

Present:

Dick Somalski, Paul Begick, Tom Putt, Agness Schmidt, Alicia Wallace, Pat Bilbrey, and Cyndi Gaul.

Excused: Jim Bedell, Bob Hubert, Laura Ogar and Sandy Webb.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Tom Putt.

Approval of the January 18, 2011 Meeting Minutes:

There being no additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes of the **January 18, 2011** meeting minutes, a motion was made by Begick, seconded by Schmidt, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion Passed.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Coordinator's Report

Fall Gypsy Moth Egg Mass Survey Results:

The Gypsy Moth Suppression Program Staff have completed the Fall Gypsy Moth Egg Mass Surveys and found that the population was significantly down. Staff found approximately 18 egg masses. Therefore, it is recommended that there be no spring spray treatment for the gypsy moth.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Treatment Summary:

Alicia provided committee members with a handout outlining all the ash trees that were treated for EAB. There are 21 different entities that have ash trees on public lands. Last year staff were able to facilitate EAB treatment of 2,566 ash trees. There are still approximately 833 ash trees that qualify under the criteria that should be treated for EAB this spring.

Projected Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Treatment Needs:

The 2,000 plus ash trees that were treated in 2011 will need to be re-treated in 2013. The exact number of ash trees treated in 2011 that will be re-treated in 2013 is unknown as some trees didn't take the EAB treatment or were struck by lightning or were taken down by property owners. Alicia said that in most cases you can really tell the treated trees from the non-treated trees so the EAB treatment is making a difference. To treat the 833 remaining ash trees in 2012 will cost approximately \$100,000.00 (based on last years treatment costs).

Motion:

A motion was made by Dick Somalski, seconded by Agness Schmidt, to favorably recommend to the Ways and Means Committee that the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program treat the remaining 833 ash trees for EAB. Motion passed.

Financial Summary:

Alicia provided committee members with a financial summary table. According to the figures, the program has enough funds to treat trees for EAB at least one more time. The current millage expired in 2011. Currently, there are enough program funds to support the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program through 2013. Advisory Members were concerned as there are new, non-native invasive pests on the horizon like the Asian Long Horn Beetle that attacks maple trees. The group feels that this is a vital program to the health of the environment.

Advisory Business

2012 Election of Officers:

A Motion was made by Paul Begick, seconded by Agness Schmidt, to keep Sandy Webb as the Chair and Dick Somalski as the Vice-Chair of the Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee. Motion Passed.

2012 Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee Members:

As stated in Article II of the Gypsy Moth Advisory By-Laws, the County Executive appoints the members of the Advisory Committee for a term of one year. This request must be submitted and approved by the Bay County Executive each program year. If you haven't submitted your request, please do so immediately.

New Committee Members:

Alicia discussed the importance of getting some new members on the Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee. Jim Bedell/City of Bay City is planning on becoming a regular part of the committee. Alicia was looking for any ideas committee members might have to increase membership. Dick Somalski recommended that Alicia send something to each of the townships. It was also suggested that Alicia contact gardening clubs, master gardeners, tree groups, etc. to see if we can get some increased membership.

Millage Renewal:

The current millage expired in 2011. In order to keep the program funded, the millage renewal will need to be placed on the 2012 ballot in order to keep the millage a renewal. Alicia provided everyone with a handout of the millage language that was proposed on the 2008 ballot. The millage has been collected only seven (7) times over the last 22 years. Once the request to renew the millage has been approved by the Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee, it will have to go through Ways & Means and the Board of Commissioners. Alicia asked if there would be any changes required. After discussion, the group agreed that there should be an addition of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) to the millage language.

Motion:

A motion was made by Paul Begick, seconded by Agness Schmidt, to favorably recommend to Mr Hickner and the Ways and Means Committee that the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program request a millage renewal for 2012, with the addition of the EAB to the millage language. Motion passed.

OTHER:

Accurate Information:

Paul Begick would like to see accurate information getting out to the public after incorrect information was reported in the Bay City Times regarding the Veteran's getting funding

from the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program. Alicia explained that she has talked to the Bay City Times and is working on having the correct information put out in the news paper. The Bay City Times E-News Paper had printed correct information.

Alicia will be doing an article for the Bay City Times, Pinconning Journal, and Great Lakes Bay Magazine regarding the proposed millage renewal. She will also be doing a program on Bay 3-TV promoting the millage renewal. Committee Members asked if there was any way to get information out on some sort of "social media". Alicia explained that the Bay County was on Facebook and that she would be able to post information about the millage through the Bay County Facebook account.

Tom Putt felt that it was very important that throughout all the messages, especially when Alicia is before the Board of Commissioners, that the fact that the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program has only collected the millage seven (7) times in 22 years. He felt that was a huge factor in our favor.

Re-Leaf Michigan:

This program is a 50/50 match that helps to replant trees. Alicia would like the Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee to support the use of her time in helping facilitate programs like Re-Leaf Michigan so that trees lost to the EAB can be re-planted in Bay County. Alicia would also like to explore other funding avenues for this same purpose. Discussion ensued.

Motion:

A motion was made by Agness Schmidt, seconded by Paul Begick, to favorably support Alicia Wallace's being a facilitator of tree replacement programs on public lands where trees have been lost due to EAB. This would be at a cost of only her time. Motion passed.

Re-Pine Bay County:

Alicia mentioned the idea of supporting a Re-Pine Bay County movement that would help bring back the White Pine to this area. This would be a way to re-forest Bay County. Discussion ensued.

Next Meeting:

The date for the next meeting was scheduled for **Friday, April 20, 2012** at 10:00 a.m. in the Finance Department's Conference Room located on the 7th floor of the Bay County Building, 515 Center Avenue, Bay City, Michigan.

As there was no further business, the January 20, 2012 Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Wallace
Gypsy Moth Program Coordinator