

MINUTES OF THE GYPSY MOTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

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Present:

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

Call to Order:

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

Approval of the January 19, 2010 Meeting Minutes:

There being no additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes of the January 19, 2010 meeting minutes, a motion was made by Agness Schmidt, seconded by Bob Hubert, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion Passed.

Coordinator's Report

Budget Preparation

Alicia provided committee members with a handout of the Revised Historical Summary of the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program budget which details fund balances. Alicia also provided committee members with a handout of her proposed 2011 Budget. Alicia explained that the Bay County Finance Department is recommending a "Status Quo" budget for all divisions unless there is a service enhancement project. Alicia mentioned that the treatment of Emerald Ash Borer on Publically Owned Land (i.e. the City of Bay City, Bay County Fairgrounds, Pinconning Park, etc.) would be considered a service enhancement project. The purchase of a new vehicle will be removed from the old budget. Alicia is also concerned that there may be an increase of spray costs since they have been going up dramatically. Additional funds will be placed in the budget for spray costs as it is a service enhancement project. The Gypsy Moth Suppression Staff have kept the Gypsy Moth population down so there's a chance that there won't need to be a spray in 2011. Alicia recommended that the millage not be collect this year as we have collected the millage the last three (3) years. Alicia asked for a formal recommendation from the committee. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Paul Begick, seconded by Agness Schmidt, to recommend that the Gypsy Moth Suppression Millage not be levied in 2011. Motion Passed.

Education Blitz:

Alicia provided committee members with an update on what Public Outreach has been provided this year through informational booths and educational programs at local schools. Alicia also provided committee members with a one-page handout titled "Emerald Ash Borer: Homeowners Guide to Insecticide Selection and Use" which she adapted from a lengthy MSU bulletin. This one-page handout of concentrated information has been placed on the county website and will be distributed at the June 30th Emerald Ash Borer Treatment Demonstration Project. Alicia told the committee that Laura Ogar would like to see some of the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program funds being used to develop a demonstration project for public education.

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Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Treatment Demonstration Project:

The EAB Treatment Demonstration Project will be taking place on Wednesday, June 30, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parking lot north of the Bay County Building located at 515 Center Avenue, Bay City, Mi 48708. Alicia told the committee that she feels very strongly that the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program should finance the treatment of Publically Owned Land Ash Trees. Alicia feels it's important for the general public to see Ash Trees being treated. It's hard to tell people to treat their own Ash Trees when we aren't treating public trees. Paul Begick felt that the longer you can keep the trees alive, the better the chance that new cures or treatments may be found. Alicia said that the media had been contacted for the EAB Treatment Demonstration Project and that Bay 3-TV would be filming the demonstration. Alicia told the committee that Michigan State University researchers have found European Oak Borer, a relative of EAB, in four Michigan Counties and in parts of Canada. Therefore, it's important that we start to treat trees and save what we can because new invasive non-native pests are being found all the time. It's important for homeowners to know what they can do to treat their ash trees.

New Business

Outreach:

Alicia told the committee members that Laura Ogar would like to see more outreach from the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program. Alicia asked the members for outreach suggestions. Sandy recommended making presentations at the local high schools.

Alicia mentioned that the Nature Conservancy has been wanting to raise beetles. Since the ISD have green houses, she wanted to see if she could work with the Nature Conservancy to raise some sort of natural predator of the EAB.

Alicia mentioned that she was working on a Power Point Presentation that would be used for educational purposes at informational booths and presentations. Dick would like to see a picture in the slide show that shows the devastation caused by the EAB, for example Jones Road has infected trees that would make a great picture. Dick thinks that people need to be educated on how the EAB affects our area. Dick was concerned that the City of Bay City wasn't doing anything about EAB. Paul would like to see people try to save their trees because to just cut down trees and replace them isn't always the best answer, mostly because new trees don't always grow well in these replacement locations nor do they tend to grow quickly. Dick said that sad fact is that some trees do need to be cut down. Dick also stated that he felt that what Gypsy Moth Suppression Program Staff has been doing is good in terms of getting the message of the EAB out to the public.

Alicia mentioned that she went to an iTree Training (US Forest Service Inventory Product that's free) and the program allows the input of tree information and the program will calculate the cost for cutting down the tree and how it will affect the area. It's a very good program.

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Alicia told the committee that she'd like to make a presentation to the Board of Commissioners regarding EAB Treatment so that they were made aware of the threat facing our local ash trees.

Old Business

Public Comment

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Other

Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee:

Dick felt that there should be more people on the Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee. He would like to see someone from the Lone Tree Counsel and Soil Conservation on the committee. Alicia said she'd be happy to make contact with organizations or individuals that the group feels should be represented on the committee. Alicia said that if anyone knew of a person that they felt should be on the committee she can send them a 2010 Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee Renewal Letter request form. The person requesting to be on the committee would have to be approved by Tom Hickner. Alicia reminded the committee members that she sent out requests in February 2010 to various groups like the Lone Tree Council and Soil Conservation to request their membership in the Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee. She received no response from any of the groups.

Next Meeting:

The date for the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, November 30, 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.

The meeting of the Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alicia Wallace
Gypsy Moth Program Coordinator

Transcribed by: C. Gaul 07/13/2010