

NCWMA Meeting Minutes, November 27, 2006

Meeting Location:

Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center

Participants:

Miles Falk – GLIFWC
Mike Mlynarek – USFWS, Whittlesey Creek NWR
Wendy Stein – USFS, Chequamegon-Nicolet NF
Mathew Bushman – USFS, Chequamegon-Nicolet NF
David VanderMeulen - NPS, Great Lakes EPMT
Colleen Matula – Wisconsin DNR
Dara Oslon – GLIFWC

Meeting Agenda:

- 1) Updates on grants, funding, and other \$\$ issues
- 2) Discussion of Annual Work Plan
- 3) Discussion of NCWMA Management Plan

1) Grants, funding, etc.

- Leah and Carmen have submitted a grant to Wisconsin Coastal Management Program. The grant was reviewed by some CWMA participants before submittal. Most of the activities/items/position(s) to be funded by the grant would begin in calendar year 2008. Notification of funding through this grant is not expected to occur in the near future. Carmen and Leah are responsible for tracking this item. Contact them directly if you have questions about what items/activities/position(s) are included in the proposal.
- Miles and Dara have submitted a proposal to the Natural Resources Foundation for \$1000 of funding. The money would be used to cover printing costs of a NCWMA brochure and to host a NCWMA website. Dara and Miles would provide in-kind match to the grant by donating their time to develop the brochure and website. Expect to hear about this funding opportunity by ???
- Mike Mlynarek is pursuing funding for collaboration among three area National Wildlife Refuges (one of which is Whittlesey Creek NWR). This would potentially fund a crew of MN Conservation Corps folks to work at each refuge for 2-3 weeks. The crew would focus their efforts on exotic invasive weeds mapping and control work.
- Steve Schlobohm from the Visitor Center is pursuing what he calls “Invasive Free Zone” Challenge grants. Essentially this would allow for other agencies to develop IFZ projects on their lands similar to what the Visitor Center is doing.

2) Work Plan

A variety of annual work plan efforts were discussed by the meeting participants.

Events/Activities for the summer of 2007 basically were broken down into two categories:

- Plant control , and
- Information and Public education

Many of the events listed below were identified as possible activities in the Coastal Grant submitted by Carmen and Leah. The grant basically would provide funds for equipment purchase, and to pay someone to organize and coordinate the events. If funded, the grant would target activities primarily for 2008. However, it is expected that in-kind support from CWMA participants will allow for many of these activities to take place in 2007, irrespective of any possible funding for 2008 (Note: this is how the CWMA group has operated to date).

Possible Plant Control Events for 2007

- A) Buckthorn and Honeysuckle Control on the Ashland City/Northland College (CWMA participant) Trail. Sponsored by NPS. Would take place in early spring 2007
- B) Purple Loosestrife beetle collection event. Beetles to be collected at two sites near Red Cliff. Would invite all interested parties (likely organizations) to participate. Participants in prior years included lake and river associations and State agencies. Beetles are collected by participants and placed in purple loosestrife locations of their choosing. Event sponsored and organized by GLFWC. Would take place on three consecutive days at the end of May just after Memorial Day.
- C) Japanese Knotweed in Bayfield. The goal here would be to convince land and business owners in Bayfield that it is in their interest to control Japanese Knotweed. Would require permission to work on private lands. Expect that some education would need to take place before onset of work effort. Some residents likely would resist effort as much the knotweed was planted for aesthetics. June would be a good time to conduct this effort. See Coastal Grant for more details
- D) Spotted Knapweed Control in July – see Coastal Grant for Details
- E) Leafy Spurge control in Washburn. Sponsored by Wendy Stein and Maple Hill area landowners. This is a continuation of the control efforts that have taken place in 2005 and 2006. Take place in late fall, ideally after the first hard frost.
- F) Invasives inventory & mapping of Douglas & Washburn counties (as well as portions of Sawyer and eastern Bayfield counties) - GLIFWC

