



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

**February 16, 2011  
9:00 CDT – 11:00 CDT  
10:00 EDT – 12:00 EDT**

Proper notice having been duly given to each Board member, a meeting 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	present
Phil Marshall, Indiana	present
Tivon Feeley, Iowa	present
Carl Harper, Kentucky	present
Larry Nichols, Virginia	present
Gary Gibson, West Virginia	absent

**OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING**

Dave Adkins, Ohio  
Butch Sayers, West Virginia  
Ed Holloman, Southeastern Association Services  
JoAnn Cruse, USDA APHIS Eastern Region  
Donna Leonard, Amy Hill, Noel Schneeberger, Patrick Tobin, 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**

Scott Frank (IL) made a motion to approve the January 5, 2011 minutes. Carl Harper (KY) seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Phil Marshall made a motion to continue with the current slate of officers, Geir Friisoe (MN) President, Gene Cross (NC) Vice President and Treasurer, Melody Walker (WI), Secretary. Tivon Feeley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



## **2010 STS Program Accomplishments**

The report has a new look with state seals on the bottom.

After 3 years of reduced funding STS was funded by the Forest Service at \$10.5 million in 2010. Nearly 90,000 traps were set by the states. Treatments occurred on more than 530,000 acres. Spread was below the target rate for the second year in a row.

Last year we had a shortage of racemic disparture. This limited the number of acres we could treat with mating disruptant which resulted in 12 % of the acreage being treated with Btk. The Btk cost per acre increased by \$1.30 per acre. The increased cost limited the number of acres that could be treated.

The final Accomplishment Report will be posted on the STS Website. The issue of how to show cooperation across groups including NPB, NASF, and the state departments of agriculture and natural resources, and at the same time provide clarity on the different roles of agencies was not resolved. Donna will draft language in the Executive Summary about this barrier zone program and circulate it to Geir and Melody.

➤ ***ACTION: Submit Comments to Donna on the accomplishment report by February 25.***

The group discussed revising the report to include the regulatory report that will be provided by APHIS. However, because the Accomplishment Report functions as the FS grant report it was decided we would add the regulatory report to the Brief which would show the entire STS effort. The Brief will be useful for informing policy makers.

It is time to consider updating our logo. At a minimum the logo should say “STS Foundation” and it should be a simple design. The Foundation will give the winning designer a “Spot Award” of up to \$100.00. The deadline is March 30<sup>th</sup> for submitting designs. The Board will vote on the logo designs at the April conference call.

## **2011 Plan of Work and Budget**

The draft Plan of Work (POW) for the STS project for 2011 states the program goal to reduce the spread rate by 60 % below 19.4 km/yr to 8 km/year. The documentation from page 1 to page three illustrates how the spread rate increases in an action zone that is reduced from 100km to zero km. The work planned for 2011 assumes a 100 km action zone.

Budget uncertainty continues. The Continuing Resolution ends March 4. It is difficult to plan for treatment and trapping not knowing what the budget will be. The budget balance started at \$10 million and it was cut to \$ 9 million at the Operations meeting. The project is planned for 543,000 acres of treatment, 87,000 traps and a 100 km wide action zone. If further cuts are needed, they will come from treatments. Trapping will not be reduced because states are already in the process of contracting/hiring trappers. MI Department of Agriculture has continued to trap in the UP to provide information to the algorithm. In 2010, the 30 moth line was completely in

WI, but this line could move east back into MI. The cost to set 50 traps in the UP will add \$15,000 to the budget, which cost effective given that the 30 moth line is critical for running the algorithm.

Page 13 of the POW is missing some of the usual due dates because the federal budget has not been approved.

Donna asked if the states could implement the program without an award. Indiana and Ohio can use the state contracted treatments as match. North Carolina and Iowa have only mating disruption treatments. Kentucky and West Virginia have no treatments. Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota cannot implement their programs without an award.

**Phil Marshall (IN) made a motion to approve the draft budget as a working guide. Gene Cross (NC) seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.**

### **Calibration and Characterization (C&C)**

Currently, the Michigan Department of Agriculture runs the C&C. They own the swath kit and have 5-6 people who staff the operation. This occurs at AI's Aerial Spraying because they have a recovery system for the Btk used in the calibration. Seven of the 10 STS program states treat some of their acreage with Btk and most of the contractors participate in the C&C. It costs \$7,000 each year and it is more efficient than having each state do its own C&C before treating. The cost is covered by STS or Suppression dollars.

