

# Gypsy Moth Slow The Spread Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 58220 - Raleigh, North Carolina 27658  
Telephone: 919.877.9392 - Web Site: www.gmsts.org

# STS



## Minutes of the Board of Directors of The Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread Foundation, Inc.

**September 7, 2011**

9:30 CDT – 11:00 CDT

10:30 EDT – 12:00 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 the roll was called.

### BOARD MEMBERS

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

### OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING

Dave Adkins, Ohio  
Lucy Hunt, Zack Hernandez, Minnesota  
Butch Sayers, Kim Brown, Celestine Ervin, West Virginia  
Joe Beckwith, Scott Pfister, USDA APHIS Eastern Region  
Donna Leonard, Noel Schneeberger, Amy Hill, John Kyhl, USDA Forest Service  
Amos Ziegler, Michigan State University

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

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<b>Minnesota</b> Geir Friisoe – President 651-297-7174		<b>North Carolina</b> Gene Cross – Vice President/Treasurer 919-733-6930		<b>Wisconsin</b> Melody Walker – Secretary 608-224-4586	
<b>West Virginia</b> Sherrie Hutchinson 304-558-2212	<b>Illinois</b> Scott Frank 217-785-2427	<b>Indiana</b> Phil Marshall 812-358-3621	<b>Iowa</b> Tivon Feeley 515-242-5966	<b>Virginia</b> Larry Nichols 804-786-3515	<b>Kentucky</b> Carl Harper 859-257-5838

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Carl Harper (KY) made a motion to approve the draft minutes of August 3, 2011. Tivon Feeley (IA) seconded the motion and the board members voted unanimously to approve the minutes with several edits.

## **STATUS UPDATES OF GRANT AGREEMENTS**

### **2011 APHIS Regulatory Grant**

Donna stated the balance was \$96,375.99 as of September 6, 2011. States with pending disbursements include IL (\$11,491.00), NC (\$8,294.64) and VA (\$20,893.41). Joe indicated he has received #11 from WV and he has 14 & 15, but he is missing 12 & 13. Gene signed them on August 12 and he will resubmit the statements to Joe.

IL, MN, NC, WI and WV have balances remaining and all have indicated they plan to draw the balances down to zero. VA has drawn their balance down to zero. States are always about 3-4 weeks behind in expenses after the month closes out. We do need to obligate the funds before the deadline of Sept. 30.

All reports are current.

### **2010 Forest Service Trapping and Treatment Grant**

Gene indicated there were remaining balances for OH (\$129,543.05), MN (\$11,743.23) and KY (\$30.73). Dave Adkins indicated Ohio had submitted their request on August 8 to spend the remainder of the balance. MN also plans to spend all their remaining funds. Carl Harper (KY) will check with his grants people to be sure they had deobligated the full \$51. The Foundation needs to obligate the funds by September 30. The deadline for individual states was June 1 with final reports due on July 15. Final program narratives are needed from IA and MI.

Donna reported a balance of \$283,558.98 as of September 6, 2011. Ed will be drawing the balance down to zero by transferring some of the costs to this grant from the 2011 expenditures.

### **2011 Forest Service Trapping and Treatment Grant**

Gene indicated the current balance is \$5,475,653.49 as of September 6, 2011. There have been three revisions in this grant. The first one totaled \$400,000, the second was \$5,897,035.00 and the third was \$50,000 giving us a total of \$7,205,035.00. The spreadsheet shows pending amounts for IL (\$111,083.00) and NC (\$6,242.68), leaving a balance of \$3,034,401.54 available to states. Gene said states could send requests on a monthly basis. Gene and Ed are sending reimbursement requests in groups to save money on ACH transfers.

FSR's that were due on April 15, 11 are needed from MI, MN, and WI. Reports are due even though there were no expenditures for the quarter.

### **2012 Regulatory Request**

Joe Beckwith and Scott Pfister provided the following information regarding APHIS budgets and potential funding shortfalls. There is a rough estimate of the funds that will come to the regions, and it looks like there will not be enough money to fund agreements. APHIS will be receiving cuts across the board, which will make it hard to prevent layoffs. Some parts of the agency like Wildlife Services were dependent on earmarks, which Congress eliminated last year. Funding has been reduced for PPQ commodity programs and forest pest programs including gypsy moth.

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In the coming year, Sirex funding will end. EAB funding is expected to drop by about 67%, and gypsy moth will be reduced by about 40 %. Normal base is \$4.9 million for gypsy moth. Proposed cuts are an estimated \$ 2 million. The regulatory and detection portions of the gypsy moth program are included in the funding cuts. Eradication is not part of the 40% reduction.

