

MINUTES OF THE GYPSY MOTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

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Present:

Agness Schmidt, Sandy Webb, Dick Somalski, Bob Hubert, Alicia Wallace, Pat Bilbrey, and Cyndi Gaul.

Excused: Laura Ogar, Tom Putt, Paul Begick, and Howard Wetters.

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by Sandy Webb.

Approval of the June 25, 2008 Meeting Minutes:

There being no additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes of the June 25, 2008 meeting minutes, a motion was made by Agness Schmidt, seconded by Dick Somalski, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion Passed.

Coordinator's Report

Gypsy Moth:

Alicia Wallace provided committee members with a handout of the 2009 Spray Project Map. The gypsy moth population has significantly decreased in Bay County. However, Delta College and the surrounding wood lots will need to be sprayed this year as there were hundreds of egg masses found in this location. In Bay County the male gypsy moth population remained at high levels, similar to those seen in 2007. However, the female gypsy moth population appeared to crash late in the summer as evidenced by the low number of egg masses found this past fall. It is believed that many of the female gypsy moth were killed off by fungus. The areas with the highest moth trap counts were in Essexville and off Knight Road, in Hampton Township. However, there were few egg masses found in Essexville and none in the Knight Road area. In Bay County we are looking at spraying approximately 95 acres. Alicia Wallace has contacted Gladwin and Roscommon so that we can again combine our bid with theirs in hopes of getting a lower bid price. Nationally, the gypsy moth population remains high.

At the National Gypsy Moth Conference people were informed that there is a new beetle that was found in Southern California on Oak Trees. This beetle is related to the emerald ash borer and does similar damage. It is black with orange spots so has been named the orange spotted oak borer.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB):

Alicia Wallace provided committee members with a handout of the Quarantine Map of Michigan for the EAB. The complete lower peninsula of Michigan has been quarantined as Level 1. In the upper peninsula of Michigan EAB have been confirmed in two areas. However, the quarantine areas in the upper peninsula are still isolated to specific townships and parts of counties. Therefore, the upper peninsula has some areas at "Level II" quarantine, some at "Level III" and some areas that are regulated but not quarantined. These levels limit the movement of wood products in similar fashion to the original quarantine.

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Budget:

Alicia Wallace provided committee members with a handout of the Bay County Gypsy Moth Suppression Program Historical Financial Summary. This handout was a historical prospective of spending from the beginning of the program in 1989 through the present. Alicia Wallace discussed the possibility of having to budget for the purchase of a vehicle for the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program in 2010. Since the millage was recently levied in 2007 and 2008, there will be a large fund balance for the program. Alicia Wallace plans to request that the millage not be levied in 2010. The current millage is authorized through 2011.

A Motion was made by Dick Somalski, seconded by Sandy Webb, to support the budget outlined in the above referenced handout. Motion Passed.

Sandy Webb mentioned that the Garden Club may want to have a demonstration of EAB treatments that can be used to save individual trees and that they may have moneys in their conservation fund to help pay for treatment of some publicly owned trees. Alicia Wallace said she would work on gathering information for such a demonstrate.

New Business

Election of Officers:

A Motion was made by Agness Schmidt, seconded by Dick Somalski, to keep Sandy Webb as the Chair and Dick Somalski as the Vice-Chair of the Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee. Motion Passed.

Old Business

There was no old business brought before the committee.

Public Comment

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Other

Next Meeting:

The date for the next meeting was scheduled for **Tuesday, June 2, 2009** at 10:00 a.m. in the Finance Department's Conference Room located on the 7th floor of the Bay County Building, 515 Center Avenue, Bay City, Michigan.

The meeting of the Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alicia Wallace
Gypsy Moth Program Coordinator

Transcribed by: C. Gaul 01/20/2009