



Slow the Spread
of the Gypsy Moth
Slow the Spread Foundation, Inc.

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

February 18, 2015
8:00 AM – 3:30 PM EDT

Proper notice having been duly given to each Board member, the annual meeting of the Board of Directors was held in Raleigh, NC on the above date.

Larry Nichols called the meeting to order and the roll was taken.

BOARD MEMBERS

Larry Nichols, Virginia, President	present
Phil Wilson, 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
Kimberly Thielen Cremers, Minnesota	present
Eric Ewing, West Virginia	present

OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING

Dave Adkins, Ohio
Chris Elder, Vernon Cox, North Carolina
Tim Brown, West Virginia
Ed Holloman, Southeastern Association Services
Anthony Man-Son-Hing, Paul Chaloux, USDA APHIS
Donna Leonard, Noel Schneeberger, USDA Forest Service
Patrick Tobin, University of Washington

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

Virginia		North Carolina		Wisconsin	
Larry Nichols - President		Phil Wilson – Vice President/Treasurer		Melody Walker - Secretary	
804-786-3515		919-707-3753		608-224-4586	
Illinois	Indiana	Iowa	Kentucky	Minnesota	West Virginia
Scott Frank	Phil Marshall	Tivon Feeley	Carl Harper	Kimberly Thielen	Eric Ewing
217-785-2427	812-358-3621	515-725-8453	859-257-5838	Cremers	304-558-2212
				651-201-6329	

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Phil Marshall (IN) made a motion, seconded by Scott Frank (IL), to approve the January 7, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried.

Election of Officers

Larry Nichols (VA) asked for the nomination of officers for the Board. Phil Marshall (IN) made a motion to re-elect the current slate of officers: Larry Nichols as president, Phil Wilson as Vice President and Treasurer, and Melody Walker as Secretary, for the coming year. Tivon Feely (IA) seconded the motion. No other nominations were made. The motion carried.

Quality Control/Quality Assurance Report

Donna Leonard gave the Quality Control/Quality Assurance Report. Virginia Tech compiles this report each year on program standards for data collected in the STS area only. However, it is possible to query reports from the database on state data if necessary. The Executive Summary (page 2) is the only part of the report that is posted on the gypsy moth website. Overall there was project compliance to the protocols.

In 2014 the program exceeded the benchmark for trapping within the target circle. The trapping data was evaluated by the algorithm which identifies potential problem areas (PPA's) to propose to treat, delimit or do nothing. Planned treatments account for 90% of recommendations. Four of the recommend treatments are not planned for treatment for various reasons. Recommended delimitations were accepted as delimitations under 70% of the time but there is 100 % compliance because delimitation recommendations were treated if not delimited.

Quality Assurance (page 4) explains how the data is screened before uploads to reduce errors. Data files are viewable on the map server as soon as they are uploaded. The data is available to all of the states to keep track of trapper activities as needed.

The project exceeded trap placement (page 5) with traps at 97% of the sites and omits at 3% of the sites. All trap sites were addressed. The yellow highlighted area (page 6-10) indicated the percent of omitted sites. Trapper issues aside, omitted sites are sometimes necessary because of cornfields or lack of accessibility. Delimited sites often have some omitted traps.

All states completed quality control checks (page 11-15) very well with 10% required and 15 % completed overall. There were very few quality control failures. The reported failures included trap assembly and information not recorded correctly on the traps. Placing a trap outside of the target circle is no longer considered an error. It is better to have a trap placed outside the circle than to have no trap placed.

Trap placement and removal schedules (16-20) are in the one section of the report where the database looks at STS and state traps. The data is evaluated for traps set or removed one, two, or three weeks late or early. Approximately 37 of 60,000 STS traps were placed late and about 16 STS were removed early. State areas had more traps set late and removed early, but still an insignificant amount.

Phil Marshall (IN) made a motion to approve the Quality Control/Quality Assurance Report and to post executive summary on the website as presented. Tivon Feely (IA) provided a second. The motion carried.

