

MA-EPPC Founding Board Meeting

April 19, 2001
Earthome Office
Cromwell Valley Park, Maryland
9:30 am - 3:30 pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Karen Bennett Kerrie Kyde
 Faith Campbell Lisa Smith
 Joe Demko John Peter Thompson
 Larry Hurley Louisa Thompson
 Carol Jelich

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Smith

1. **January and February meetings minutes approved** (LLS made motion, JPT seconded)
2. **Organizational** status

A. Finances and membership

Faith reported that we have \$799.84 in our bank account as of March 31st.

FC is going to explore other bank options that charge a lower finance charge. Sun Trust is charging us \$11/month. Joe offered to look into a credit union (**HW**).

Carol reports that she will send out a report on membership to Lisa for the minutes (**HW**). We have six additional members from the last meeting report. New member thank you letter discussion included statement regarding retroactivity of tax deduction. An attorney has reviewed and approved the language. Carol will make revisions and will put thank you's in the mail on Monday (**HW**).

B. Committee structure (Lisa)

1. **Committees in brief** (individual chairs)

Lisa reviewed the process that we have gone thru to get committees up and running. Discussion included concerns about the "same old" people stepping to the plate and not enough of the general membership (listserve participants) offering to get involved. Karen informed us of a June 6, 2001 meeting of the Delaware Invasive Species Council (DISC) where a MA-EPPC rep could present to org. and solicit participation in committees. Kerrie will work with Karen to identify a speaker and Karen will work to put some key people in touch with MA-EPPC on potential committee participation (**HW**). Karen talked about Susan Young and others from DISC who are currently working on similar committees for DISC. Karen will talk to some of these folks to solicit involvement (**HW**).

Lisa reviewed the "thinking" behind the proposed committees and discussion ensued. Faith encouraged committee chairs and members to identify the goals

of the committees and follow through with those projects that the volunteers want to do instead of having the board identify goals of the committees.

Closure on committee discussion: Lisa will contact all proposed chairpeople to determine commitment and to communicate idea of mini-posters for annual meeting and ideas about how the committees could get members and make progress at the annual meeting (HW).

Small poster with committee description (2 X 3 feet) (flipchart) - LLS and KK will work out specifics (HW)

2. **Number and response from membership**
3. **Jil and Betsy's involvement dilemmas - do we need a replacement Board members?**
4. **Where are Delaware and New Jersey?**

Karen Bennett from Delaware attended this meeting to report on Del. Invasive Species Council's desire to be involved with MA-EPPC. She also reported on a recent grant received by the group (see below).

C. Burn-out potential & ways of combating it

Kerrie and Lisa raised concern about people not stepping to the plate to head and carry out the activities of the organization. Suggestions were made about how we transition from focus on administrative activities (tax exemption, incorporation, etc.) to the larger organizational activities where we engage or reengage the membership.

Kerrie asked that the group e-mail her about ideas about how the annual meeting should take place (HW).

1. **Delegation of tasks**
2. **Board meeting schedule - move to 6 times/year?**

Louisa discussed ideas for changing the structure of our regular meetings to better engage more of the membership. One idea was to have board meetings in the a.m. and have general membership in the afternoon centered around an activity.

In terms of frequency of meetings, John Peter raised concern about communication breakdown if we don't meet frequently (12 X/year vs. 6X/year). Faith and John Peter agreed that it is premature to go to fewer meetings/year.

D. Board and Officer slate for August election

1. **60-day advance to membership**

Kerrie explained that 60-day advanced notice would be June 15th. Everyone should let her know what their plans are for continuing on the board. If the plan is to not continue then members should try to identify substitutes (HW).

3. Committee reports

A. Tax-exempt committee (Kerrie)

1. 501(c)(3) application, Mark Kerr consultation and fee

Submitted - yeahh!! Anybody who would like a copy, e-mail Kerrie. Mark Kerr charged \$125.00.

2. Maryland personal property tax

Has been filed. No fee.

B. Database/List committee (Art)

Database: Karen updated the group on a recent grant that was awarded to the DE - Heritage program. Grant will support the formation of a web-based database that the public can submit IES locations to. Grant award was for \$40K. MA-EPPC supported with a letter to the granting entity. Heritage will take their \$30K and hire someone this summer who will focus on 6-10 species in the state (plant and animals). USGS received \$10K to support web programming. Second year will be expanded to more species and will hopefully expand to more states. Parameters that can be queried will be species, location, abundance.

List Committee: Joe thinks that Art is still waiting for input from board (top 20 species). John Peter recommended that the list committee have a list to present to the board at the June meeting. Joe will talk to Art about getting an update on progress and will get update to Lisa (HW).

C. Website (Carol)

Carol is going to send a list of items on website, will create a mock - up on a temporary website and will provide us with a URL so that we can access the site.

