



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

**August 05, 2009
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.

Vice-President Gene Cross (NC) called the meeting to order and Secretary Frank Fulgham (VA) called the roll.

BOARD MEMBERS

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

OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING

Lucy Hunt, Minnesota
David Adkins, Ohio
Ed Holloman, Southeastern Association Services
Lloyd Garcia, USDA APHIS
Dennis Haugen, Donna Leonard, Noel Schneeberger USDA Forest Service
Larry Nichols, Virginia
Clark Haynes and Celestine Irvin, West Virginia
Jamie Tukiendorf, Wisconsin

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

A motion was proposed by Melody Walker (WI) and seconded by Scott Frank (IL) to approve minutes of the Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread (STS) Foundation Board of Directors' Conference Call on May 06, 2009, with amendments by Phil Marshall (IN). The motion was passed and the minutes ratified by unanimous vote and shall be filed in the Minute Book.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO THE BOARD

Vice-president Gene Cross announced to the Board that the states of Kentucky and Iowa are now official members of the Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread Foundation. The STS Board of Directors welcomes Carl Harper, University of Kentucky, representing the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Tivon Feeley, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, representing the state of Iowa.

STATUS UPDATES OF GRANT AGREEMENTS

Ed Holloman (SAS) and Donna Leonard (FS) discussed the current Grant Reporting Schedule and grant award balances and expenditures.

2008 Forest Service Trapping & Treatment Grant

Ed indicated as of 08/04/09 there is a total of \$42,471.06 showing in grant funds available to KY, IN & MI out of the total grant award of \$3,543,354.00 for funding to all states. It was noted that Ed will transfer any unused amount in these three states for use in the Foundation's purchase of pheromone flakes to zero out the budget. In light of this action, the overall Foundation budget shows a balance of \$0.00 out of the original grant award of \$6,219,756.00. Ed noted that final deobligations are needed from these states to close out the budget to the satisfaction of the auditors and USDA-Forest Service.

- **ACTION:** Current 2008 T&T Grant state reports that are **past due** are as follows:

07/01/09	424 Deobligations	KY, IN & MN
07/15/09	Final Report	IA, KY, IN, MI, MN, NC & VA

Ed is awaiting the above reports so that he can submit the Foundation's Final Report and close out this grant.

2009 Forest Service Trapping & Treatment Grant

Ed indicated as of 08/04/09 there is a balance of \$2,706,910.67 in grant funds available out of the total grant award of \$3,214,073.20 for funding to all states with \$108,174.00 in pending distribution to IL and VA. The overall Foundation budget shows a balance of \$4,408,483.65 available out of the revised grant award of \$5,839,401.00. An additional \$620,000 was awarded to the original grant total of \$5,219,401.00. Donna noted that 2008 state deobligations of \$186,324.26 in the area of Disrupt II resulted in a savings in this area for the 2009 grant that will be used in the purchase of racemic dispartlure for next year's project.

Ed indicated that all states are up-to-date on all reporting requirements at this time.

2009 Aphis Regulatory Grant

Ed indicated that the total award received was \$262,287.00. There is \$37,634.48 pending distribution to MN, NC & WV. Gene encouraged all states with remaining balances in this grant should be planning to submit requests for disbursement of their remaining amounts or submit deobligations to zero out any unspent balances since this grant ends on 09/30/09.

Ed indicated that all states are up-to-date on all reporting requirements at this time.

2009 SPRAY ACCOMPLISHMENTS - acres treated – Donna Leonard

Donna reported that the Foundation treated almost 450,000 acres this year. Approximately 65,000 acres (15%) were Btk treatments. The bulk of these treatments occurred in Wisconsin (45,000 acres) and Indiana (13,000 acres). The remaining states had treatment totals of 5,000 acres or less. Mating Disruption equaled 85% of treatments (380,000 acres) with a total cost of just over \$3 million (\$8.25 per acre average of all products). Splat, the new product from ISCA Technologies, accounted for approximately 100,000 acres and the remainder (280,000 acres) was done utilizing the traditional Hercon flakes, Disrupt II. All states that had mating disruption treatments this year, with the exception of WV & IN, had some Splat used in their state's project. Donna reported that treatment costs were held down, as expected, as a result of competition between these two products. The use of Splat went very well considering it was new this year. Donna noted that all treatments were completed incident and accident free which is quite an accomplishment considering the number of acres treated and the number of state and federal contracts.

Melody Walker (MN) indicated that she was pleased with the company and cooperation involved in her Splat treatments and that the weather was the biggest obstacle in completing the spray program. Donna noted that Minnesota (MN) and Wisconsin (WI) have a newly improved "Cooperation Pact" that worked very well. WI DNR volunteered their pilots and planes to do the chase work for MN as well. The level of cooperation was exceptional in completing the project in a safe and effective manner. In fact, Melody indicated that the two states are now referred to as "Minnesconsin." Does that mean that their new joint states' abbreviation would be "MC?"

Dave Adkins (OH) indicated that everything went relatively well in Ohio; however, with only one observation plane for three treatment aircraft, the chase aircraft was spread very thin leaving two of the treatment aircraft vulnerable.

Donna indicated that she was pleased that there were no more complaints than normal regarding spray getting on vehicles. She had been concerned that the use of Splat would generate more complaints than Disrupt II; however, that did not seem to happen.