The current swath kit is quite old. Leading Edge Associates has a newer product called Drop Vision. Donna said STS would pay ½ the total cost of \$17,000 and Michigan Department of Agriculture the Northeast National Association of Aerial Applicators would pay the other ½. Amy said the company would support the product.

### **NPDES**

Donna would like each state to apply for a permit for all gypsy moth work including the Forest Service's portion of work because state requirements will likely vary from state to state. However, perhaps the FS should be on the application because the MD contract is paid for and managed day-to-day by the FS. We are all linked together through the Foundation if there is a violation of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The FS will need to know what documentation to provide to the states for the NPDES permits.

NPDES permit requirements vary from state to state. In VA, the permit uses the word "operator" a lot. It seems that the responsibility would be shared with multiple entities for a violation of the CWA. In VA you maintain documentation, but you don't file an NOI or receive a permit. IA has an EPA approved state permit. IN is waiting for EPA to release their permit. In NC both the entity that controls the funding and management plan and the operator applying the pesticide need permits. WV will follow the EPA permit.

Carl suggested using SharePoint to share documentation related to the NPDES permit. Patrick suggested using a drop box. Donna said we should create a structure next year once we know what we need. Donna will look into the different options for sharing documentation.

### **2010 Quality Control Report**

The Executive Summary on page two is the information that we would post on the website based on comments from last year. Donna provided a synopsis of the report. The STS program usually follows a more conservative approach than is recommended by the algorithm. The overall program is close to the 90 % target.

### **Audit Report**

Gene Cross (NC) reported that we have had the same accounting firm for the last couple of years. It has been invaluable to have people to understand what we do. Gwen and Tracy from the accounting firm of Williams Overman Pierce, LLP presented the audit report. The report was very positive. The auditors said Ed and Gene do a great job making sure everything is ready for them when we come to work on the audit.

In response to the audit recommendations, Ed created passwords to protect the gypsy moth quick books from being confused with other quick books. Both Ed and gene have the password.

Phil Marshall said the Board's Audit Committee included Phil, Scott and Gary, provide segregation of duties from Gene and Ed. The Committee provides a layer of oversight by making sure it's members understand the purpose of each expense. Another step toward separation of duties includes Gene receiving bank statements and Ed performing the draw-downs.

Gene said we should decide if we will continue to employ Williams Overman Pierce, LLP. Our cost is about \$20,000 a year and Gene indicated costs are compatible across audit companies. Last year we determined we are subject to A133. Gene will find out if we can do less than annual audits. He asked for agreement to use the same firm. There was general agreement and no dissent.

The auditors recommended the Board develop an ethics policy to follow. Gene provided a draft ethics policy to consider. **Phil Marshall (IN) moved to adopt the ethics policy as presented and appoint an ethics liaison. Tivon Feeley seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Carl Harper volunteered. The ethics liaison is the board member responsible for the administration of and the adherence to the ethics policy.**

### **Technical Development**

Patrick Tobin gave a quick overview of technical development work. Before the overview of work Patrick announced the Gypsy Moth STS Program was soon to be recognized by the

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) as one of 14 exemplary collaborative research and development case studies selected from about 80 nominated works.

Technical development accounts for two percent of the STS Foundation budget. The focus has been on mating disruption and on analyzing the effectiveness SPLAT. Both products work equally in the south and north and are active for 10 weeks. The efficacy declines after 10 weeks. The pheromone flakes have a second year effect which could lead us to believe an area is gypsy moth free when it is not. SPLAT is not active a second year after application. BioFlakes were also evaluated but they were not biodegradable and they were more costly. The evaluation of SPLAT will continue again this year.

Work on phenology using sentinel trapping yielding smaller moths indicated larger populations. The prolonged catches in northern Minnesota indicated low-level resident populations and evidence of blow.

BioSim gives very long periods for traps to be up in northern WI and northern MN. In order to adjust the model we have a site in Houghton, MI where we should be able to get egg hatch data to match moth flight data. If we have both of these pieces of data we should be able to apply a correction.