The priority for APHIS is early detection and eradication outside of the quarantine area, followed by regulatory inside the quarantine area. The STS gypsy moth grant may not be as high of a priority. There are challenges with new pest invasions every year without new money to match. Gypsy moth is probably somewhere in the middle of priorities. The regulatory grant will definitely be less than \$280,000.00.

Under the circumstances, APHIS cannot commit as of October 1 to continue funding. At this time, they are looking for other sources of funding. The Foundation should submit the request for funding because APHIS does want to know the level of funding needed. Gene did submit a heads-up on August 24 of \$289, 560.00 to APHIS. It is important to note that states will need APHIS support for October through December at a minimum, as there is not state money to cover the staff working in this program. By state law, NC must give one month's notice before laying an employee off. Gene will send the regulatory 424 today; Gene will need cost estimate per month for employee and travel time from states.

## **Spray Technology Training**

In conjunction with the winter operations meeting during the week of January 30, we will have a one-day spray technology session geared toward Btk and Gypchek applications. Steve Nicholson from Valent Biosciences will conduct the training.

Another training opportunity, aviation safety training, will be held the week of November 14 at Fort Harrison state park (IN) for gypsy moth program managers who have not had the training.

## **New Logo**

We had a contest to have an updated logo. Amos revised the logo to fit letterhead. Operations could continue to use the cartoon logo for hats and t-shirts and they would like to keep this cartoon version. The STS Foundation will use new logo revised by Amos. Donna will send Melody the version for the minutes. Amos will provide a Word document to Donna to send out to everyone for final proofing.

## **Miscellaneous Items**

### **Timing and Funds for 2012 Btk Treatments**

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Last year a tough budget year crunch to get contracts going. We will begin the year with a continuing resolution. Budget issues may be similar to last year. We have close to \$300,000 in the 2010 grant. This plus the contingency of ½ million is close to \$800,000 that does not have a planned expenditure. These funds can be set aside for 2012 treatments. This is not close to cover all Btk treatments, but it could help cover some of the treatments.

In 2011 grant instead of spending everything quickly, consider waiting on non-essential expenditures if possible to save some money for spring treatments.

MN contract goes out late every year because MN can't put out contract proposal until they receive an assurance of funding. Existing funds would help with situation. This would apply to IL, MN, WI, OH, VA, and to a small degree, NC. Similarly, trapping contracts in NC, IL, and VA needed money to start contractors. We will watch expenditures to try to save some money to get projects started.

#### Funding for Eradication Treatments

When we have eradication projects that are greater than 640 acres we were led to believe we needed to seek agreements from the state forester. It is still not clear what the Forest Service policy is. The competitive process is only in the North East Area. Some communication indicated that eradication and suppression are outside of the competitive process and but other sources contradict this. Gene will attend the National Association of State Foresters meeting, and he will ask for clarification on this issue. The STS Board and the Plant Board sent a letter about the entire competitive process.

#### **Future Meetings**

The next conference call will be on October 5.

Thursday, Feb. 16 for the annual meeting would allow folks to send Valentine's Day at home. The meeting will be in Raleigh, NC or Indianapolis, IN. The accountants could attend in person if the meeting was held in Raleigh.

#### **Meeting Adjourned**

Dave Adkins (OH) made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which Larry Nichols (VA) seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

#### **2011 STS Conference Call and Meeting Schedule**

Conference calls are scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 9:00 CT/10:00 ET unless otherwise scheduled by the Board President. The call in number for the STS monthly conference calls in 2011 is **404-347-7966**.

<b>January 5</b>	<b>Conference Call</b>	<b>Held</b>
<b>February 2</b>	<b>Conference Call</b>	<b>Cancelled</b>
<b>February 16</b>	<b>STS Annual Mtg</b>	<b>Held</b>
<b>March 2</b>	<b>Conference Call</b>	<b>Held March 16</b>
<b>April 6</b>	<b>Conference Call</b>	<b>Held</b>
<b>April 21</b>	<b>Conference Call</b>	<b>Held</b>
<b>May 4</b>	<b>Conference Call</b>	<b>Held</b>
<b>June 1</b>	<b>Conference Call</b>	<b>Cancelled</b>
<b>July 6</b>	<b>Conference Call</b>	<b>Cancelled</b>
<b>August 3</b>	<b>Conference Call</b>	<b>Held</b>

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<b>September 7</b>	<b>Conference Call</b>	<b>Held</b>
<b>October 5</b>	<b>Conference Call</b>	<b>Cancelled</b>
<b>November 2</b>	<b>Conference Call</b>	<b>Cancelled</b>
<b>December 7</b>	<b>Conference Call</b>	

The foregoing motions and actions, by unanimous consent are to have full force and effect as of September 7, 2011, unless otherwise indicated by the Board.

Melody Walker, Secretary  
STS Foundation

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