

MINUTES OF THE GYPSY MOTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

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Present:

Paul Begick, Agness Schmidt, Sandy Webb, Dick Somalski, Bob Hubert, Howard Wetters, Alicia Wallace, Pat Bilbrey, and Cyndi Gaul.

Excused: Laura Ogar, Tom Putt & Jerry Schrott

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Sandy Webb.

Approval of the June 18, 2008 Meeting Minutes:

There being no additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes of the June 18, 2008 meeting minutes, a motion was made by Agness Schmidt, seconded by Dick Somalski, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion Passed.

Gypsy Moth Millage

Press Release:

Alicia provided members with a copy of a draft press release which gives an overview of the aerial spraying for the treatment of gypsy moth that took place in Bay County May 19th and May 20th and an overview of the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program. Those present felt that the press release was informative, without being hard to understand. There were two typos to correct on the press release draft (3rd paragraph, 6th line down the word "of" to "for" and the word "educations" to "educational").

A motion was made by Agness Schmidt, seconded by Bob Hubert, to support and approve the Gypsy Moth Press Release (with corrections indicated above) and request that the press release be sent to the local media immediately. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before the committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Gypsy Moth/Millage Promotion:

Alicia discussed the upcoming Gypsy Moth Suppression Program Mileage and explained that it would be placed on the August 2008 ballot. The press release being sent to the media should generate some interest in the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program. Alicia is planning to send out a general informational press release in mid-July giving an update of the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program.

When it comes time to campaign for the millage and talk with the Bay City Times, it was determined that Paul Begick, Dick Somalski, and Sandy Webb would talk to the media. Sandy mentioned looking into any of the hometown news publications or community calendars to get the information out through that sort of media.

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Alicia didn't think the Gypsy Moth Millage would have to be collected the first year. She thought we would levy the millage in 2010 or 2011. If the millage doesn't pass at the August elections, the committee would like to see it go on the November ballot.

A motion was made by Sandy Webb, Seconded by Howard Wetters, to support the placing of the millage on the November ballot should it be defeated in August. Motion Passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

OTHER

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB):

Alicia briefly discussed the EAB. Alicia explained that the State Grant Program is concentrating time and funds to prevent the spread of the EAB into the Upper Peninsula.

Joint Gypsy Moth Spray Bid for 2009:

Alicia discussed the benefits of putting in a joint spray bid and how there was a reduction in cost in 2008 for all those involved with the joint spray operation. Committee members would like further discussion of this topic at the September, 2008 meeting.

Next Meeting:

The date for the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, **September 17, 2008 at 10:00** a.m. in the **MSU-Extension Conference Room** located on the **3rd floor** of the Bay County Building, 515 Center Avenue, Bay City, Michigan.

A second meeting was also scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in the MSU-Extension Conference Room located on the 3rd floor of the Bay County Building, 515 Center Avenue, Bay City, Michigan.

The meeting of the Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alicia Wallace
Gypsy Moth Program Coordinator

Transcribed by: C. Gaul 06/25/2008