

Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area (NCWMA) Meeting

Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center

Thursday, November 06, 2008

Donut Discussion

Topic: continue discussion on future funding opportunities.

- From our list generated at our last meeting - most of what we want to accomplish does not take a large amount of money, however it does require a large time investment. Focus on writing grants to cover a part or full time coordinator for summer work days and for incentives to get more community members involved (fundraising opportunities for local groups).
- Grant opportunities:
 - Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) – develop invasive species educational resources for local schools and libraries, activity packs for resort owners and build invasive species curriculum for local schools.
 - Build on or tie into the Washburn Ecology Club’s leafy spurge activities.
 - Bayfield County submitted a WI Coastal Management Program grant to develop aquatic invasive species curriculum for Bayfield County schools. This could build upon that grant if they are awarded the grant.
 - Due Feb. 14th – Colleen will take the lead on writing the grant proposal.
 - Laura Jane Musser Fund – funding for a coordinator position for the summer work days. The fund fits well with the NCWMA, but is out of Minnesota which may decrease our chances.
 - Due Feb. 18th – Carmen will take the lead on the grant proposal.
 - Travel Green – annual fee to be a member – could apply again through the same real estate business or find another organization to sponsor.
 - Carmen will follow-up.
 - Toyota Fund – fund to provide support to science teachers – develop proposal as an extra incentive for the leafy spurge Ecology Club’s student monitoring program.
 - Due Jan 21st – Darienne will take the lead on the grant proposal.
- Other potential grant opportunities
 - WI Forest Land Owner Program – good portion goes to invasive species work, but needs to be work done on private Managed Forest Land (MFL).
 - Turkey Stamp – majority goes for invasive species work.
 - PTI – missed the deadline – prior NCWMA proposal was not funded.
 - Natural Resources Foundation of WI Besadny grants – can reapply – use for native seed or other volunteer incentives
 - Isaiah will take the lead on the grant proposal.
 - BASF
- Invasive species trainings/workshops for town work crews
 - Develop one course which could be used in each of the four counties, but also tailor to focus on priority invasive species found in the county (e.g. Iron County – giant hogweed).
 - Hold in the winter when crews are not as busy (Jan-Feb).
 - County LWCD could take the lead in gathering support and organizing location details.
 - Native seed mix as an incentive? Write a grant to fund the purchase of bulk native seed for the town revegetation projects.
 - Invite County foresters who have not had any invasive species training.
 - Carmen will discuss with Kelly to see about potential funding support.
- There is a need to showcase the work we have already accomplished to get the word out and increase education.

Business Meeting

Present: Carmen Chapin (NPS, GL EPMT), Isaiah Messerly (NPS), MaryJo Gingras (Iron County Conservation Department), Heather Palmquist (Iron County Conservation Department), Darienne McNamara (USFWS), Jay Cablek (Jay's Tree Care), Chris Borden (Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D), Naomi Tillison (Bad River Natural Resources Department), Stefania Stralzkowska (Bayfield County), Colleen Matula (DNR), Matt Bushman (USFS - Washburn), Dennis Swenson (Cornocopia) and Dara Olson (GLIFWC).

- Northland College invasive species course
 - Carmen received full support from the draft curriculum she presented.
 - Fall 2009 - class would meet once a week for the full semester.
 - Alternate teachers by topic – lecture/presentation, discussion and field work in each class.
 - Course grade based on participation and an invasive species strategy (focused locally).
 - Need to connect with Grant Herman – in charge of student research projects – gets students involved with professionals in their major/field.
- Coastal Management grant wrap-up
 - Purchased two years on website fees with left-over grant money.
 - \$1000 left over - \$700 towards work gloves and \$300 towards MIPN's invasive species field guides.
- Invasive species predictive modeling
 - GLIFWC is working on an analysis based on soil, land cover and known distribution. Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas & Iron Counties as the initial test/pilot area.
 - Andrew Store, MI Tech, is working on predictive models for several of the national parks in the area.
- USDA GIS data
 - GIS layers of habitat based on Kotar habitat classifications, soil and aerial photos.
 - Newest data out there – Chris wants to get the word out that this data is available.
 - Free copies by county or statewide to natural resources agencies and small fee for private companies. If you need statewide, you must purchase a 2 gigabyte drive and they will download the data on to it.
 - Contact Chris Borden, RC&D Coordinator, for more information at: chris.borden@wi.usda.gov or 715.748.2008.

