

## Northwoods Cooperative Management Area

Meeting Minutes Oct 6 2008 9:00-11:30 am

Recorded by: Darienne McNamara (donut discussion) and Dara Olson (business meeting)

Present: Carmen Chapin (NPS), Dara Olson (GLIFWC), Isaiah Messerly (NPS), Laura McFarland (River Alliance of WI), Miles Falck (GLIFWC), Mike Maine (DNR), Colleen Matula (DNR), Stefania Stralzkowska (Bayfield County), Michele Wheeler (BRWA), Matt Bushman (USFS), Chuck Casper (Northland College intern with USFWS), Darienne McNamara (USFWS)

### Donut Discussion Topic: Funding

- what do we need funding for?
  - renew website license – approx. \$125, (may have enough leftover from grants for this)
  - update website – GLIFWC can probably cover this in the short term
  - CWMA brochure printing and distribution
  - farmer's market booth fee for 2009
  - educational materials (ex. from MIPN)
  - work days for 2009 and beyond (approx. \$500 each, NOT counting coordination)
  - travel to conferences, trainings, workshops, work days, etc.
  - treatment database
  - staff time for coordination, grant-writing, etc.
  - more on-the-ground work/treatment
- funding sources and projects should tie directly to our work plan, mission, goals, etc.
- keep in mind what our *capacity* is – what can we realistically accomplish?
- think about ways the CWMA could help each of us accomplish tasks in our own work plans
- need to better articulate our vision (in order to be more competitive for \$) – ***this was discussed in the business mtg, see notes***
- NPS – Carmen can not easily pursue NPS funding for the CWMA, she would be competing against the parks that her program is supposed to support
- Travel Green – could the CWMA become a certified organization and be eligible for their funding? If not, are there other certified businesses in the area we could work with (like we did with Apostle Islands Realty in 2007)?
- re-apply for PTI grant, DNR AIS grant, WCMP grant
- work with Northland College and Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute to get students involved in our efforts (web design/updates, control work, education/outreach, GIS mapping...)
- where do we want to see the NCWMA go in the future?
  - expand MOU signatory parties
  - expand biocontrol opportunities
  - increase volunteer participation
  - attend/present at town meetings
  - overlap with existing volunteer groups (Trout Unlimited, Bad River Watershed Association, etc. – tap into their volunteer base – joint work days)

- train other volunteer groups
- better choice horticulture (non invasive alternatives)
- increase on-the-ground work/treatment
- teach invasive species class (Northland May term?)
- reach tourism/resort owners

**- HOMEWORK FOR EVERYONE: find a private foundation that could support some aspect of work and bring to the next mtg; review the CWMA work plan, mission, and goals; check websites for funding opportunities, specifically the Center for Invasive Plant Mgmt website at [www.weedcenter.org/grants/rfp.html](http://www.weedcenter.org/grants/rfp.html)**

## **Business Meeting**

- Carmen drafted a letter supporting Jane Swenson's think tank efforts to remove a retaining wall and restore the shoreline in front of the Governor's Mansion on Lake Mendota. Carmen will sign and send out.

- River Alliance of Wisconsin – working to fill in the niche to monitor for invasive species within and along Wisconsin's rivers. They have developed a monitoring protocol for river systems, working with the National Institute of Invasive Species Science (NIISS) and will be developing it into a citizen science project for data management. As a pilot project, they trained four southern river groups to look for four invasive species. The groups were very successful. A grant proposal was submitted in the August WDNR AIS grant cycle - they plan on continuing the project and training river groups throughout Wisconsin. They hope to empower local groups through training to conduct follow-up treatment of invasive species that are found during the monitoring efforts (area the NCWMA could help out).

- Field season wrap-up: four successful field days, but not as many members of the community participated as had hoped, but extensive outreach efforts were conducted (press releases in multiple papers, individual letters to prior participants, watershed association members, adjacent landowners, flyers all over local community, etc. for each event). More personal approach next year to try to get a better response.

### Round Robin:

- *Darienne* – moving away from invasive species in her job duties after next month and may or may not be a part of the group – her job will be done at the end of April.
- *Chuck* – researching monitoring efforts around Lake Superior.
- *Matt* – USFS Washburn district treated 180 acres (mainly spotted knapweed) and approximately 650 acres total throughout the forest.
- *Michele* – Ashland County Land & Water Conservation Department is reviewing their management plan and would be a good opportunity to submit NCWMA comments (ensure invasive species are addressed in the plan). Bad River Watershed Association has been conducting invasive species monitoring and are working on gathering baseline data, but they need more training (good opportunity for NCWMA to assist).
- *Stefania* – no new AIS infestations reported in Bayfield County. Pike Chain continues to expand in isolated locations, but has an excellent lake association conducting treatment and staying on top of it. No Eurasian water-milfoil was found in Tomahawk Lake after treatment, but the chemical stayed in the lake longer than anticipated and had a large impact on the native species. Heavy purple loosestrife infestations on Twin and Cable Lakes.
- *Colleen* – WDNR is working on State Forest invasive species plans to be able to implement control work within the forests. Managed Forest Land (MFL) is undergoing a corrective action to incorporate invasive species in the management plans. Land owners have not been receiving any invasive species information.
- *Mike* – working with the Upper Chippewa CWMA on the garlic mustard population in the Price/Sawyer County area, planning a work day in late October or early November.

They will need people to spray and to conduct additional inventory along the trail systems. The population is currently contained around the private resort and cabins.

- *Miles* – Struggling with data management and will be switching the data management system over this winter. GLIFWC received a grant for Steve Garske to work on a risk assessment using canopy cover/habitat and soil moisture in combination with invasive species life history characteristics and known occurrences to prioritize control efforts.

The pilot study area is the four county area of the CWMA.

- *Isaiah* – Traveling a lot, but treated a 299 gross acres this past season.

- *Dara* – potential opportunity to get the city of Washburn involved with the NCWMA (letter to all cities and towns in the four county area to inform about the NCWMA?).

Northland College is having a volunteer opportunities fair for students on October 16<sup>th</sup> and the NCWMA will be having a booth – Colleen volunteered to staff the booth.

Upper Chippewa CWMA is developing a door hanger to inform property owners who are not around that there is an invasive species on their property and where to find more information. Successful AIS survey season – Butternut Lake in Ashland/Price Counties observed a scarlet colored water lily that had been planted by a local shoreline owner – something to be on the lookout for – WDNR removed and contacted the property owners.

- *Carmen* – will be giving a CWMA presentation at the Minnesota Invasive Species conference in Duluth at the end of the month. MIPN developed a new AIS flyer similar to the terrestrial invasive species one. Carmen will be on a detail for Apostle Islands for the next couple months and will only be in the Ashland office on Fridays.

- *Tom* - currently not working with invasive species, but is on the look-out for them while working on the farming plans. Spotted knapweed is the most abundant one.

Next meeting – potentially the week of November 3<sup>rd</sup> – Stefania will check with MaryJo Gingras at Iron County Conservation Department to see if she would like to host the meeting.