

GYPSY MOTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

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Present:

Sandy Webb, Dick Somalski, Paul Begick, Tom Putt, Jim Bedell, Alicia Wallace, Pat Bilbrey, and Cyndi Gaul.

Excused: Agness Schmidt, Bob Hubert, Laura Ogar and Howard Wetters.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Sandy Webb.

Approval of the August 31, 2010 Meeting Minutes:

There being no additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes of the August 31, 2010 meeting minutes, a motion was made by Tom Putt, seconded by Paul Begick, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion Passed.

Public comment:

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Revised Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan Criteria for Treating Trees:

Alicia provided a handout and told the committee that 3,400 ash trees have been added to the main Tree Inventory Data Base. Plus there are 159 in the secondary data base of inventoried ash trees. The inventory shows the size and condition of the trees along with there location and site ranking. The individual tree rankings are to be added using the EAB Criteria based on the conditions found. Alicia believes that Priority 1, 2, and 3 trees are worth saving and are where we should concentrate EAB treatment. Priority 1 ranked trees will be given the first treatments. For example, there are 243 ash trees at the Bay County Golf Course, 19 of them have "D" shaped exit holes and 4 need to be removed. We are looking at treating 8" - 12" breast height diameter ash trees. Alicia needs to find out what the rate is per inch for treating the trees. Currently there is \$250,000.00 set aside to treat ash trees for EAB. However, Alicia would like to see the amount increased to \$500,000.00 in order to treat more ash trees in this first year if needed.

The Gypsy Moth millage is authorized for collection in December of 2011 which will then be collected in 2012. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Tom Putt, seconded by Sandy Webb, to increase the EAB tree treatment budget to no more than \$500,000.00 as needed in 2011. Motion Passed.

A motion was made by Sandy Webb, seconded by Paul Begick, to approve the revised Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan Criteria for Treating Trees. Motion Passed.

Ash Tree Inventory Results:

All the data has now been entered into the Ash Tree Inventory and there is still some minor tweaking to be done. Alicia plans to give property owners a copy of the inventory along with a map of their property so they know the ranking and health of their ash trees. She would also like to have some treatment plans and costs so that property owners can determine how they would like to handle their ash trees.

Jim Bedell discussed the "Front Porch Renaissance" and explained that it is a non-profit movement to bring in a portable saw mill to help homeowners remove dead trees and trying to find inventive ways to use the lumber. The group is looking to get a grant to help fund the portable saw mill. This program would not only assist in tree removal, there would also be tree replacement. The goal of the group is to see a tree planted for every tree that is removed. The start-up fee for this program is \$75,000.00 and would employ three crews.

Bid Development Process:

Alicia is still working on the wording for the bids. The bid will include the requirement to use the Arborjet system and Tree-age pesticide. The qualifications for the contractors will most likely include requirements for the firm to be located within the Saginaw Bay Region and have multiple year experience with Tree-age and the application equipment. Also the committee recommended that the bidder be able to supply verifiable references and the number of trees that they have actually treated. The bid will be divided into several geographic units to make the number of trees to be treated in each unit a manageable number. Treatment will need to be done between May 1, 2011 and June 16, 2011 per MSU Extension and Labeling recommendations.

Gypsy Moth Egg Mass Survey:

Alicia discussed the findings of the Gypsy Moth Egg Mass Survey and said that staff found very few in Bay County. It would seem that the Gypsy Moth population is not increasing at this time.

OTHER:

Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting date was not set at this time.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Sandy Webb at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alicia Wallace
Gypsy Moth Program Coordinator

Transcribed by: Cyndi Gaul 01/21/2011