

FISC BOD Meeting

June 13th 2025

Attendance: C.J. Greene, Lyn Proenza, Padriac Elliot, Dexter Sowell, Shannon Carnvale, James Lange, Erick , Jenna Cole, Deb Tharp, Erick Revuelta, Allegra Buyer, Alexandra Onisko, James Leary, Mariah McInnis

- Lynn Made motion to bring Patrick Belk in for finance Chair. All in favor.

- Jimmy Lange (introduction)
 - Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden down in Miami.
 - I'm a former chair of FISC: 2016 to 18
 - Erica Ravalta and I just took over as Co chairs of the PLANT LIST committee.

- Plant List Committee Updates _Jimmy Lange and Erick Reuvlta
 - additions to the plant list that need approval (See addendums at end of meeting minutes)
 - three category twos –
 - *Asclepias curassavica* - Cat II
 - *Tradescantia zebrina* - Cat II
 - *Noronhia emarginata* - Cat II
 - one to the watch list
 - "*Bothriochloa bladhii*, *B. ischaemum*, and putative progeny thereof"
 - Dexter added that all Plant List Committee unanimously decided adding these species and there was no debate.
 - Erick made a motion to approve the Plant List Updates, Dexter
Seconded and passed unanimously
 - Jimmy Lange added that email addresses need to be updated.
 - Lynn will update these and put on the website/
 - Erick wants to know if there is a tangible list
 - Jimmy states yes there will be a PDF that can be downloaded

- The list will be added to the website as well
- James Leary wants to know how the category two species will stay on the list, is there a time limit
 - Jimmy-the plants are reevaluated every two to three years
 - There is discussion that the cat ones cat two will be reevaluated with other assessments
- Jimmy Lange-requesting more criteria sheets, if there is good data and know of a species that should be listed.
 - Lynn recommends sending out a request for criteria sheets through FISC list serv
 - Dexter- a St Lucie Co sheet should be coming through for Pongam Roya Tree

➤ Bylaws

- Deb -the indemnification of FISC serving members
 - Background-Additional money coming in through the Florida Forest Service that we can use for our sizma grant.
 - FISC has about \$50,000 that needs to be spent by summer of 2028.
 - FISC would be taking on extra risk if took the money and need to get liability insurance.
 - James found that FISC needs liability insurance but we can't get because we don't have identification of our officers and Agents within our Bylaws.
 - we need this identification to get extra money and should have this insurance for FISC expansion
- Allegra discuss what is in the Bylaws.
 - The indemnification insurance covers FISC if somebody sues one of us as for our actions
 - it allows Fisk to cover any legal costs, and because we have insurance, it allows the

insurance, therefore, to help us with all of these issues.

- Any amendment of the Bylaws would require a vote with members
 - Typically done at annual business meeting but maybe we can hold special meeting
 - anything outside of the objective of our organization Needs to be voted in with a 2/3 vote
- there's nothing in Bylaws about actually treating invasive species or doing on the ground work.
And I'd wonder if we want to get that added in Because right now I don't even know if this technically fits the objective.
- there's quite a few things that have been removed from the bylaws.
 - we don't have anything in the year that even says how many board members need to vote for something to approve it.
 - We do in the case of right here, filling a vacancy, but that's the only thing that that mentions that.
- So there's a lot of little things that I think that we can improve and probably need to approve.
- concerns is in Robert's rules of orders, which is what we're supposed to follow.
 - They don't give a lot of room for online meetings, online votes. It all has to be in the bylaws, specifically spelled out that this is our procedure for doing this.
 - There's some online guidance that says e-mail vote, they only vote for one item at a time.
 - Email votes limit discussions on issues
 - if people have concerns there is no place to discuss the concerns.
 - Should not be any opposition an indemnification bylaw amendment but not allowing for discussion
- Article 6 for meetings we have Section 5 here that talks about special meetings can be called by the chair.
 - Two weeks notice shall be required before all special meetings. It then says you can call for them via e-mail, but then it goes on to talk about when you get an e-mail from the

chair with the word ballot in the subject line, the membership will have 30 days.

