



**Minutes of the Conference Call
Of the Board of Directors
Of
The Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread Foundation, Inc.**

**May 2, 2007
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EDT**

Proper notice having been duly given to each Board member, a conference call of the Board of Directors was held on the above date.

President Geir Friisoe called the meeting to order and Secretary Frank Fulgham called the roll.

BOARD MEMBERS

Geir Friisoe, Minnesota, President	present
Gene Cross, North Carolina, Vice-President/Treasurer	present
Frank Fulgham, Virginia, Secretary	present
Scott Frank, Illinois	present
Phil Marshall, Indiana	present
John Walkowiak, Iowa	present
Gary Gibson, West Virginia	absent
Melody Walker, Wisconsin	present

OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING

Clark Haynes and Celestine Irvin, West Virginia
Carl Harper, Kentucky
Linda Ellefson, Wisconsin
Anne Selness, Minnesota
David Adkins, Ohio
Ed Holloman, Southeastern Association Services
JoAnn Cruse, USDA APHIS
Donna Leonard and Wes Nettleton, USDA Forest Service

Whereas, the above noted directors constitute a quorum, and there is no objection to this proceeding, the following business was conducted:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread (STS) Foundation Board of Directors' Annual Meeting held in Indianapolis, Indiana on February 21, 2007 were approved as amended and ratified by unanimous vote and shall be filed in the Minute Book.

The minutes of the Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread (STS) Foundation Board of Directors' Conference Call on March 16, 2007 were approved as amended and ratified by unanimous vote and shall be filed in the Minute Book.



STATUS UPDATES OF GRANT AGREEMENTS

Ed Holloman discussed the current Grant Reporting Schedule and Donna Leonard discussed pending grant awards and expenditures.

2006 Forest Service Trapping & Treatment Grant

Donna indicated as of 05/01/07 there is a balance of \$34,402 in Foundation funds assuming that all state funding is drawn down to zero. Currently there are pending obligations totaling \$13,986 leaving a balance of \$20,416 remaining to be spent by closeout of the grant. All states are encouraged to complete draw downs as soon as possible.

- **ACTION:** Current 2006 T&T Grant state reports that are **past due** are as follows:
 - 04/15/07 FSR Report (10/01/06 thru 03/31/07) IW, IL, IN, MN, NC, OH & WV
 - Note:** Ed indicated that he had received Ohio's FSR Report prior to the conference call.

- **ACTION:** Current 2006 T&T Grant state reports that will be due are as follows:
 - 06/15/07 State 424 Deobligations MN, NC, & OH
 - 07/15/07 FSR-Final Report (04/01/07 thru 06/01/07) All States
 - 07/15/07 Final Grant Narrative Report All States
 - Note:** Ed will check the Administrative Provisions to ensure that the 07/15/07 date is the correct due date.

2007 APHIS Regulatory Grant

- **ACTION:** Current 2007 Regulatory Grant state reports that are **past due** are as follows:
 - 04/15/07 FSR Reports (10/01/06 thru 03/31/07) IL, MN, & WV
 - Note:** Ann Selness indicated that MN's FSR Report was mailed prior to the conference call.
 - 04/15/07 Summary Narrative Reports (10/01/06 thru 03/31/07) MN, NC, & VA
 - Note:** Ed indicated that a Summary from NC was being sent and VA's had been received prior to the conference call.

2007 Forest Service Trapping & Treatment Grant

Grant was finally awarded on April 5, 2007. This caused a lot of stress due to the lack of secure funding amounts. Ed indicated that award letters to individual states will be sent out shortly.

- **ACTION:** Current 2007 T&T Grant state reports that are **past due** are as follows:

03/01/07 Draft Budget/Narrative IW, IN, MI & NC

04/01/07 424 A&B (Signed) IW, IN, MI, NC & WV

04/15/07 FSR Reports (10/01/06 thru 03/31/07) IW, KY, IL, IN, MI, MN, NC, OH, WV & WI

Note: Ed indicated that the issuance of award letters attributed to the fact that most FSR Reports had not been received by the due date. FSR Reports will still need to be completed even if the grant amounts are \$0.00. It was noted that many of the 424s and FSR Reports are currently being completed and submitted.

STS FOUNDATION 2007 GRANT REVISION

Donna confirmed the allocation of state funding to ensure the expected state and Foundation grant totals. She noted that the current states total is \$3,599,369 and the Foundation total is \$1,979,063. The Foundation currently has projected pending expenses of \$2,331,759 – an amount that exceeds current Foundation available funds. However, the Forest Service flake contract came in under projection and will allow for a positive revision of \$525,770 to the available funding. This will cover any shortfall and give the Foundation a small cushion.

Virginia also indicated that their state grant total was reduced from \$896,393 to \$865,859 giving the Foundation an additional \$30,534 in usable funds.

STS FUNDING IN 2008?

Donna reported that the Forest Service (FS) was recently “called on the carpet” to explain for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) why it did not follow the President’s direction in the 2007 budget to reduce gypsy moth spending and redirect funding to other pest programs. An agreement was struck between FS and OMB that for 2007 FS would redirect \$500,000 in current gypsy moth allocations to other pest programs. \$200,000 would be redirected out of slow the spread and \$300,000 out of gypsy moth suppression. Contracts had already been awarded for this year so the FS is working to cover current gypsy moth obligations by redirecting some excess funds. Therefore, STS will give up around \$250,000 and reduce our budget from \$8.5 million to \$8.25 million total budget.