Information/Education/News Events

- A) CWMA News Release – May/June 2007. Article would outline the organization of the CWMA, discuss in more detail the leafy spurge control effort in Washburn, and wrap up with some planned events for 2007/2008. Where the article would be sent to or published was not discussed. Wendy/Miles will draft an article with assistance/info from other CWMA members.
- B) Invasive Plant Identification and Control Assessment Field Day – Mike Mlynarek agreed to host and organize a one-day event designed to transport participants to several local sites to identify invasive exotic plants and infestations. The field trip will also include visiting

areas previously treated, with an explanation of control methods and treatment results. The event would take place in mid-summer (July) so the highest number of exotics can be identified, and control efforts from early in the growing season realized.

C) A Native vs. Non-native Education Event at Copper Falls State Park is planned for June 2nd – led by Colleen.

D) Sigurd Olson native plant sale in June. This event is now also the pickup location for ABDI Land and Water Conservation Department plant orders. Discussion was held on how the CWMA could participate in this event. Dara suggested we could just volunteer to help the organizations. It was forwarded that this would be a good event to advertise the CWMA through a handout or brochure. The handout might include info on the CWMA, as well as alternative plantings for invasives, and a list of local resources for native plantings. **PRIME MOVER TO ORGANIZE THIS NOT IDENTIFIED YET.**

E) Get involved with Education through School Forests – Colleen mentioned many school forests are getting grant funding to establish trails. She's helping the Mellen school with an interpretive sign. It's a great way to get students involved in invasives awareness.

F) Video on terrestrials airing in June – Miles.

Following discussion of the items listed above, the following plant control and education/information efforts were identified as **WILL HAPPEN FOR SURE in 2007:**

- Buckthorn control on Ashland City Trail/Northland College. Organizer – Carmen (and David VanderMeulen)
- Purple Loosestrife beetle collection in Red Cliff. Organizer – Miles and Dara
- Leafy Spurge Control in Washburn. Organizer – Wendy Stein and Maple Hill residents
- CWMA News Release. Organizer – Wendy Stein et al. (Note: David has photos of '06 spurge control work plus Mike's Field Day.)
- Invasive Plant Identification and Control Assessment Field Day. Organizer – Mike Mlynarek, with logistical (transport) assistance by others
- Native vs. Non-native Education Event at Copper Falls State Park. Organizer – Colleen Matula

Additional activities/events (see lists above) may take place in 2007, but are dependant on identifying an organizer who has the time and resources to pull it together. Also, several CWMA participants volunteered to continue to offer equipment and material support (backpack sprayers, herbicide, etc.) for the 2007 projects.

3) NCWMA Management Plan

Not much progress has been made on this. All meeting participants agreed that in accordance with the CWMA "cookbook", having a management plan is a good idea for the group. At the Oct 30th meeting, members volunteered for various writing assignments with a due date to Leah of November 13th. Need an update from Leah on where this is at, but most people have been swamped with other obligations. Development of a management plan is ongoing, and will be discussed in more detail at the next CWMA meeting.

4) Miscellaneous Items

There was some discussion of starting to think about implementing a monitoring program to track plant control progress at sites the CWMA works at. This is the next logical step to any plant control program, the first two steps being 1) getting organized, and 2) actually conducting some plant control. Monitoring at the leafy spurge control sites in Washburn was discussed, as this is an area where the CWMA has a few seasons of plant control. Some preliminary monitoring could take place here, after development of some rudimentary protocols. Protocols would be further refined as necessary, with implementation of more detailed protocols at future monitoring sites. Suggested a subcommittee be established to work on monitoring.

It was also suggested that the CWMA have a demonstration project or demonstration site to showcase plant control efforts. The possibility of using a few sites at Whittlesey Creek NWR was suggested, as they are already doing this for a few exotic species. This idea was accepted by the group as a good one, with recognition that the details will have to be fleshed out in future meetings.

It was suggested that Leah coordinate the next CWMA meeting date via email.

Meeting adjourned.