- there is not enough guidance in here or enough clarification to really do a bylaws amendment, especially when this amendment has to do with potential lawsuits in the future if somebody sues and then, you know, they say, let's see how this bylaw was changed.
- There's a lot of bylaws out there that we can look at to try to clarify our language,
- I would recommend that we wait until that next business meeting in March and we vote on all of these bylaw changes in the meeting so that it's all above board.
- Dexter asks if we could hold a special meeting
 - Allegra says it is possible
 - Bylaws dont say how many people need to attend the meeting. And it it doesn't say how many people we need to vote. So for the amendment of the bylaws, we require 2/3 vote of standing members present at any business meeting.
 - if we schedule a standing business meeting like a special meeting, if Lynn calls a meeting and we have the vote during that, that might count.
 - Deb- we could set up a virtual meeting just like we have here
 - May have issues getting enough people to join a meeting
 - May need to change majority language
- going to start a document that's just with all the recommended edits for our bylaws. And I'll keep it, I'll put it in the drive so everyone can look at it.
- add something in there so that we can amend the bylaws by e-mail vote.
- if 5% of the membership signs off, then that by law can be introduced.
- there's ways for the members to do stuff as well.

- If we waited till April for a vote it would mean the following for the grant money
 - we'd still have to go and get insurance and the liability issues. We'd also have to start working with and study them.
 - Agreement with the Florida Forest Service. And so that'll take a little while to go through because we'll probably need to find somebody to kind of do some legal review there.

- That will be three to six months, probably at least to get that through everything.
 - o Tax exempt status issue
 - Employee identification number Is tied somehow to the other EPPC's, and
 - This makes us the parent organization to those other EPPC's in the Southeastern region
 - We need to clarify that and isolate ourselves from that as an individual organization that does not have any subsidiaries
 - o Issues with receiving 50,000
 - Deb—we'd have to do all 50,000 in one year, which that's gonna throw us for sure over some of the tax boundaries
 - Deb—all the money has to be spent by like June 30th, 2028.
 - James—if we were to be reimbursed for a lump sum of \$50,000, that would be a probably a pretty risky situation on our end.
 - I don't think we could subsidize \$50,000 waiting for reimbursement
 - o What needs to happen now
 - Deb—ideal situation from my point of view is if we could find a way to do an online meeting and have a vote just for this one bylaw (indemnification) and then, work with Allegra and get everything just improved overall at the next business meeting
 - o James is unsure that this indemnification is what we need to get insurance.
 - Allegra—I think we need it to protect us once we get insurance.
 - The main thing we need for insurance is that adjusted FIB O1C3 status.
 - o IRS states we are Florida Invasive Species Council ?
 - But 501C3 says we are under SE EPPC
- Google Drive, will act as a server
 - o Everyone should be putting their information from committees and officers on the google drive
 - This prevents a long search for past information
 - o Lynn- gave presentation on how to use the google drive
 - Checklist on google drive is very important and tells due date of certain responsibilities for each committee
- How to Manuals

- Deb has got CISMA grant committee completed
 - Deb recommends putting a time allotment needed for different positions
 - Put them into the Invasive insights
 - All of these positions associated with some kind of manual that kind of goes through step by step on what the position entails, so.
 - Instead of somebody coming in after someone stepped out abruptly.
 - For whatever reason, you know they'll have this manual and it'll say, OK, these are your tasks
- Lynn- Symposium
 - Thank You letters for 2024 symposium
 - Needs numbers of members, presenters, sponsors
 - Allegra should be able to provide member numbers
 - Need to start planning symposium meetings around September
 - Maybe August
 - Lynn- mentions the Social Science speaker could we incorporate her research into FISC
 - Lynn-Have classes since 4 days, have someone talk about CORE CEUS
 - Maybe IFAS person can come and talk
 - ID talks
- Lynn- Several open positions
 - Secretary
 - Membership
 - Padriac Elliott interested in this committee but must speak with Dexter and supervisor prior to assuming the role
 - Lynn recommends speaking to Allegra Buyer
 - Symposium Sponsorship
 - Erick said he could help with sponsorship committee
 - CISMA Grant

- Symposium Field Trips (to help out Local Arrangements)
- Outreach
- Lynn Website
 - Deb has recently added some great verbiage
 - Lynn-wondering if we need to add verbiage that we are all volunteers working public and private sector
 - Dexter-there may be a chance to get a full time employee to work as Chair or President
- Open Discussion
 - C.J. spread the word for Secretary
 - Lynn-would like the incoming secretary has an idea of what is going on with FISC already
 - Deb- make sure listserv is up to date to get people involved
 - FISC budget will be due
- Deb- Made motion to adjourn at 4:08 PM
 - Pedraic Seconded
 - Meeting ended