

**NEWTT / FIATT Meeting
USDA-ARS
Invasive Plant Research Laboratory
3205 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314
March 24, 2004**

Attendance:

Phil Bayer, FIU	Monica Miller, USACE
Stephen Biemiller, USACE	John Miller, USACE
Jason Dettbarn, FIU	Rafaela Monchek, SFERTF
Bob Doren, SFERTF	Tony Pernas, NPS
Allen Dray, USDA	Art Roybal, USFWS
Amy Ferriter, SFWMD	Skip Snow, ENP
Jon Lane, USACE	Jon Taylor, ENP
Kerry Luisi, USACE	Sonya Thompson, M-DC Parks
Gayle Martin, USFWS- LOX	Bill Zattau, USACE

Tony Pernas distributed an Exotic Plant Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statements from the Park Service for the team's review.

Jon Lane provided a presentation on the special report on invasive species. This included a description of what NEWTT has accomplished. This report will be worked completed by Bob and the Corps, and will incorporate the "Weeds Won't Wait" document. FIU is responsible for developing the Detection, Assessment and Monitoring paper to ultimately produce a portable, universal, consistent tool for detecting, assessing and monitoring invasive exotics. The Invasive Species Law Review will be completed by the Environmental Law Institute, pulling together all the laws on invasive species and the laws that may help or hinder the process of exotic species control.

Bob provided a presentation to the Corps headquarters which helped to elevate the concerns on invasive exotics and acquire funding from the USACE. Years ago, agencies were tasked with developing projects to become a part of the CERP. Hundreds of projects were provided, but only one, the quarantine facility, was chosen. NEWTT is now tasked with re-developing the list that was originally provided, and prioritizing projects. Prior to this meeting, another meeting was held to divide the sections for writing the draft report and determining the direction, content and responsibilities.

Instructions for using STEMS:

Bob showed the team how to log into and use the www.ECOSTEMS.org website. He explained the parent/child relationship between groups and subgroups. Bob went page by page and explained how to add tasks and people, and how to

change information on each task or person, and the three levels of access: Task Maintainer; Task Managers; and System Managers. Their accessibility level is as follows:

Task Maintainer: access to the system but can only modify information for their assigned tasks. They can't modify the name or family of the tasks.

Task Managers: Can modify any of their tasks in anyway, including changing the name and family tree, and can add tasks.

System Manager: Can modify anything in the system.

The current task being worked on is underlined. Eventually the database will be searchable by key words or categorical, including agency and funding sources.

A description of the terms in the drop-down menus will be added later – i.e. manages, leads, works on.

A front page will be developed to draw in attention, with tabs to all the site options. The site can also be duplicated to be used for exotic animals, individual agencies and other teams.

Future Developments:

There will be a class in the future when the system is finalized. For the search engine, keywords, scan related tables, search for task by any of the data fields, and develop a searchable phone book. In the beginning this system will be able to perform linear searches. If more funding is available, this program will be able to perform calculations. Cross correlation – numbers and people over time, is another future possibility, in addition to a geographic interface for searching along a map. The GIS component will be intertwined with the rest of the searchable interface.

This is the only project of its kind in the area at this type of level. This has the potential to have a wider application. When the site is complete, Bob will be asking the team members which agency can house the data on their server.

The following people offered to check out the system as System Managers and determine additional changes that need to be made and how quickly it runs on different networks:

Jonathan Lane, Amy Ferriter, Tony Pernas, Jonathan Taylor, Allen Dray, Bill Thomas, Art Roybal, Sonya Thompson, Skip Snow, Layne Hamilton

People assigning this to other staff, will add them as Task Managers. A list of dos and don'ts will be sent out with Phil's email address.

Art offered the Vero Beach office's computer room that can hold 12 people, and Amy and John Taylor offered their offices that can hold 30 people on computers.

A "cost per build" will be distributed to inform agencies on what it will cost for each addition to the site.

If you have any questions or additions, email them to Phil at pbayer01@cs.fiu.edu by the end of April.