

MINUTES OF THE GYPSY MOTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

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Present:

Agness Schmidt, Sandy Webb, Dick Somalski, Paul Begick, Bob Hubert, Tom Putt, Howard Wetters, Laura Ogar, Alicia Wallace, Pat Bilbrey, and Cyndi Gaul.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Sandy Webb.

Approval of the June 2, 2009 Meeting Minutes:

There being no additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes of the June 2, 2009 meeting minutes, a motion was made by Agness Schmidt, seconded by Bob Hebert, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion Passed.

Coordinator's Report

Gypsy Moth:

Fall Egg Mass Surveys indicate that the gypsy moth population in the Bay County remains stable and at very low levels. In most parts of Bay County, the population is undetectable with egg mass survey techniques. There were 613 sites surveyed in Bay County resulting in only finding 29 sites with new viable eggs masses. Of these 29 sites, only two have populations near the 300 egg mass threshold for treatment. The first site is located in and around the cemeteries south of ridge road with an average of approximately 250 egg masses per acre over a 35 acre area. The second site is Trinity St James Lutheran Church in Munger with 180 egg masses in a 25 acre area. Staff recommendation is that Bay County not contract to have these areas treated by air since they do not meet the program requirements for population density. Staff further advise that these areas be closely monitored in the spring in order to determine if treatment will be needed.

Male trapping during the summer indicated that there are still Gypsy Moth populations throughout Bay County. The highest populations of Gypsy Moth are in the southern third of the County. This is similar to the findings of 2008.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB):

Emerald ash borer (EAB) continues to spread throughout Bay County. However, there were only a few new sites where EAB was confirmed. These new sites where EAB was found are in Garfield Township, Monitor Township, and Williams Township. In addition to those mentioned above, many ash trees in Pinconning Township, Mt. Forest Township, Garfield Township and Kawkawlin Township have symptoms of EAB infestation however no definitive D-shaped exit holes or adult EAB have been found. Many ash trees in Hampton Township near the first Bay County EAB find are beginning to die from EAB infestations. Dick Somalski commented that he was concerned that when the EAB hits this area it will be really bad.

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Budget:

Alicia provided everyone with Historical Financial Summary table which summarizes the expenses and fund balance expected over the next two years.. The 2010 Gypsy Moth budget calls for expenses of \$93,034. The Executive recommended that the millage be levied once again so the millage will be included on the December tax bills. This will generate an additional \$298,000 in revenue.

New Vehicle for Gypsy Moth Staff:

Staff order the new Gypsy Moth Program vehicle. The new vehicle will be a 2010 Ford Explorer, medium blue with tan interior. It will be delivered some time near the end of the month.

New Business

2010 Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee Renewal Letters:

As stated in Article II of the Gypsy Moth Advisory By-Laws, the County Executive appoints the members of the Advisory Committee for a term of one year. This request must be submitted and approved by the Bay County Executive each program year. Members were given blank letters to fill in at the meeting to request renewal on the 2010 Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee.

Educational Promotion:

Laura Ogar discussed the possibility of having some sort of Educational Promotion to get the word out about Gypsy Moth, EAB, and how these non-native invasive pests are contributing to the defoliation of our forests. Laura thought that perhaps there would be some way we could gather information and incorporate aerial photos of deforestation, maps, promotional packets and videos that show and explain just how devastating deforestation is to our community and the State of Michigan. Laura suggested that perhaps the group should hire a consultant to pull together this information for an educational campaign in order to ensure that the material created is of a high quality. She would like to see the creation of some sort of 10 minute promotional video that can be used to take people through the process of deforestation and educate everyone to the harm that is being done by Gypsy Moth, EAB and other invasive pests. Such a video could be used in schools and at the township offices. Howard Wetters said that he'd like to see some sort of color brochure or bulletin given to the township offices to hand out to people. Howard also suggested that such brochures might be useful to businesses that deal with plants and yard care. Dick Somalski agreed that education was a very important tool that can be used to let people know that they can save their ash trees with early treatment.

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The committee members were asked to think about what sort of presentation materials they would like to see produced to be used for educational and promotional information. An outline will be created at the next meeting showing how the group would like to proceed with an educational campaign and the creation of educational materials.

Old Business

Gypsy Moth Suppression Program Old Vehicles:

The old Gypsy Moth Suppression Program 1990 GM Ram pick-up truck has under 60,000 miles and will be sent to auction. The Gypsy Moth Suppression Program 1991 Jeep Cherokee will be transferred to the Bay County Information Systems Department (ISD).

Public Comment

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Other

Next Meeting:

The date for the next meeting was scheduled for ***Tuesday, January 19, 2010*** 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 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alicia Wallace
Gypsy Moth Program Coordinator

Transcribed by: C. Gaul 12/01/2009