The second part of this deal was that the FS will reduce their gypsy moth spending from just over \$11 million in 2007 to a total of \$6.9 million in 2008. Therefore, next year’s budget will provide \$6 million for STS, \$600,000 for Eradication, and \$300,000 for Suppression. This is set unless there is explicit language in the final budget bill from Congress. Current language in the President’s budget instructs FS to increase emphasis on early detection and response to new invasive species.

Letters to Congress’ money committee members are essential to show support for increased gypsy moth funding. Letters should emphasize that the increase on early detection comes at the expense of the highly successful gypsy moth program. A 40% reduction in STS funding will

result in increased gypsy moth spread. The statement “Fully Funded STS” is no longer adequate. We must ask for a specific funding amount.

A discussion ensued on the appropriate amount to request for the STS program. A request for \$10 million may project bad “public relations” with other pest programs. An \$8.5 million request was deemed doable and perhaps the best option. A \$6 million request would be basically going to an eradication program. Foundation members were polled and it was agreed that \$10 million should be requested as the appropriate goal to ensure that adequate funds would be available to maintain a viable STS program. The House should be contacted first. After their projected budget comes out, Senate members should then be contacted with a message that will depend upon the House’s recommended budget.

- **ACTION:** John Walkowiak will send out information on contacting State Forestry organizations to gain support for continued funding of gypsy moth and to utilize the successful STS structure to address other exotic forest pests.

- **ACTION:** Donna will work up a draft letter, bullet and brief documents, and targeted House committee members for states to send out requests for reinstatement of gypsy moth STS funding.

MISCELLANEOUS

John Walkowiak, Iowa

Donna informed the Foundation that effective around April 1st, John has been replaced as head of Iowa’s Department of Natural Resources. He has remained with DNR, but will now be working on invasive species in general. John hopes to remain active with the STS Board.

Scott Frank, Illinois

Scott indicated that the Illinois trapping coordinator is currently being paid through STS funding. They have received approval to hire some full-time positions. If it works out as planned, the funding would then go directly to the state rather than under a contract with STS.

JoAnn Cruse, USDA APHIS

JoAnn indicated that there is still no word on if she will continue to work with STS Regulatory. JoAnn reminded states to review the leading edge criteria to ensure conformity between states. She is still working on an annual report specific for regulatory.

John Obrycki, Kentucky

Donna informed the Board that John Obrycki has contacted her about becoming an official member of the STS Board.

Approval of North Carolina Contract Trapping Bids

On 3/23/2007, Gene Cross sent the following e-mail to Foundation Board members requesting Official Board Action:

GM STS Foundation Board Members:

The GM STS Foundation Board recently issued a RFP for contract trapping here in the state of North Carolina. The bids received were opened and reviewed by NCDA&CS staff. Based on a review of these bids, NCDA&CS staff is recommending the GM STS Foundation Board members accept the lowest bid for each trapping unit. An overview of the bid units, with bidder name, is attached. Additionally, the attached document includes a summary of the bidders with unit(s) awarded.

Following your review, please forward an email to Frank Fulgham, Secretary noting your approval or disapproval. The issuance of purchase orders from the GM STS Foundation, Inc. is contingent on approval of funding from USDA-FS. Gene B. Cross

- **BOARD ACTION:** Effective 3/29/07, all 8 Board Members responded to the Secretary with an approval for NC to proceed with the issuance of purchase orders for contract trappers with the lowest bid for each trapping unit when Forest Service funding in finalized.

2007 STS CONFERENCE CALL & MEETING SCHEDULE

Conference Calls scheduled for 1st Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

Call-in number for all Conference Calls: 404-347-7966

JAN 3	Conference Call	<i>Cancelled</i>
JAN 23-25	OP/REG Mtg	<i>Held in Memphis, TN</i>
FEB 7	Conference Call	<i>Cancelled</i>
FEB 21	STS Annual Mtg	<i>Held in Indianapolis, IN</i>
MAR 16	Conference Call	<i>Held at 10:00 a.m. EDT</i>
APR 4	Conference Call	<i>Cancelled</i>
MAY 2	Conference Call	<i>Held at 10:00 a.m. EDT</i>
JUN 6	Conference Call	<i>Scheduled for 10:00 a.m. EDT</i>
JUL 11	Conference Call	<i>Scheduled for 10:00 a.m. EDT</i>
AUG 1	Conference Call	<i>Scheduled for 10:00 a.m. EDT</i>
SEP 5	Conference Call	<i>Scheduled for 10:00 a.m. EDT</i>
OCT 3	Conference Call	<i>Scheduled for 10:00 a.m. EDT</i>
NOV 7	Conference Call	<i>Scheduled for 10:00 a.m. EST</i>
DEC 5	Conference Call	<i>Scheduled for 10:00 a.m. EST</i>

The foregoing motions and actions, by unanimous consent, are to have full force and effect as of May 2, 2007, unless otherwise indicated by the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Frank Fulgham, Secretary
STS Foundation