

MINUTES OF THE GYPSY MOTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

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Present:

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

Excused: Laura Ogar

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Sandy Webb.

Approval of the January 20, 2009 Meeting Minutes:

There being no additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes of the January 20, 2009 meeting minutes, a motion was made by Bob Hebert, seconded by Tom Putt, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion Passed.

Coordinator's Report

Gypsy Moth:

Gypsy Moth- Spraying was done on the morning of May 26, 2009, beginning at 6:00 a.m. and was complete by 7:00 a.m. There were no incidents reported. Spraying was done by a subcontractor, Jimmie Barrens of Mid- Michigan Helicopters, who treated Bay County along with Midland County. Due to overcast skies, it was difficult for staff to see the spray coming down and the petri plates did not show much deposition due to the thickness of the tree canopy.

When the population was checked two days after spraying, larvae were in the following instars: 9% - first, 72%- second and 19%- third. It took staff about 20 minutes to find 100 caterpillars. On Monday Alicia again visited the site and was only able to find 48 caterpillars in 1 hour of searching. Larval instars were: 24% first, 68% second and 3% third. It appears that the caterpillars are becoming more scarce so the spray appears to have reduced the population though it is still early to see if significant population reduction has been achieved.

Many trees in Bay County are showing signs of frost damage and wind damage with shredded and discolored leaves. Most calls this spring have been about Eastern Tent Caterpillars, who's population is at it's high point this year, and EAB.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB):

There is a new bulletin out about EAB and it's management. Alicia provided committee members with a black & white copy of the bulletin titled ***Insecticide Options for Protecting Ash Trees from Emerald Ash Borer***. Howard Wetters liked the bulletin and asked Alicia to get him a color copy of it for the website and so they would have material to hand out to people inquiring about the EAB. Alicia pointed out that the bulletin was co-produced with Michigan State University and said that she would get copies to Howard as soon as possible.

New EAB populations have been found in St Paul, Minneapolis. Michigan is still credited as being the first location to be infested with the EAB. The EAB was first

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found in Detroit around the airport. It is believed that wood packing materials used in this area were responsible for bringing the EAB to Michigan. The Bay County Fairgrounds has a large Ash tree population (50%-60%) and Alicia has recommended to the county that they begin treating the trees that are in good condition and replacing the trees that are showing signs of stress.

Budget:

Budget- no information so far from Finance. It is anticipated that budget information will be available within the next week. Once Alicia has the budget, she will send a copy of it to Gypsy Moth Advisory Members to review before submitting it to the Bay County Finance Department.

New Business

New Vehicle for Gypsy Moth Staff:

Alicia discussed the poor condition of the existing Gypsy Moth Suppression Program Jeep and Truck.

A motion was made by Howard Wetters, seconded by Agness Schmidt, to favorably recommend that the cost of a new 4-wheel drive SUV-type vehicle be added to the 2009 Gypsy Moth Suppression Program budget in order to replace the old program jeep and truck. Further, it is recommended that the old program vehicles be turned over to the county to be utilized as they see fit, or if they are not utilized by the county to be disposed of at the county auction.

Old Business

There was no old business brought before the committee.

Public Comment

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Other

Next Meeting:

The date for the next meeting was scheduled for **Tuesday, August 25, 2009** 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. A second meeting was scheduled for **December 1, 2009** at 10:00 a.m. at the same location.

The meeting of the Gypsy Moth Advisory Committee was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alicia Wallace
Gypsy Moth Program Coordinator

Transcribed by: C. Gaul 06/02/2009