

Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee Minutes

March 8, 2016

Lee Drain Building, Room 220

1900 Avenue I

Huntsville, Texas

The meeting was convened by Mel Davis, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) on March 8, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. Committee members attending were Michael Murphy 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, Monica McGarrity of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and Mark Wentzel of Texas Water Development Board.

Mel Davis called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. 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 Mark Wentzel of the Texas Water Development Board seconded the motion the majority ruled and the meeting minutes were approved.

Election of New Vice Chairman took place. A nomination by Mel Davis of Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board for Monica McGarrity of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, she accepted the nomination. Michael Murphy of the Texas A&M Forest Service seconded the nomination of the motion and the majority agreed to the nomination.

Dr. Autumn Smith and Dr. Jerry Cook of the Texas Invasive Species Institute welcomed the committee to Sam Houston State University. The TISCC meeting was held in conjunction with the 6th Annual Texas Invasive Plant Conference in Huntsville. The meeting was held the week for March 8-11, 2016.

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

- Coordination of Increased State Funding Aquatic Invasive Species Management- Monica McGarrity, TPWD – TPWD updated the committee on coordinating their efforts on increasing the funding on aquatic invasive which includes zebra mussels.
- Update on the Rio Grande Carrizo Cane Eradication Program – Aaron Wendt, TSSWCB – TSSWCB updated the group on the many efforts of coordinating the Carrizo cane efforts at this time there is a more discussion and planning that needs to take place and this effort is in its infancy.
- Northeast Texas Conservation Delivery Network Partners with Working Dogs for Conservation to Detect Invasive Species – Vanessa Neace – TPWD- TPWD gave the group an informative presentation on the many efforts the working dogs of conservation are doing in the Northeast

Texas. These service animals are making a great effort in detecting invasive plants and are a wonderful resource.

- Invasive and Exotic Plant Eradication Methods Using Volunteer and Inmate Labor in Houston Area Waterways and Watersheds – Steve Hupp – Bayou Preservation Association – Mr. Hupp informed the group and provided a presentation on the methods of using volunteer help for their cleanup efforts.
- Brazilian Peppertree Management by the Texas Gulf Region Cooperative Weed Management Area in Port Aransas – Michael Murphy – Texas A&M Forest Service – Mr. Murphy presented to the group the work in the Port Aransas dealing with Brazilian Peppertree and handling the management in the area. Mr. Murphy spoke about the many outreach efforts and the success of the local stakeholders becoming involved in handling the management.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Loren Warrick (TSSWCB)