbal and a written request had been received yet.
2. Treasurer's Report. In the absence of the Treasurer (Faith Campbell), Mr. Thompson presented the report as submitted by Faith to the board by email. At the time of the report, the balance was \$16,345.27. Based on this, the organization is in a good financial position.
3. Secretary's Report. In the absence of the Secretary, copies of the minutes of the 2005 Annual Meeting were not available for approval. The minutes of 2005 will be submitted for approval at the 2007 Annual meeting on August 15 in Philadelphia. Ms. Lawler will re-distribute the 2005 minutes by email prior to the 2007 meeting.
4. Committee Reports:

a. **Membership.** Chair: Steve Young

- i. The Treasurer's Report indicates a healthy membership. There are 344 people on the list-serve and Mr. Young estimates that there are 200 members at this time. However, there is no database to track memberships.
- ii. The group discussed the possibility of capturing names through the Treasurer function in the future in order to improve the accuracy and efficiency of membership tracking.

b. **Education & Information.** Chair: Jil Swearingen

- i. Ms. Swearingen has been working hard with Kathy Bilton, our ma-eppc.org Web Master, to update the look and usability of the web page, to update information posted on it, and to facilitate announcement of relevant events such as annual council workshops and conferences and volunteer opportunities.
- ii. Marc Imlay would like examples of where non-native invasive plant removals have reached a maintenance phase following a major work effort for sites in the mid-atlantic region and around the world. This will provide encouragement for projects in earlier stages of restoration.

c. **On the Ground Volunteers.** Chair: Marc Imlay

- i. Mr. Imlay is looking for people to submit information on invasive removal projects from other states.
- ii. Discussion on whether our volunteer webmaster has time to set up infrastructure for self-entry of data. Michael Van Clef to consult a web designer and report back to the board.
- iii. Dave Scamardella to investigate removal listings on other websites, possibly linking or copying info to EPPC site. Discussion on a calendar of what treatments should be done when for various invasive plant species. Steve Young suggested taking existing information and setting it up using Wiki technology so that additions could be made. Several people have, or are alleged to have, calendars of their own in one form or another (e.g., Mary Travaglini, Jil Swearingen, Art Gover, Carole Bergmann. Michael Van Clef volunteered to follow up and work on putting something together.

d. **Industry Outreach.** Chair: John Peter Thompson

Mr. Thomson has been speaking to nursery groups in New England and Illinois. He has given numerous lectures to garden clubs and nursery groups over the last year.

e. **Research.** Chairs: Cynthia Huebner and Doug Tallamy. No report.

f. **Communications.** Chair: Art Gover. No report.

g. **Nominating Committee.** Chair: Vacant. Mr. Thompson volunteered to fill in until a chair can be found. No report.

5. Nomination of Officers and Directors.

a. The slate for Officers was read by Jil:

- i. President: Jil Swearingen; seconded by Carole Bergmann.
- ii. Vice-President: Mary Travaglini;; seconded by Carole Bergmann
- iii. Treasurer: Faith Campbell indicated that she would like to step down. Pending confirmation from Faith, Steve Young was nominated as Treasurer; seconded by Carole Bergmann.
- iv. Secretary: Mary Ann Lawler notified the Vice President of her need to resign for personal reasons effective immediately. Because the VP forgot about this request, the board was not notified by this meeting and no nominations were made for her replacement.
- v. The Slate was elected by unanimous acclaim.

b. The slate for Board was read:

- i. The terms of the following board members elected in 2004 expired as of Aug. 2006 and were renominated: Dr. Douglas Tallamy, University of Delaware.
- ii. The terms of the following board members elected in 2004 expired as of Aug. 2006 and were not renominated at this time: Russ McClain and Brian McDonald, both of West Virginia.
- iii. Marc Matsil, New Jersey, submitted his request for resignation in winter 2006 due to a new job and move outside the mid-Atlantic area.
- iv. The following members elected in Aug. 2005 have another year to serve: Carole Bergmann, Joe Demko, David Dick, Andrea Grosse, Larry Hurley, Marc Imlay, Michael Schwartz, Lisa Smith, Dave Scamardella, Mary Travaglini, Jeff Wagner, Michael Van Clef, and Steve Young.
- v. Jil Swearingen, Steve Young, and Mary Travaglini all have new two year terms based on officer elections.
- vi. The following slate of nominations for new board members, all of whom have agreed to serve, was read and elected by acclimation:
 1. Judith Hough-Goldstein, University of Delaware, Newark, DE
 2. Meghan Fellows, Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax, VA
 3. Chris Dionigi, National Invasive Species Council, Washington, DC
 4. Kasey Spriggs, Fairfax County Parks, Arlington, VA
 5. James Akerson, National Park Service, Mid-Atlantic Exotic Plant Management Team, Luray, VA

6. Sue Salmons, National Park Service, National Capital Region Exotic Plant Management Team, Washington, DC

vii. Rob Jennings of Frelinghuysen Arboretum (NJ) was nominated following the board meeting (he was unable to attend the business meeting) and he accepted and was also elected by acclamation.

viii. Faith Campbell was nominated to a board position upon her approval.

ix. Composition of new board to be finalized at next board meeting.

6. Old Business.

a. NEWSS Meeting (Jan. 2-5, 2007; Baltimore MD). No report. Art Gover and others are working on the MA-EPPC supported invasive plant session. At least one Board Member (Carole Bergmann) will be speaking.

b. 2007 MA-EPPC Symposium. Larry Hurley gave a brief report. Speakers are being invited and drafting of agenda is moving along

7. New Business.

a. Motion to approve reimbursement to committee members who went to Frelinghuysen Arboretum by train as an advance team to help with preparations for the 2006 workshop and to reimburse workshop registration fees for speakers requesting them. This was approved by acclamation.

b. Suggestion to donate to Cornell University garlic mustard control research. Tabled for discussion at future board meeting. Refer back to Faith Campbell to report in detail at the next board meeting.

c. Suggestion to review current committee structure and evaluate effectiveness. Tabled for discussion at a future board meeting.

d. Suggestion to write job descriptions for board members such as what is expected, responsibilities, etc. Mary Travaglini offered to circulate a draft.

e. Suggestion to set a calendar for board meetings for the next year. Mary Travaglini to circulate a draft, next meeting to be sometime in the near future - date TBD.

8. A call for adjournment was made by Ms. Swearingen at 7:10pm. There were no objections.