

Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area (NCWMA) Meeting

Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, Ashland

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Donut Discussion

Topic: Right-of-Way Workshops in April and May 2010

AGENDA:

- 1) Impacts of Invasives
 - Ask audience: why do you care about invasives? why are you here?
 - highlight impacts to residents living along right-of-ways
 - mention costs and difficulty of maintenance once invasives are established
 - erosion exacerbated
 - property values diminish (knotweed and milfoil, for example)
 - other general impacts: forestry and ag industry, wildlife, habitat
 - mention VHS, EAB, milfoil, other invasives they may have heard about already
- 2) Identification of Invasives
 - Carmen created list of approx 15 species common in our area, or approaching our area, which are broken down by roadside habitat types (mowed areas, forest edges, or wet areas)
 - mention giant hogweed in Hurley workshop
 - add barberry and include Euro marsh thistle in ID session
 - this section will include a discussion of mapping/surveying
- 3) NR40 and BMP's
 - BMP: Seeding and Planting
 - talk about seeding with good seed mixes, provide names of "good seed mixes" from DOT and NRCS
 - suggest good cover crops for erosion control on small projects, such as culvert replacements (annual rye, red fescue, oats, etc.)
 - talk about costs of good seed mixes versus traditional mixes
 - sources for these mixes (Deer Creek, Ashland Ag, Stoeffel's)
 - BMP: Cleaning Equip
 - BMP: Mowing - provide mowing schedule, talk about how to read it and apply it
 - BMP: gravel - currently no good sources for "clean" gravel, but emphasize need to monitor and treat sites after bringing in new gravel
- 4) Control Methods
 - Carmen has short PowerPoint started, she'll circulate once it's finished
 - cover general strategies for control - target hot spots, new plants, protect natural areas
 - prevention is best
 - herbicide - briefly describe legal requirements and labels, but convey that they need to get more info and training before applying herbicides in their ROW's
 - describe biocontrol
 - mention Plant Growth Regulators - try get info from Lee Shambeau on these

OTHER NOTES:

- describe best-case scenario, how we envision counties/towns working with invasive partners to maintain healthy ROW's
- emphasize that individual actions *does* make a difference - we don't have many invasives here, even small populations can spread quickly, prevention and swift effective management are critical
- use the phrase "Operational Efficiency" a lot :)

OUTREACH:

- still need to contact utilities, cities, villages, and DNR wardens

Business Meeting

Present: Colleen Matula (WDNR), Matt Bushman (Cheq.Nicolet NF), Heather Palmquist (Iron County Conservation Dept), Miles Falck (GLIFWC), Tom Fratt (Ashland County LWCD), Stefania Strzalkowska (Bayfield County), Carmen Chapin and Isaiah Messerly (NPS), Tom Cogger (NRCS), Darienne McNamara (NCWMA).

• landowner handout

- created for landowners in our four-county area to answer the frequently asked question: “how can the NCWMA help me with my invasives?” we can’t do the labor ourselves, but this brochure will give them resources to use once they’ve identified invasives on their land
- change info about contractors - create list of contractors on our website with a clause that we’re not endorsing any of them, and list website link in landowner handout; provide contact info on website in case a contractor wants to be added; this way the list can be longer, more inclusive, and updated more easily

• USFS/GLRI Funding - Discussion of Ideas

- we have about \$20K of funding from the USFS through GLRI funds which were initially dedicated for treating gravel pits, but the following two ideas were brought up as alternatives for this funding:
 - 1) micro-grants to help landowners purchase herbicide - this is generally the biggest cost obstacle for landowners who want to manage invasives on their property
 - 2) cost-share program for landowners, they can use the funding for invasive management (purchase herbicide, pay contractors, etc); landowner pays 51% of funding and we pay remaining 49% (stipulated in USFS contract terms); distribute funds to county LWCD’s since they already offer similar programs, they in turn distribute to landowners
- these ideas will be discussed further in the donut discussion at the April meeting

• April Newsletter

- Species of the Month: garlic mustard, *with Garlic Mustard Pesto recipe* (thanks Matt B!)
- other ideas for articles? group decided “Meet our Members” featuring Q&A with one of the group’s members (suggestions: LFC, Tana from Mellen, or one of the Lake Assoc’s)

• Plant Guides from DNR: Update

- paper for plant guides is being donated by NuPage paper company, but there are substantial delays
- guides won’t be available in time for ROW workshops
- Carmen offered to provide MIPN pocket guides as substitute
- we’ll take down addresses for participants so they get WI guides in the mail later

