



**Minutes of the Annual Meeting  
Of the Board of Directors  
Of  
The Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread Foundation, Inc.  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
February 16, 2006  
8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. EST**

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
Bob Waltz, Indiana	present
Mike Philip, Michigan	present
Gary Gibson, West Virginia	present
Melody Walker, Wisconsin	present

**OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING**

Phil Marshal and Zak Smith, Indiana  
John Walkowiak, Iowa  
John Obrycki and Carl Harper, Kentucky  
David Adkins, Ohio  
Larry Nichols, Virginia  
Brian Kuhn, Wisconsin  
Ed Holloman, Southeastern Association Services  
Donna Leonard, Noel Schneeberger, Mike Quesinberry, Bill Caruthers, Patrick Tobin,  
and Rob Mangold, USDA Forest Service

**APPOINTMENT OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Geir Friisoe informed the Board that official letters of appointment to the Gypsy Moth STS Board of Directors have been received from the following:

- Effective February 16, 2006, Mitch Irwin, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture, appointed Mike Philip as Michigan's representative to the Board replacing Ken Rauscher.

**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' Conference Call on December 7, 2005 were approved and ratified by unanimous vote and shall be filed in the Minute Book.



## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Bob Waltz, IN, made a motion to nominate the current slate of officers to continue for 2006:

President: Geir Friisoe, Minnesota  
Vice-President: Gene Cross, North Carolina  
Treasurer: Gene Cross, North Carolina  
Secretary: Frank Fulgham, Virginia

The motion was seconded by Gary Gibson, WV, and there being no further nominations from the floor, nominations were closed and the motion to elect the current officers for another term was passed unanimously.

## **DISCUSSION OF 2007 BUDGETS AND STRATEGY FOR CHANGING THE PROGRAM TO FIT WITHIN THE BUDGET**

A discussion of proposed cuts approaching 30% to the USDA-Forest Service-Forest Health Protection (FHP) budget as presented in the FY07 President's Budget Draft Overview was the focus of the morning session. Rob Mangold, Director of FHP, indicated that these are tough times and we are required to wage war on new, invasive pests. This is the reason for the proposed deemphasis on gypsy moth activities. The wording in the FHP budget is that "gypsy moth resources could be deemphasized to shift some funding to other high priority pest needs." In the current FY06 budget, \$14 million is appropriated for gypsy moth activities. In the FY07 proposed budget, the gypsy moth appropriation is reduced to a total of \$7 million. This \$7 million would include \$1 million for gypsy moth eradication activities and \$6 million for STS, basically leaving no funding for gypsy moth suppression activities. Gypsy moth research activities are also proposed to be cut from \$9 million to \$0.5 million. The challenge will be for STS to reduce its program activities to fit within the new reduced budget resources. Of particular concern to the STS Board members is the fact that the STS Program was optimized prior to becoming operational. In the past 5-6 years, the STS Program has not increased their budget to reflect cost increases and inflation; therefore, there is currently no "fluff" available in the current STS budget.

Rob presented 3 proposed options to reduce the size of STS so that could operate on a \$6 million budget.

OPTION 1: Keeps the current line intact, but reduces the activity on the back side.

OPTION 2: Eliminates the band going north to the lake states, but extends the band through the corn country to prevent that southern spread.

OPTION 3: Monitors through WI and MN but does not do any treatments.

Rob noted that the overall FY07 FHP proposed budget was down \$30 million from what was actually received in FY06, but was actually up from the FY06 President's Proposed Budget. It was also noted that there is no change in the proposed FY07 APHIS level of funding for gypsy moth.

Rob indicated that funding for other invasive pests, such as, Sirex and Emerald Ash Borer, should benefit from the reductions in gypsy moth funding. It is now a matter of determining priorities.

Rob indicated that his three options were only presented for discussion purposes. It was noted that the STS Board needs to develop a preferred option to operate with the \$6 million funding level by mid-April taking into account the impact on the current spread rate.

**ACTION:** Patrick Tobin will develop an analysis paper showing the potential effects on rate of spread under various reductions strategies while maintaining 50% monitoring and 50% treatment programs.

## **PARTNERSHIPS WITH STATE FORESTERS**

John Walkowiak (IA) lead a discussion on the priorities of the State Foresters in protecting our forest resources. It was noted that fire prevention and control was at the top of the list for State Foresters. However, the Cooperative Forestry efforts are also highly significant. John indicated that State Foresters are currently focusing on new, invasive pests just like the State Plant Regulatory Officials. He proposed that STS work to enhance our partnerships with the Forestry Associations to renew our concerns regarding the continuation of an effective gypsy moth program.

