

TACF Ohio Chapter Annual Meeting Minutes Saturday, 17-September-2005

Present included: Greg Miller (Pres.), Carolyn Keiffer (Vice Pres.), Susan Ramser (Treasurer), Brian McCarthy (Secretary), Richard Cappell, Keith Gillen, Jenise Bauman, Ben Williams, Herman Rosenbusch, Joe Reardon, David Trainer, Carlen Emmanuel.

The meeting began at 13:00 at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (Bldg.-E), Columbus, Ohio.

Greg Miller began with introductory comments. He stressed the need to get chapter moving this year and capitalize on the enormous amount of energy currently present in the state. Roundtable introductions followed.

Susan Ramser provided a report on the financial status of the chapter. Currently, we have no budget as we are a provisional chapter. We will get money for each Ohio member, but we need to first get set up with an EIN, and we need to have a constitution and bylaws for the chapter. Susan will take care of the EIN within the week, and we will finalize the bylaws at today's meeting. If materials are turned in to national, we should get full approval at the October national meeting.

Carlen Emmanuel provided a brief synopsis of the efforts aimed at locating chestnuts in Ohio. She and Tom Berger have begun a database to track trees. She would like to start going out to begin looking at trees and confirming identification. She also inquired about informational needs regarding pollen collection and storage. Carlen indicated a number of people have offered land for breeding orchards. DNAP records fruiting trees, but not sprouts or non-reproductive individuals. If we can identify sprouts, we may choose to conduct silvicultural release to get the sprouts to grow and be reproductive. Discussions followed regarding proper tree identification, location, and verification processes.

We discussed the need to get some verbiage in to the 2006-2007 DOW hunting regulations to urge hunters to turn in wild American chestnut sightings. Rich said he would check on this.

Carolyn Keiffer presented a draft of the Constitution and Bylaws for our chapter and we would then solicit email votes following discussion to get it ratified. We also need to form a Board of Directors. This needs to include six people in addition to the four officers, for a total of ten members. Each board member will serve a two year term. Nominations were solicited. Jack McCoy (McCoy Lumber, Peebles) and Ted Strickland, Gary Caster (or Dean Barry), Joe Reardon, Donald Morris, Ray Gargano, and Harold Bower were suggested. Rich Cappell volunteered to be on the BOD. Ben Williams volunteered for a one year term if needed.

As far as the bylaws are concerned, all members read the draft attached. Discussion followed. Only amendments suggested were that we need to change the current wording of the bylaws so that no more than two consecutive terms can be served and each term does not exceed three years. Executive officers should be staggered.

Ben Williams moved to accept the constitution and bylaws. Susan Ramser seconded. Vote was unanimous to accept both with the provisions suggested.

Brian McCarthy volunteered to provide a web page for the chapter and ultimately establish a listserv to facilitate communication among the members statewide.

Brian McCarthy presented a report from the Science Committee detailing what activities have taken place in Ohio over the last year regarding chestnut. He discussed the need to create a Technical Master Plan for the chapter and discussed various options. Greg Miller outlined the overall TACF breeding program and possible alternatives in that area for our chapter.

Brian McCarthy moved that the Science Committee be responsible for producing a draft Technical Master Plan by 1-January. The draft plan would then be distributed to the membership via the web site and commented on. A final version would be produced at next year's annual meeting and then submitted to National by 1-October-2006. Motion was seconded by Ben Williams. Vote was unanimous to proceed.

Greg Miller then outlined a few elements that need to happen soon and things that may need to be included in the Master Plan. Some of these action items include identifying American chestnuts in Ohio, collecting seed, identifying possible Ohio planting sites, identify grafting material, identify bucket trucks that can be used, identify pollination labor, identify funding sources, create an education committee, identify someone willing to do printing and mailing, identify those willing to present programs on chestnut, identify more institutional or corporate money.

Meeting adjourned at 16:50.

Summarized and submitted by
Brian C. McCarthy, Secretary