Round Robin

- Colleen, WDNR
 - Garlic mustard day in Fifield a success (Boyd's Resort) – inventory only, too late for herbicide treatment – main site focused around resort and along foot paths - contained to five acres.
 - Upcoming field season hold back to back garlic mustard days with the Upper Chippewa CWMA and the Mellen/Copper Falls population to work together and help each other pool labor resources.
 - Northland College volunteer workshop – five students signed up to work with the NCWMA.
 - Opportunity to have a NCWMA booth at the next career fair (2nd Thursday in February).
- Stefania, Bayfield County
 - Received a two year extension on her grant and will continue half time for the county.
 - Will be working on the WCMP final report – please submit a brief summary to Stefania if you were the lead for one of the summer work days.
- Naomi, Bad River Natural Resources Dept.
 - Working on developing an AIS monitoring strategy.
 - Hired a new wetland specialist, Catherine Temple, to replace Leah and she will be attending the NCWMA meetings.
 - Will work on getting the MOU signed by council.
- Dara, GLIFWC

- Working on the database transition – please send any invasive species occurrence data from this past field season. Also developing a control database– please send any current and past control efforts (herbicide, manual, biological, etc).
- Chris, Pri-Ru-Ta
 - Working with the Upper Chippewa CWMA – most of their funding has come from a PTI grant and some local contributions.
 - Seeing what he can share with them about the NCWMA and work with the NCWMA.
- Darienne, USFWS
 - Cutting back on the invasive species work, but will continue to attend meetings until the end of the appointment.
 - Refuge wants to continue to be involved with the NCWMA, but it will depend on Mike’s available time to attend the meetings.
- MaryJo & Heather, Iron County Conservation Department
 - Iron County received a WI AIS grant to fund an aquatic invasive species coordinator for three years. The coordinator will be developing a county invasive species strategic plan, education curriculum and working the Mercer Charter School to facilitate a Clean Boat Clean Waters monitoring program.
 - LWCD will be educating the town crews on invasive species.
 - Iron County has the most ATV trails in the state and will be working on developing an invasive species education outreach campaign and workshops. County forester already has a working relationship with the ATV groups in the area.
 - County received funding to develop one of the unused parks into an ATV campground. The park will have a washing station in place. Potential to monitor trails for baseline data before the campground is in place.
 - Wisconsin Association of Lakes’ Lakes Convention on March 18-20 in Green Bay will be devoted to aquatic invasive species.
- Carmen & Isaiah, NPS
 - Working on their annual report, gearing up for next year and starting the hiring process for next year’s field season staff.
 - Duluth Conference – Carmen presented on CWMA’s and received a lot of good feedback – sent folks to the website for more information on the Northwoods CWMA and our start up documents.
- Dennis, Cornucopia
 - Gave the local three town boards and ATV club information on garlic mustard. They seemed to see the need for invasive species awareness and control work (buckthorn), but no response since.
 - He will talk to the town boards to get on the agenda for their next meeting and have someone from the NCWMA give a presentation and invite the Town of Washburn to share their experiences.
- Matt Bushman, USFS
 - 750 acres treated and working on the final report.
 - Still treating honeysuckle and testing out new chemicals for effectiveness.
 - In the research & development stage on the Valhalla cleaning station – uncertain when it will be put in.

Next meeting: **Thursday, December 4th at the Iron County Forestry & Highway building in Hurley** (see link below). The donut discussion will begin at 9a.m. and the business meeting at 10 a.m. Donut discussion topic: begin developing the town work crew trainings and discuss how to increase NCWMA participation in Iron County. We will be organizing car pools for folks traveling from the Ashland area.

[Iron County Forestry & Highway Department Building location](#)