

**Present:**

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

**Call to Order:**

Because there wasn't a quorum, an informational meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Sandy Webb.

**Approval of the August 31, 2010 Meeting Minutes:**

Since there wasn't a quorum, the motion to approve the August 31<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes was tabled until the November 30, 2010 Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee Meeting.

**Public comment:**

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

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

Alicia gave everyone a handout of the Bay County Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan/Appendix A: Criteria for treating Ash Trees and discussed the reasoning behind some of the changes. Since staff have been out working on the Tree Inventory, they have noticed that some changes needed to be made to the guidelines. Alicia will send out the revised draft for review.

Since there wasn't a quorum, a motion to approve the Revised Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan Criteria for Treating Trees was tabled until the November 30, 2010 Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee Meeting.

**Ash Tree Inventory Results:**

Alicia gave the group an update on the Ash Tree Inventory and explained that staff are not quite done with the inventory. Twelve Master Gardeners have helped on this inventory project, each given an inventory block of approximately 100 to 200 trees. There are 119 public facilities (including city halls, township halls, schools, cemeteries, public parks, etc.) that needed to have a tree inventory and about 90% of these locations are complete. Staff are finding that many of the trees are heavily infested with scale insects which are adding to the die back of small branches in the trees. However, since scale is a native pest, staff aren't able to consider this when choosing a pesticide for treating the ash trees. Tree-age kills 99.89% of the EAB infestation in a tree for 2 to 3 years but it does not kill scale. This is an issue at the county golf course where the completed inventoried indicates that many of the trees are heavily infested with scale and are showing more signs of decline from that infestation than from EAB. Staff has recommended that the golf course treat these trees with Imidacloprid and a deep root feeding this fall to reduce the scale population and help the ash trees to leaf out in the spring. The majority of ash street trees in Bay City seem to be quite healthy. Alicia is hopeful that the tree inventory will be completed soon so that she can have written reports and recommendations to the various cities and townships for the November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. It is her goal to mail them out after the November meeting.

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Since there wasn't a quorum, a motion to approve the Ash Tree Inventory Report Format was tabled until the November 30, 2010 Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee Meeting.

**Bid Development Process:**

Discussion on this issue was tabled until the November 30, 2010 Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee Meeting.

**Gypsy Moth Egg Mass Surveys:**

When staff are done with the Ash Tree Inventory they will go out into the field to conduct the Gypsy Moth egg mass survey. Staff plan to survey a smaller area based on time constraints created by the increased work of conducting the Ash Tree Inventory. Alicia is proposing that this fall staff should survey 30% of the Gypsy Moth Egg Mass sites in each township. This Abbreviate Egg Mass Survey will be conducted in known egg mass locations and high risk areas.

**OTHER:**

**Non-Profit Tree Removal Proposal:**

Jim Bedell, Bay City Planner, is interested on being a part of the Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee. Mr. Bedell is working to start a non-profit to cut trees on private property in order to help low income homeowners remove trees. The idea is to remove sick and dying trees and to process them into usable/saleable lumber using a portable saw mill owned and operated by the non-profit.

**Township Association Meeting EAB Educational Update:**

Alicia attended the last Township Association Meeting in order to give the townships an update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and the proposed treatment plan for Bay County. The group seemed very receptive of the treatment plan.

**Next Meeting**

The date for the next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 30, 2010** at 10:00 a.m. in the Finance Department's Conference room located on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the Bay County Building, 515 Center Avenue, Bay City, Michigan.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by Sandy Webb at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alicia Wallace  
Gypsy Moth Program Coordinator

*Transcribed by: Cyndi Gaul 10/26/10*