

MINUTES OF THE GYPSY MOTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

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Present:

Agness Schmidt, Sandy Webb, Dick Somalski, Paul Begick, Bob Hubert, Laura Ogar, Alicia Wallace, Pat Bilbrey, Tom Putt, Darwin Baranski, and Cyndi Gaul.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by Sandy Webb.

Approval of the June 29, 2010 Meeting Minutes:

There being no additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes of the June 29, 2010 meeting minutes, a motion was made by Agness Schmidt, seconded by Bob Hubert, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion Passed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Alicia Wallace asked that we jump the agenda and start discussions with item #6 - Revisit the Millage Levee.

Revisit the Millage Levee:

At the June 29th meeting, the Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee recommend that the Gypsy Moth Suppression Millage not be levied for 2011 by a unanimous vote. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestations have been found in trees throughout Bay County. Some of the EAB Infestations are in trees that are located on publicly owned lands. The Gypsy Moth Millage language allows for the “*suppression, public education, and monitoring of Gypsy Moths and other invasive, non-native pests that damage local horticulture (trees and plants)*”. EAB fits this description as it is an invasive, non-native pest that has the potential to kill all untreated ash trees in Bay County. New and reliable individual tree treatment methods have been developed which make it possible to protect and save ash trees at a reasonable cost. Therefore, the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program is proposing that millage funds be used to begin the treatment ash trees located on Publically Owned Land which have high value and a good potential of surviving.

There was a concern that Alicia and her staff don't have enough resources to take on the EAB treatment being suggested. Alicia explained that while it is an increase in work, she will do her best to fulfill all program requirements and requests. Alicia also said that the treatment of ash trees for EAB would be sent out to bid to local applicators in blocks of trees. Dick Somalski was concerned about the cost of tree removal and wanted to know if the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program would be taking on tree removal as part of the EAB management. Alicia said that these issues would be addressed and outlined in the Revised EAB Program Guidelines and the County-Wide EAB Management Plan. Tom Putt and Sandy Webb felt that the group should concentrate on EAB Treatment, not tree removal.

Even though the Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee had made a motion at the June 29th

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meeting to not levee the millage for 2011, Alicia Wallace thought the committee should revisit the issued to determine if the millage will need to be collected for 2011 to ensure the continued funding of the EAB Treatment projects developed out of this initiative. Discussion ensued.

The Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee decided that they are sticking to their original recommendation that the Gypsy Moth Suppression Millage not be levied for 2011. Now that the minutes from the last meeting have been approved, Alicia Wallace will send notification to Tom Hickner, copying the Board of Commissioners, with the committee's recommendation that the Gypsy Moth Suppression Millage not be levied in 2011.

Revised Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Program Guidelines Draft:

Alicia Wallace handed out a draft for the proposed revised Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Program Guidelines for committee review and approval. Our current EAB Guidelines are over three years old and since the original guidelines were developed there have been improvements and changes to the treatment of EAB. Alicia Wallace read the proposed revised document out loud to the Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee, taking notes of comments and changes as each point was discussed. The Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee had several changes to the draft document.

A motion was made by Agness Schmidt, seconded by Dick Somalski, to accept the revised Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Program Guidelines with the recommended corrections/changes. During discussion of this motion, Laura Ogar suggested that the committee table the vote for the revised EAB Program Guidelines until the next meeting so that everyone has a chance to review the changes. Since there were so many wording changes, Alicia Wallace said she would make the changes to the guidelines and email out the revised draft for the committee to review. Both Agness Schmidt and Dick Somalski rescinded the motion on the table.

A motion was made by Dick Somalski, seconded by Agness Schmidt, to vote on the revised Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Program Guidelines at the next Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee Meeting on August 31, 2010. A copy of the revised EAB Program Guidelines draft with all changes/corrections discussed at this meeting is to be emailed to committee members prior to the next meeting for review. Motion Passed.

Development of a County-Wide EAB Management Plan:

Alicia Wallace has been working on the development of a County-Wide EAB Management Plan and the criteria that will outline which trees to include in an EAB treatment project. Alicia discussed the idea of getting together a sub-committee to develop this criteria and management plan. Alicia would like to get input from the cities and townships in Bay County to ensure the County-Wide EAB Management Plan will be acceptable to everyone. The committee felt that it would be better if they developed the County-Wide EAB Management Plan with Alicia Wallace. It was suggested that the group hold a Public Hearing to get input on the plan. Alicia plans

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to present a draft of the County-Wide EAB Management Plan along with the criteria at the next Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee Meeting.

Budgeting for Treatment:

Alicia Wallace discussed that the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program 2010 Budget has funds ear marked for Contractual Services. Alicia wanted to make the recommendation that the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program request to use the 2010 ear marked funds for EAB Treatment of ash trees on County owned lands. The committee members felt that it was too soon to do any treatment without having the EAB Program Guidelines and County-Wide EAB Management Plan in place. The earliest the group felt treatment could begin would be in Spring 2011.

Alicia said that if the group plans to treat in 2011 there will need to be an inclusion of funds for the EAB treatment activities in the 2011 budget. Alicia is recommending that a cap be set on the amount of funds used to treat EAB per year (\$250,000.00). Before the committee makes any financial recommendations, they want to make sure the EAB Program Guidelines and County-Wide EAB Management Plan are in place. Therefore, this matter was tabled until the next Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee Meeting.

Other Business

There was no Other Business brought before the committee.

Next Meeting:

The date for the next meeting was scheduled for **Tuesday, August 31, 2010** 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.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Paul Begick, seconded by Bob Hubert, to adjourn the July 27, 2010 Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee Meeting at 11:30 a.m. Motion Passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alicia Wallace
Gypsy Moth Program Coordinator

Transcribed by: C. Gaul 07/28/2010