D. Conference Update (Faith/Lisa)

Brochure is about ready to go out. Lisa presented the agenda for the symposium. Faith is going to finalize the ? speaker (HW)

1. What should our formal presentation cover?

We need to get people focused on MA-EPPC at the very beginning. Faith is going to talk to the committee about having a spotlight for MA-EPPC at the very beginning of the conference to announce our co-sponsorship and activities throughout the conference and will discuss mini-poster idea and placement (HW)

2. EPPC t-shirts or other for-sale goodies

Discussion turned to sponsoring conferences/symposia as better fulfilling our mission and making money at the same time. Alternating years of symposia and one-day workshops.

E. **Publications** (Jil) - absent

1. **Weedbuster's Handbook**
2. **Calendar**

4. **Participations/Partnerships**

A. **Weed Awareness Week participation - EPPC Poster** (Jil, Kerrie, Carole)

MA-EPPC presented its poster at the National Zoo for the WAW. The video entitled "Plants out of Place" was presented. A copy of this video is available at 1-888-380-6500 or visit www.itvisus.com.

B. **June 21 talk for the MNLA workday**

Kerrie or Carol will do a talk about invaders, their impacts on natural areas, why you need to be careful about propagation, sale, etc..

C. **Presentation at Perennial Plant Association meeting - August 2, 2001**

PPA is a big group with big names and a number of people who will need to be convinced of the problem. Session is an open forum where "hot button" issues are typically discussed with an open exchange of ideas. Moderators are present. An Environmental Concern Committee has been formed and John Peter is on this committee. Presentation could look like this: A position statement from EPPC, explanation of the danger posed to natural lands, i.e., an industry that is contributing to putting the wrong plants in the wrong place, what is the "next English Ivy"?

Faith agreed to work with John Peter and represent MA-EPPC at the meeting (**HW**).

D. **Co-sponsorship of NEWSS meeting Jan 7-10/2001, meeting with Jeff Derr, Scott Glenn and Betty Marose, NEWSS officers**

Art Gover proposed (via e-mail) an outline based on meeting that occurred with NEWSS and MA-EPPC a few weeks ago. An afternoon mini-symposium vs. a panel discussion needs to be decided. This would be take place during a concurrent session on 1/8/02.

1. **Planning topics and speakers, how do we fit in?**

Faith suggested that we get 2 or 3 speakers to present the problem (as MA-EPPC sees it) and discuss what plants are problems where (what are the species that we share? - Japanese knotweed, mile-a-minute?, a speaker on genetic engineered species that are causing problems for ag. and potentially natural areas). Another suggestion was made to focus on potential funding sources. Also, what research is needed and where does some of the natural areas impacts literature exist. Kerrie and Faith will shepherd this to the committee that exists and will report back (**HW**).

E. Native Plants in the Landscape, Millersville conference

1. sign-up for staffing exhibit

Lisa, Kerrie and others (?) will staff the exhibit.

2. need pressed plants for laminating

Behnke's can loan their laminating machine for pressed plants. Karen offered herbarium specimens for our use.

F. Other

John Peter reported on an invitation to participate in the Invasive Species International Movement of Plant Propagative Material Workshop on May 9-10 sponsored by the U of MD, Center for Environmental Science and the American Nursery and Landscape Association, the American Seed Trade Association and the USDA.

G. Poster - Karen will make copies and send to Lisa (HW)

5. Maryland Nurserymen and Landscape Association

A. Report of 2/14 meeting

Very successful - see next steps.

B. Next steps?

John Peter has been given carte blanche to continue working with the association on the issue of invasives.

JP will work to make something happen between the two "committees" that he serves on - outreach opportunities.

JP has instituted his Hedera helix educational signs in the greenhouse and has had positive response from his customers and some resistance from his employees. A discussion ensued regarding some of the species substitutes for H. helix that are listed species in some states (bearberry, Phlox stolonifera, etc).

C. Same sort of meeting with PLNA (Jim MacKenzie)

JP will work with PA on organizing their meeting (similar to the Feb. 2001 mtg. with MNLA) (HW) and then with VA on proposing a meeting. JP is anxious to get "a list" so that he can begin working with some of these groups and have something as a focus for discussion.

6. Projects

We have identified several projects

A. 4-color calendar

We decided to begin to organize this, but for 2003. Kerrie solicited participants for the committee (**HW**). Taking pictures this season was encouraged. Slides should focus on habitat, habit and distinguishing features. We should get sponsors (state agencies, garden clubs, landscape and nurseryman's associations, etc.)

B. Brochure update - new membership chair

Annie LaMariae has offered to do a new and improved (more sexy) brochure for us. We will need to identify a new membership chair since Carol is stepping down before this brochure is final.

C. Formation of state chapters

Kerrie: Does this group need to be encouraging states to be forming state chapters?

Faith: Let it happen on it's own. Wait and see what the momentum of the regional groups results in.

D. PA Noxious Weed Task Force, report on plans and potential affiliation

Lisa and Joe reported on activities of the NWTF including the "Share Fair" idea. Lisa reported on meetings/presentations to DCNR and PAGC.