OUTLOOK FOR FUNDING IN FY 2010 – Donna Leonard

The 2009 enacted budget for USDA-Forest Service-Forest Health Protection was just under \$128 million. The President's budget for 2010 was a slight reduction at \$122,500 million. The House markup was at \$144,000 million and the Senate markup came in at \$130,000 million. Early indications were that the final appropriations bill would be closer to the House markup and that we would go into the new fiscal year with an approved appropriations bill giving Forest Health Protection an additional \$10-\$20 million over last year. However, Donna indicated that it now appears that we will enter the new fiscal year under a Continuing Resolution that would put Forest Health Protection's budget at just under \$128,000 as in the 2009 enacted budget.

In case enhanced funding did materialize, Rob Mangold, USDA-Forest Health Protection, asked for input on how the additional funds could be spent. Donna prepared and submitted an overview brief, *Funding for the National Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread Program*, on the impacts of the reduced funding to STS. The brief evidently caught the attention of Rob Mangold and he now has concerns over the projected effects on past reductions to the STS program.

Donna indicated that Rob informed her that at the National Plant Board meeting the message he will bring is the if there is an appropriations bill that has the funding for Forest Health Protection with an increase of \$10-\$20 million, then funding for STS would increase to \$10-\$11 million. However, if there is a Continuing Resolution, Forest Health Protection's funding would be held to last year's \$128 million. It is uncertain if STS will get any additional funding if this happens. Donna and Patrick Tobin will work to prepare additional information on the projected negative impact to the STS program if these reduced funding levels continue.

Donna urged anyone attending the National Plant Board meeting should use the brief to reinforce the STS Board's position on the dire need for enhanced funding to maintain an effective Gypsy Moth STS Program. Gene Cross (NC) indicated that he would talk with Rob Mangold at the National Plant Board meeting. Gary Gibson (WV) noted that he is a member of the NPB Resolutions Committee and will work to have an appropriate NPB resolution drafted on this issue. Noel Schneeberger (USDA-FS) indicated that it is encouraging that Rob Mangold is now open to efforts to increase STS funding if sufficient appropriations can be found.

REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATE – Lloyd Garcia

Lloyd Garcia, USDA-APHIS, reported that the Regulatory Committee is working to get the data available on the website. The web report will be done on a quarterly basis. The target is to have a July-September report coming out at the end of September. They also are working on a generic compliance agreement that can be used by all states. Lucy Hunt (MN) is working on an agenda for the Gypsy Moth Review meeting in October where there will be a Regulatory Program break-out session. Lloyd encouraged Kentucky and Iowa to nominate representatives to serve on the Regulatory Committee.

APHIS has \$70,000 in extra gypsy moth funding for this year which they will use to develop electronic, web-based outreach for principally gypsy moth, but adaptable to a broader range of forest pests. Requests for Bids for contract proposals should go out in September. The initial focus will be toward the moving industry.

- **ACTION:** Gene reminded everyone that States need to submit draft 2010 REG proposals to Ed Holloman by August 21, 2009. The Board will consider the states submissions at the September 2nd conference call.

MICELLANEOUS

Biological Scientist Vacancy

Donna reported that Mike Quesinberry took another job with the fire area of National Forest Service. Donna anticipates the position would be advertised by late fall/early winter.

The position is classified as a GS 9/11/12 Biological Scientist. Any science based degree (BS required, MS even better) would fulfill the educational requirement (biologist, entomologist, forester, botany, etc.). Experience in relevant areas would be critical. The position also requires a considerable amount of travel.

The required duties and skills include oversight for the QA/QC program in STS. This requires an understanding of the data base and the decision algorithm. Essential requirements include

excellent problem solving and people skills and appropriate technical skills including field experience in large scale survey projects, knowledge of aviation programs, competency in electronic gadgetry, basic computer skills, a working knowledge of GIS and database functions, and skills with GPS. A solid background in field work across a wide range of conditions and a basic knowledge about trees and forest pests is required. Let Donna know if you have any good candidates in mind.

International Pollution Discharge System Hearing

Phil Marshall reported that the courts have rejected having a hearing on this issue. The issue has not gone away, it has just been postponed for now. After EPA issues a decision, states will need to implement programs, and that will take a couple of years.

2009 Annual GM Review

Lucy Hunt reminded everyone of the upcoming Annual GM Review on October 27, 2009 in Minneapolis, MN. Registration information will be forthcoming.

GM Prog Managers Mtg/OPS Meeting

Donna noted that the GM Prog Managers Mtg/OPS Meeting will be coming up the week of August 17th in Ohio. Strict state travel guidelines are making it difficult for the usual number of state personnel to attend this meeting. Most can only send 1 attendee. Donna and Phil Marshall recommended putting language in grant narratives that indicates that the February Board Meeting and the two Operations Meetings are critical to the successful implementation of this project and non-attendance at these meeting could effect funding for each of the states.

2009 STS CONFERENCE CALL & MEETING SCHEDULE

Conference Calls are scheduled for 1st Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise scheduled by the Board President.

Call-in number for all 2009 Conference Calls: 404-347-7962

JAN 14	Conference Call	Held at 10:00 a.m. EST
FEB 4	Conference Call	Cancelled
FEB 18	STS Annual Mtg	Held in Indianapolis, IN
MAR 4	Conference Call	Cancelled
APR 1	Conference Call	Cancelled
MAY 6	Conference Call	Held at 10:00 a.m. EDT
JUN 3	Conference Call	Cancelled
JUL 1	Conference Call	Cancelled
AUG 5	Conference Call	Held at 10:00 a.m. EDT
SEP 2	Conference Call	<i>Scheduled for 10:00 a.m. EDT</i>
OCT 7	Conference Call	<i>Scheduled for 10:00 a.m. EDT</i>
NOV 4	Conference Call	<i>Scheduled for 10:00 a.m. EST</i>
DEC 2	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 August 05, 2009, unless otherwise indicated by the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Frank Fulgham, Secretary
STS Foundation