## **QUALITY ASSURANCE AND QUALITY CONTROL REPORT**

Mike Quesinberry provided a report on quality control efforts conducted in each state based upon data collected during the 2005 trapping season. The overall project is meeting guidelines as far as traps placed; however, some individual states are not meeting the target for traps omitted. The report indicates that adequate quality control/supervision is occurring in each state. Special recognition goes to KY for their efforts at improving their trapping program. It appears that out-of-target errors are beginning to increase.

**ACTION:** Mike will run additional individual state reports and distribute them within the next couple of weeks. States are requested to study the report and share it with their state operations personnel.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT**

Donna Leonard did not send out the *2005 Accomplishments in Slowing the Spread of the Gypsy Moth* prior to the meeting. She handed out a draft copy but noted that it contained many mistakes.

**ACTION:** Donna will distribute final report to the Board for review and have the final version of the document posted on the STS website.

## **2006 PLAN OF WORK, INCLUDING TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT**

Donna distributed the 2006 STS Plan of Work. Initially there were recommendations for almost 1 million acres in treatment. At the \$10 million budget level, STS has never been able to support more than about 550,000-600,000 acres in a year. Initially, Donna requested cuts of 40% from all participating states. However, at the Operations Meeting the projected treatments were still \$600,000 over budget. Most of these reductions were accomplished through more precise estimates of treatments in a polygon.

Current projections for 2006 include 90,423 traps and 509,752 acres of treatments. Total budget for the 2006 project is just over \$13 million - \$9.9 million from the Forest Service and \$3.2 million from state match funding.

This is the first year that STS has budgeted an additional \$75,000 in resources for Technology Development. This represents a total commitment of \$150,000.

Also, the Iowa Department of Agriculture is unable to increase its state contribution to STS. IDA will maintain the regulatory authority over gypsy moth, but Iowa DNR will assume most of the oversight and implementation of the STS trapping program. The STS budget reflects \$24,000 as seed money for Iowa to increase its trapping even though it is not yet ready to officially join STS.

An additional \$1,000 also will be given to KY to help with their trapping program.

## TIMELINES FOR GRANTS

The Foundation will move ahead to submit the overall budget and 424 request to the Forest Service prior to the States finalizing their state requests to the Foundation.

## 2006 FINAL DRAFT BUDGET

Donna explained and discussed the FY06 STS Budget spreadsheet.

**MOTION:** Bob Waltz (IN) proposed and Frank Fulgham (VA) seconded a motion to accept the budget as presented by Donna. The motion passed unanimously.

## 2007 BUDGET STRATEGY

Discussions continued on how best to address the proposed reduction in the FY07 President's Budget. It was decided to develop a 1-page outline of STS Foundation budget history and benefits to use in pursuing support for getting funding restored. It was also decided to pursue support from other stakeholders, such as, the National Plant Board, National Woodland Owners Assoc., American Nursery and Landscape Assoc., etc. A subgroup was appointed to develop this document. The subgroup is composed of Gene Cross (NC), Geir Friisoe (MN), Melody Walker (WI), John Walkowiak (IA) and Gary Gibson (WV).

## 2006 STS CONFERENCE CALL & MEETING SCHEDULE

Conference Calls scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.  
Call-in number for all Conference Calls: 404-347-7966

<b>JAN 4</b>	Conference Call	<i>Cancelled</i>
<b>JAN 23-27</b>	OP/REG Mtg	<i>Held in Savannah, GA</i>
<b>FEB 16</b>	STS Annual Mtg	<i>Held in Indianapolis, IN</i>
<b>MAR 1</b>	<b>Conference Call</b>	<b><i>Scheduled for 10:00 a.m. EST</i></b>
<b>APR 5</b>	Conference Call	<i>Scheduled for 10:00 a.m. EDT</i>
<b>MAY 3</b>	Conference Call	<i>Scheduled for 10:00 a.m. EDT</i>
<b>JUN 7</b>	Conference Call	<i>Scheduled for 10:00 a.m. EDT</i>
<b>JUL 5</b>	Conference Call	<i>Scheduled for 10:00 a.m. EDT</i>
<b>AUG 2</b>	Conference Call	<i>Scheduled for 10:00 a.m. EDT</i>
<b>SEP 6</b>	Conference Call	<i>Scheduled for 10:00 a.m. EDT</i>
<b>OCT 4</b>	Conference Call	<i>Scheduled for 10:00 a.m. EDT</i>
<b>NOV 1</b>	Conference Call	<i>Scheduled for 10:00 a.m. EST</i>
<b>DEC 6</b>	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 February 16, 2006, unless otherwise indicated by the Board.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Frank Fulgham, Secretary  
STS Foundation