FS Report - 2014 STS Program Accomplishments and 2015 Plan of Work and Budget

The STS project was funded by the Forest Service at \$8.875 million and with state match the budget totaled \$11.3 million. In 2012, in response to a funding crisis the trapping grid was changed from a 2k to a 3k base grid in the Action Area. After implementing this plan for two years the general consensus was that there wasn't good coverage for making decisions when planning treatments or for evaluating treatments. As a result, in 2014 the Action Area was split into two different zones. The first zone is a 2k zone nearest the quarantine area and the second zone is a 3k zone in front of the Action Area. This seems to meet program needs. Funding is divided about half and half between monitoring and treatment. Data management is a significant cost. Ed Holloman planned and paid for meetings on behalf of the Foundation, which streamlined the approval and payment process.

During the 2014 spray season, a problem that involves micro plastics (microbeads) began to surface which may affect NPDES permits. The breakdown of plastic imbedded with pheromone into smaller pieces of plastics might be considered unacceptable at some point. Bioflakes are a possible replacement, but they are considered a polyester. No organic formulations are available at this time, because of the properties needed to keep the pheromone stable over time. SPLAT is a possibility for replacement of pheromone flakes, but application is a challenge. Valent Biosciences might be interested in developing a bioflake, but for now there isn't a strong alternative.

Donna will post the 2014 STS Accomplishments to the web. She would like comments back to her by Friday, February 27.

2015 Plan of Work (POW) and Budget

The overall program goal is a 60 % reduction rate of spread or 8km/ year. Populations decreased (page 1-4) in 2014 overall with negative spread rates in 10 of the 11 zones. Minnesota experienced a huge drop from 70,000 moths in 2013 to 500 moths in 2014. Even though populations declined, boundaries remained static or moved ahead. This is because the Action Area is calculated by the 10 moth line averaged over 3 years, rather than just the previous year's data. The Action Area was physically moved slightly in southeast Virginia and Wisconsin to better fit the location of populations to be treated. Normally, the trap catches include the 30 moth line, but in 2014 there were too few moths. Trapping will be adjusted somewhat in 2015 to catch 30 moth line. According to the Decision Algorithm, three counties in northeast Tennessee should be included in STS. Donna has had several meetings with Tennessee. The overhead to bring Tennessee into the STS program would be costly, but it is anticipated to occur at some point. Tennessee has used gadgets and will use the G3's in 2015 and state funds. Their data will most likely go into the system via the gadgets in 2015.

An estimated 60,578 traps will be set in 2015. As previously mentioned the Action Area will be split into two trapping zones with the area closest to the quarantined sections trapped in a 2k grid and the area out in front of the leading edge trapped in a 3k grid.

Based on the 2014 Moth Catch data (page 8) the PPA's came up with 550,000 treat acres and with edits was reduced to 510,000 acres of planned treatment. Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin have the most treatments this year and Minnesota has no treatments for the first time since 2007.

Budget

A total of \$8,488,400 is available for the current year of work with an \$8 million allocation for operations, \$125,000 for technical development, \$13,400 for the Ohio eradication project, and \$350,000 remaining from the previous year's grant.

The 2014 Grant end will in end in June. States are encouraged deobligate as soon as possible or if possible to utilize the unused 2014 money to fund part of their 2015 work. The narrative contains activity in both years and if it changes from line to line by ten percent or less then no additional paperwork is needed.

Once the Board approves the budget, Ed and Donna can finalize and submit the Foundation's request to the Forest Service. States can submit 424's as early as March 15th. States can request a letter of cost incurrence if they need to cover anything before the award arrives. The award should occur by mid-April. Carl Harper (KY) made a motion to accept the budget and the POW. Phil Marshall (IN) seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Audit Report

Hannah Grantham and Gwen Bass reviewed draft of financial statements for years ending in September 30, 2013 and 2014 and shared communications. They issued a clean opinion and they found no issues of noncompliance. There were no new findings of deficiencies in internal control. We continue to have the same deficiencies from year to year, which relate to the size of our organization; the Foundation has a limited number of people involved in the accounting process. We also do not have additional staff to prepare financial statements, all disclosures, statements and reports.