Another project involves the rate of release of disparlure. The good news is the initial lure load is sufficient even in the hottest climates. The downside is we need one microgram to mimic a female, and we were only getting 0.7 mg. in the coolest climates. Therefore, a lower trap capture is more likely to persist in a more northern climate.

### **Forest Service Call-In with Rob Mangold and Vic Harrabin**

Rob congratulated everyone on the recognition from AAAS. Rob will attend ceremony to accept recognition. In other news, the Forest Service 2012 budget will be tight at \$119 million down from 138 million to help with the deficit. In 2011 we don't have a budget, yet. We should know something by March 4. We have an agreement that eradication blocks will not be part of the RFP. The FS will fund the eradication projects in MN and WI.

APHIS has no money for gypsy moth control. We have had inadequate control funding for several years. Last year we used Farm Bill funding, but this year there is a technicality of missing language that would allow us to use the Farm Bill money for gypsy moth control. Language needs to be included in the CR or budget to make the Farm Bill money available for gypsy moth control. This is related to using CCC funds and this year there is \$50 million. It is not part of the federal budget. If we would get a CR to close out fiscal year, we would know what funds we have. If we go for a month or two we won't have budget answers.

Five states have requested funding of \$350,000 for eradication blocks. These eradication sites are critical sites to treat as highlighted by the APHIS and FS MOU. NC received notice to submit the 424. NC has put out the request for bid not knowing there was no funding available. NC will be treating early and needs to obligate in the next 10 days or so. The NC eradication site is a critical site to be addressed. There is an investment in this site because of its biological

sensitivity; this site is over 200 miles from the quarantined area. The gypsy moth program will take a huge step backwards by allowing this site to go untreated. Costs can be reduced somewhat by treating a smaller area. Emergency dollars are not available at the state level this year. The FS may be able to cover this site even though it is under APHIS responsibility. Rob Mangold will see if the FS can cover this cost of \$65,721 for control.

Rob said there is a broader issue on the RFP that creates a challenging relationship with sister agencies, and is a disadvantage to state departments of agriculture. He suggests talking to state departments of natural resources and the FS Northeast Region leadership.

➤ ***ACTION: Ssend comments back to Gene on letter to Jim Hubbard.***

### **APHIS Role in STS 2010 accomplishments**

JoAnn Cruse gave an overview of the APHIS role in coordination with STS.

Joe Beckwith is the current Eastern Region Program Manager that has gypsy moth has one of his programs. Roland is the Western Regional Program Manager. He is also responsible for fruit flies and several other pests. In 2010 held the first meeting of the Gypsy Moth Regulatory Committee. Julie Spalding is the National Gypsy Moth Coordinator.

JoAnn shared spreadsheets showing how much funding each state receives for regulatory work. Indiana and Ohio do not get funding from APHIS for gypsy moth regulatory work. In these two states APHIS funding goes to APHIS in Indiana and Ohio. Currently, the states send their regulatory work plans to Gene. He shares those with the APHIS regional program manager. Indiana and Ohio reports from APHIS go directly to the APHIS Region. The STS Board would like to see the APHIS reports to gain an understanding of the work that APHIS is accomplishing in Indiana and OHIO with regards to gypsy moth regulatory activities.

JoAnn also presented information on efforts to spread the word about gypsy moth and to prevent the artificial movement of gypsy moth via moving companies.

### **Future Meetings**

The next conference call is scheduled for March 16, 2011 at 9:00 AM CDT/10:00 AM EDT.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion received unanimous approval and 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**.

**January 5                      Conference Call                      Held**

<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>Rescheduled for March 16</b>
<b>April 6</b>	<b>Conference Call</b>	
<b>May 4</b>	<b>Conference Call</b>	
<b>June 1</b>	<b>Conference Call</b>	
<b>July 6</b>	<b>Conference Call</b>	
<b>August 3</b>	<b>Conference Call</b>	
<b>September 7</b>	<b>Conference Call</b>	
<b>October 5</b>	<b>Conference Call</b>	
<b>November 2</b>	<b>Conference Call</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 February 16, 2011, unless otherwise indicated by the Board.

Melody Walker, Secretary  
 STS Foundation