

Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee Minutes

September 11, 2015

Stephen F. Austin State Office Building Board Room 170 (1st Floor)

1700 North Congress Avenue

Austin, Texas

The meeting was convened by Mel Davis, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) on September 11, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. Committee members attending were Dr. Ron Billings of Texas A&M Forest Service, Mel Davis of Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, Dr. Barron Rector of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Dr. Earl Chilton of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Dr. Awinash Bhatkar of Texas Department of Agriculture, and Mark Wentzel of Texas Water Development Board.

Mel Davis called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Davis began the meeting with a call to order and approval of the September 11, 2015 meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were approved with a motion made by Dr. Barron Rector of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Dr. Ron Billings of Texas A&M Forest Service seconded the motion the majority ruled and the meeting minutes were approved.

Election of Officers took place. A nomination by Dr. Rector of Texas A & M AgriLife Extension for Mel Davis to remain Chairman was accepted and was 2nd by Dr. Ron Billings a majority vote was cast the nomination held and Mel Davis remains the Chairman of the TISSC. A nomination by Mel Davis of the TSSWCB for Earl Chilton of TPWD remain Vice Chairman was 2nd by Dr. Rector of Texas AgriLife Extension a majority vote was cast the nomination held and Dr. Earl Chilton remains the Vice Chairman of the TISSC.

Ongoing projects, updates, and briefs were brought forth to the committee.

- Brief on Zebra Mussels by the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife- the presentation consisted of new techniques on how to search for zebra mussels on boating.
- Update on the TPWD Budget for the Fiscal Year 2016- a breakdown of the budget and what dollars would be associated to what program was provided by the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife.
- Update on Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species- the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department gave a presentation on the aquatic nuisance species in the State.
- SB 1734 Rio Grande Carrizo Cane Eradication Program- Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board informed the committee on the program.
- Update on the Emerald Ash Borer- Texas A&M Forest Service gave a presentation on the Emerald Ash Borer.

- Elimination and Removal of Echimium vulgare- Texas Master Naturalist of Burnet County gave a presentation on the effort that their group did to manage the invasive plant.

The meeting was adjourned and the future meeting was planned to happen early 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Loren Warrick (TSSWCB)