Gwen provided the following comments.

- 1) The Foundation should provide the sub-recipient with information about the award including grant requirements and provisions and the CFDA number. The Foundation did not provide the CFDA number.
- 2) Quick book records and grant agreements should agree. Drawdowns have been drawn down on the agreement side but not in the Quick Book.
- 3) A few invoices were not initialed for approval for payment.

Larry thanked Ed and Phil Wilson for all the work they do on the Foundation's finances.

Technical Committee Update

Patrick Tobin, STS Technical Committee Chair, provided the technical report.

- i- Gypsy moth trends were studied in Virginia where gypsy moth has remained static or moved backwards. The study suggests there is a climate barrier to gypsy moth expansion in this area.
- ii- In year two of a field study on the Grand Portage Indian Reservation, the research team demonstrated that gypsy moth can scratch out a living surviving below the snowline but may be unlikely to produce high populations.
- iii- This study just came out in peer review to show that gypsy moth populations can fragment in time by one day or two with even smaller elevations in diverse topographies. MD success could benefit with an already time fragmented population.
- iv- Work on ground applications of SPLAT to optimize the success of ground treatments and minimize cost was completed and it will help to get good efficacy at as reasonable cost as possible.
- v- Artificially high density populations were created to learn the effectiveness of treatment with MD. It was determined that MD can be successful with a maximum number of 20 moths per trap per day (200 moths in the season), especially when embedded with Btk.
- vi- A non-STS funded project demonstrated that nontarget effects of defoliation are much greater than the nontarget effects of Btk used to control outbreaks.

Patrick will send out a PDF of his last publication or he will send the recent publication to Denise to post on the web.

Operations Group – priorities for funding as part of regulatory grants

Patrick Tobin said there was a study of anthropogenic movement of firewood which showed a strong relationship between new gypsy moth colonies and home heating with firewood. Kimberly Thielen Cremers surveyed states to determine their primary regulatory concerns: logs and log movement, limited funding, firewood movement and harmonization of mills and compliance agreements. With this information the prioritization of STS regulatory funds should be considered. Larry said priorities should be developed for how to spend the regulatory funds. This discussion will continue at the next STS Foundation Board meeting.

APHIS Report

Paul Chaloux gave this report. The interim rule to expand the gypsy moth quarantine will be published soon. Updating the program manual will take quite a bit of time, so in the interim APHIS will produce a guidance document on regulatory changes for the movement of logs. APHIS plans to completely revise structure of domestic quarantines (Title 301, Section 7). There is movement to do a web listing and get away from a federal order. This would make it less cumbersome to make changes to quarantine boundaries and host lists. There is also more transparency with this method. Also there will soon be a rollout of the 2015 gypsy moth risk model (March 19). This will be used for survey or funding but it will not be compulsory.

Future Meetings

The next conference call is scheduled for March 4, 2015.

Meeting Adjourned

Carl Harper (KY) moved to adjourn the meeting. Eric Ewing (WV) seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned.

2015 STS Conference Call and Meeting Schedule

Conference calls are scheduled for the 1st 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 2015 is **888-844-9904 with access code 658 3639.**

January 7	Conference Call	Held
February 4	Conference Call	Cancelled
February 18	STS Annual MT	Held
March 4	Conference Call	
April 1	Conference Call	
May 6	Conference Call	
June 3	Conference Call	
July 1	Conference Call	
August 5	Conference Call	
September 2	Conference Call	
October 7	Conference Call	
October 29	Conference Call	
November 4	Conference Call	
December 2	Conference Call	

The foregoing motions and actions, by unanimous consent are to have full force and effect as of January 7, 2015, unless otherwise indicated by the Board.

Melody Walker, Secretary