

Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area (NCWMA) Meeting

Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, Ashland

Tuesday, November 10, 2009 9:00 am

Present: Stefania Strzalkowska (Bayfield Co), Heather Palmquist (Iron Co), Ruth Oppedahl (UW Ext), Steve Spickerman (USFS), Carmen Chapin (NPS), Isaiah Messerly (NPS), Colleen Matula (DNR), Darienne McNamara (NCWMA Coordinator), Matt Bushman (USFS)

• Donut Discussion: Workshops for municipal employees/supervisors, NR40 workshops

- Darienne attended a workshop in Milwaukee that serves as a good model for our workshops this spring; got some great info and ideas for workshop content and procedures
- We should start talking to local municipalities soon to get their input on workshop content, make sure it's relevant for them (will help ensure their attendance as well); suggested we start with receptive towns (Grand View, La Point, Delta, Presque Isle)
- NFWF grant says we'll present to 16 towns and 4 counties, hopefully we can get towns to attend county workshops rather than doing individual events for towns
- Ruth offered help from UW-Ext to handle registrations
- Group decided we should do a separate workshop for the *public* focusing on NR40; host at Visitor Center in January; Darienne will see if Kelly Kearns or other DNR staff can attend
- Stefania asked that we give a presentation to lakes assoc's as well, they have requested this

• Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

- Bayfield County is submitting a GLRI proposal which will include gravel pit treatment for invasives, AIS control at harbors, and a travelling invasive species team (similar to the SWAT teams proposed by the CWMA)
- Question: are GLRI funds provided up-front or reimbursed similar to other grants?

• Affiliate vs. Nonprofit - In order for NCWMA to receive funds from USFS (ex. GLRI), it needs to be an official entity (such as a nonprofit)

- The group was in agreement that becoming a nonprofit is not worthwhile at this point, given that we don't receive charitable donations or foundation grants at this point; it may be considered in the future
- We can obtain a State ID Number, which makes us a recognized organization in WI - we'd still need an outside fiscal agent (IPAW or Bayfield Co.) - Darienne will look into this, Matt will see if this would suffice for USFS contracting
- Carmen spoke with IPAW about becoming an affiliate with them, they have very reasonable terms and are a good option
- Another option: become affiliate of a *local* nonprofit; none were suggested in the meeting

- **Volunteer Training** - Stefania attended a training at UW-Superior: “Working with and Inspiring Volunteers”; geared towards nonprofits with Boards, but provided some good materials and ideas such as volunteer recognition and volunteer evaluation sample form
- **MN/WI Invasive Species Symposium** - coming up in the fall of 2010, includes all taxa, same group that did big conference in Duluth, taking place further south this time (more central)
- **Quarterly Newsletter** - Carmen suggested we initiate a quarterly e-newsletter to highlight upcoming events, resources (links, articles, books), accomplishments, volunteers, etc.; should be via email to save costs and paper
 - could feature “a day in the life of (NCWMA member)” or interview with a volunteer
 - good way to reach people who are marginally involved with the group
 - Darienne offered to do this, with the first issue due out in Jan before proposed NR40 workshops; subsequent issues would come out in April, July, and October, with a supplement in June for Inv Sp Awareness Month
- **Round Robin:**
 - **Isaiah** been out on furlough, working on annual reports, fixing equip for next field season
 - **Carmen** mired in GLRI - proposals, working with contractors, budgets...
 - **Steve** Martine laid off last week for the winter; working on revision to E.A. for inv species, conducted every couple yrs; major biocontrol effort taking place next year on spotted knapweed in nat'l forest; found “motherload” of buckthorn along North County Trail outside Mellen - several acres!
 - **Colleen** contractors working on honeysuckle, doing trial on Milestone vs. glyphosate on knotweed near Woodruff in 2010
 - **Stefania** wrapping up grant; helping with Bayfield Co GLRI proposals; setting up workshop to train teachers about AIS, planned for spring or fall of 2010
 - **Heather** submitted Coastal grant for summer interns next year; attending meetings; working with student intern on creative methods for AIS outreach using technology, they’ll be presenting at upcoming High School Conference on the Env. in Stevens Point
 - **Ruth** tool shed questions: lock up for winter? (Steve S. offered to handle this), inventory supplies before winter? (Colleen offered to do this); working with partners in Superior/ Duluth on GLRI proposals, including AIS citizen monitoring; assisting DNR with woodland landowner survey, which showed lack of awareness about runoff issues, but also great interest in learning more about these issues - workshops planned for next year, including some in March focusing on land management (includes invasive species)

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, December 10, 2009
 Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center
 9am Donut Discussion (Topic: TBD) - 10am Business Meeting