

Texas Invasive Plant and Pest Council
Board Meeting
100 Congress Avenue, Suite 1485
January 11, 2010

President Scott Walker (SW) called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm.

President's Report

All members present except Jim Bergan, Paula Maywald and Chris Best. Travis Gallo (TG) present as guest expert.

New members Mike Arnold (MA) and Mike Merchant (MM) were welcomed. SW informed the Board that Awinash Bhatkar may not be able to serve on the Board and a replacement may be needed.

Minutes from the November 13, 2009 Board Meeting were considered.

One change was to add Tom Phillips (TP) as present.

Trey Wyatt (TW) motioned approval; Earl Chilton (EC) seconded; motion unanimous.

SW and Damon Waitt (DW), comprising the Nominations Committee, nominated Alexander Mathes (AM) as Treasurer to replace Marilyn Good (MG).

TW motions to accept; MM seconded; motion unanimous.

AM commented that Marilyn Good should be commended for getting the Council off to a great start and left us in the black in the treasury.

SW introduced amendments to the By-laws.

Changes suggested to Article V Sections 1 and 2: change Officer from President Elect to Vice President and add Article VI Section 2: creation of a Technical Advisory Panel.

TW motioned to accept; AM seconded; motion unanimous.

Secretary's Report

SW started a discussion on the need to increase our Conference turnout and our recruitment of new members. A discussion ensued about conference location, where attendees were from at past conferences, how to reach out to more and

varied groups especially landowners, how conference is promoted and advertised. The discussion turned to analyzing the format and content of a conference, what works and doesn't work. Consensus was that a committee should be appointed by the President to make recommendations on the next conference.

Jim Houser (JH) started a discussion on membership: who's a member, what is the membership structure and dues and where we need to go as an organization on membership. JH will bring back a report on membership decisions from past Board meetings along with recommendations on how to proceed in the future.

SW commented on the need for a survey on the past conference from attendees. MM motioned for a survey on the past conference in November 2009; MA seconded. Discussion: keep it simple. Motion unanimous.

MA motioned for a Conference Committee to be created. AM seconded. Discussion: President designates members but others can volunteer. Motion unanimous.

Treasurer's Report

AM discussed the accounting for the past conference. Sponsors offset all costs and registrations were able to put us in the black approximately 10K with some expenses still to come in. MG has not transmitted exact numbers to AM yet.

TW motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report; EC seconded; Motion unanimous.

MA motioned that Quick Books software should be purchased for the Treasurer's use; JH seconded; Motion unanimous.

Statewide Invasive Species Protocol

TG introduced protocols for determining what constitutes an invasive species. He suggested using the California protocol but adapting it for Texas.

TG then led a discussion of the Board on the specifics involved in the protocol process and problems that can be encountered.

Web Site

The Texas invasives web site, www.texasinvasives.org, has been revised by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in conjunction with Sherry Mathews and Associates. TG outlined the new design, page content and features of the site. Every 3 months a new invasive species will be highlighted on the home page to coincide with outreach marketing efforts to the public. The LBJ Wildflower Center will house and revise content for the site in the future.

Fundraising and Grants

SW and DW suggested that money could be raised to formulate and review species protocols.

Long Term Goals and Strategies

SW led a discussion on the topic. Consensus was that we should look to other state IPPCS to guide us in formulating a strategic plan.

New Business

EC informed the Board of a legislative mandate that Texas Parks and Wildlife Department was tasked with. The Department is to develop a “white list” of aquatic, riparian and occasional wetland plants, including algae that can be possessed and sold. Any species not on the list would be illegal to possess or sell.

TW motioned to adjourn; MM seconded; Motion unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 pm.

Minutes taken and prepared by Jim Houser, Secretary.