

MINUTES OF THE GYPSY MOTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 31, 2010

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Present:

Agness Schmidt, Sandy Webb, Dick Somalski, Paul Begick, Bob Hubert, Laura Ogar, Alicia Wallace, Pat Bilbrey, and Tom Putt. **Excused:** Howard Wetters.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Sandy Webb.

Approval of the July 27, 2010 Meeting Minutes:

There being no additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes of the July 27, 2010 meeting, a motion was made by Paul Begick, seconded by Dick Somalski, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion Passed.

Public comment:

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Revised Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Guidelines Draft:

Alicia summarized what changes had been made to the guidelines based on the comments at the last Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee Meeting (i.e. definitions added, expanded education section, references to tree removal and replanting were removed). During discussion, Tom Putt questioned the definition of a treatment block being "two or more trees" as it would disqualify single trees of value. Alicia Wallace explained that treatment block refers to a group of trees that will be let out for bid. A list of qualified licensed applicators will be developed with the help of Corporation Counsel. Tom then asked if bidders would be confined to Bay County or would include applicators from the Great Lakes Region. Both Alicia Wallace and Laura Ogar confirmed that only Bay County qualified licensed applicators would be allowed to bid on the Bay County EAB treatment blocks.

The final paragraph of the mission statement of the EAB guidelines were changed to read as follows:

It is our mission to work cooperatively with Michigan State University, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and other agencies to suppress the spread of this pest on publically owned lands within Bay County.

There was further discussion concerning what properties would be included in the treatment blocks. There was also discussion about what local qualified licensed applicators would be contacted regarding the EAB treatment projects.

A motion was made by Agness Schmidt, seconded by Bob Hubert, to approve the EAB Management Guidelines with the corrections listed above. Motion Passed.

County -Wide EAB Management Plan:

Alicia explained that the Management Plan is what will be used as the external document to let the public, city, townships and school districts know what we plan to do and how we plan to go about the management of EAB in Bay County. The proposed County Wide EBA Management Plan was read aloud during the meeting in

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order to review the document as a group. Grammatical and typographic errors were noted for correction. Other changes/corrections include:

- Under Treatment Block, the word "Five" was deleted from the third sentence
- Under Treatment Block, the word "qualified" was inserted in front of licensed applicator.
- Under Ash Management Activities/Item #3, the word "qualified" was added before "Licensed Pesticide Application Firms".
- Under Communication & Public Education/Bullet #1, the words "Other Community Organizations" was added so the line would read: "Presentations to schools and other community organizations".

A motion was made by Bob Hubert, seconded by Dick Somalski to approve the Management Plan as corrected with the changes listed above. Motion Passed.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan Criteria for Treating Trees:

The EAB Criteria for Treating Trees will be **Appendix A** of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan for Publicly Owned Lands in Bay County. The EAB Criteria for Treating Trees will use site rankings and individual tree conditions to assign a priority ranking for each ash tree. The Ranking of the tree will determine when and if the ash tree will be treated. Alicia said that we will make sure that the definition of Publicly Owned Lands used in the EAB Criteria for Treating Trees will be the same as the one used in the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan for Publicly Owned Lands in Bay County. Alicia explained that the Individual Tree Condition evaluation section for the Criteria was taken from the Michigan State University (MSU) criteria for EAB treatment. Alicia further explained that the presence of exit holes means that the ash tree has been infested for at least two years. There was extensive discussion of how to rank properties/ tree sites. The following are the recommendations made:

- Under Site Rankings/Priority 2, it was suggested that the example should read: "city parks where festivals are held several weekends in the summer, golf courses fairways.
- Under Site Rankings/Priority 3, it was suggested that cemeteries and walking trails be added to the example.
- Under Decision Matrix, it was determined that the size of the tree would be considered a part of the "tree condition" not a separate rating criteria.

Sandy asked if we are going to tag the trees and Alicia said that she feels that we should only tag those trees that we plan to treat. Alicia also pointed out that the decision matrix will need adjustment once the inventory is updated. Alicia stated that staff plans to complete the survey on all public lands other than street trees

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within two weeks and the street trees should be done by the end of October, 2010.

Due to the various changes, it was determined that the Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee would not vote to approve Appendix A: Criteria for Treating Ash Trees until the changes have been made and there is another chance to review the document. Alicia will make the changes to Appendix A: Criteria for Treating Ash Trees and email the revised draft to committee members to review for approval at the next meeting.

Dick Somalski lauded Alicia's efforts so far and the rest of the committee applauded her. Bob Hubert informed Alicia that the townships have quarterly meetings where all the townships meet. Bob thought this would be a good time for Alicia to make an EAB presentation to the townships and said that the next quarterly meeting for the townships would be taking place in October, 2010. Bob said that the person to contact about getting on their agenda is Amy Charney at 662-4408. Alicia said that she will see about getting on the Township Quarterly Meeting Agenda to outline the EAB Management Plan.

National Public Lands Day Event:

Alicia told committee members that the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program was going to host a National Public Lands Day Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Educational Update on Thursday, September 23rd from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Bay County Fairgrounds Canteen, 800 Livingston Street, Bay City, Michigan. The purpose of this program is to teach volunteers how to identify ash trees and proper inventory methods. Sandy Webb said that the next Garden Club meeting is September 20th and that she would make sure that the Garden Club is informed of the training event on September 23rd.

Next Meeting:

The date for the next meeting was scheduled for **Tuesday, October 26, 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:

The meeting was adjourned by Sandy Webb at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alicia Wallace
Gypsy Moth Program Coordinator

Transcribed by: Patricia Bilbrey 08/31/10