• Additional Funding from USFS

- Linda Parker offered to help pay for educational materials for the ROW workshops
- group came up with following ideas for this funding (see what we can afford):
 - renew website (\$20)
 - renew IPAW members (\$100)
 - postage for workshop brochure mailings (exceeded grant funds by roughly \$100)
 - silk flowers - life-size invasive plants, great tool for teaching, have some but need other species
 - printing landowner handout
 - order more “Why Should I Care About Invasives” brochures
 - order more buckthorn brochures - these are very popular, we’re out of them

• Additional Funding from Ashland Co (Fish Creek grant)

- Ashland Co LWCD has grant to work on Fish Creek (including Bay City Creek in Ashland), grant including \$500 for NCWMA
- Tom suggested using the funds for a work day, group decided to try Prentice Park
- Northland College May Term -
 - Carmen will contact 3 professors (Jim P, Jim M, Peter W) to see if they'd be willing to participate in a full-day workshop to discuss impacts of invasives on birds, vegetation, and soils (their respective class subjects)
 - Tom F will use additional grant funds to pay students at the college to help organize, get the word out to the community, line up support from the city (chip buckthorn, haul brush, etc.)
 - use this site/event as a demo - use our grant funds to buy demonstration site sign

- **Summer Calendar**

- April 17 - NC ravine (same as last fall)
- May 21/22 - garlic mustard in Mellen near Copper Falls State Park; they now have a tech working on invasives, she will scope out site ahead of time
- May 23 - Birding and Nature Festival, Darienne offering invasive species workshop for participants
- June - Inv Species Awareness Month - Library Exhibits - Colleen offered to purchase boxes and books if others will chip in brochures and other materials; challenged NCWMA members to talk to their local libraries and create a display for ISAM - she is doing Mellen library, Heather will do Hurley and Mercer, Darienne will do Washburn, Tom F will do Ashland
- June 1-3 - purple loosestrife beetle collection with Miles, he'll be out collecting week prior if people would like to join and see beetle sites
- June 28 - Little Turtle Flowage - treating knapweed with DNR
- July - TBD - Darienne will see if Christine Ostern (Douglas Co LWCD) wants to help organize something in Douglas Co, otherwise we'll try tackle knotweed in Washburn
- Aug 20 - Manitowish Waters - spraying loosestrife with DNR
- Sept 25 - National Public Lands Day - NGLVC - buckthorn

- **Other Items:**

- Carmen passed around Best Practices for Field Days worksheet
- Miles mentioned need to coordinate biocontrol efforts so populations are monitored and don't crash like spurge beetles did in Washburn
- Tom F noted the MOU should be updated to reflect change in ABDI to four distinct departments, Stefania pointed out that each county dept's committee signed the MOU, but we should probably update the website and MOU so each county has signed

- **Round Robin:**

- Carmen - GLRI and prep for field season
- Matt - has contract to treat knapweed for 5th straight year in north half of Washburn district, using Milestone this year for first time
- Tom Cogger - retiring in July, expects they'll fill position eventually, Gary H will likely be new rep from NRCS from may not have time to attend meetings
- Tom Fratt - hoping GLRI funds come through so Ashland Co will have an I.S. Coordinator
- Isaiah - prep for field season
- Stefania - prep for workshops and events (Bayfield Co Farm & Garden this Sat), organizing Lake Assoc Forum so lake groups are more organized; Bayfield Co is considering turning AIS Coordinator position into terrestrial/aquatic combined eventually
- Heather - prep for field season, waiting to hear on WI Coastal Mgmt Grant that would pay for 2 interns to do CBCW and lake surveys in Iron Co; helping Xcel and DNR write invasive mgmt plan for Turtle Flambeau Flowage Dam - convinced them to add clause

about managing and monitoring NR40 species, and contribute \$5K for intern to manage/monitor (through Iron Co LWCD)

- Miles - developing new invasive mapping website, linked to database that updates real-time, easier to filter and query data, hoping this will make it easier to take advantage of all the data for strategizing management, prioritizing sites and species, etc.; website still under development, but can be checked out: <http://144.92.119.16/GISIN/> - let Miles know if you have comments
- Colleen - working on invasive species control contracts for state forests

Next Meeting: Monday, April 12

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Ashland, WI

9am - Donut Discussion: USFS/GLRI Funding Ideas

10am- Business meeting