

Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area (NCWMA) Meeting

Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, Ashland

Tuesday, December 10, 2009 10:00 am

***Present:** Stefania Strzalkowska (Bayfield Co), Heather Palmquist (Iron Co), Carmen Chapin (NPS), Colleen Matula (DNR), Darienne McNamara (NCWMA Coordinator), Matt Bushman (USFS), Peggy Burkman (NPS), Tana Turonie (Mellen), Jane Swenson (Delta and Iron River Area Lakes Associations)*

• USFS Funding for NCWMA

- Matt Bushman presented draft budget for funding from USFS to NCWMA, amounting to \$50,000 for treating gravel pits, office expenses, Coordinator salary and expenses
- NCWMA will need to sign a master agreement with the USFS to receive funding (at any point in the future), as well as a supplemental agreement for the \$50K from GLRI
- Bayfield County will remain fiscal agent

• Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Update

- the RFP has been released, and it is significantly different than anticipated
- based on the RFP, proposals will be modified, and some will not be submitted (although they may be submitted to other funding sources in the future)
- SWAT Team concept will still be submitted, although we may need to contract out the work to avoid potential liability/insurance issues, among others; Darienne is working on this

• CWMA Symposium - last week of Jan or first week of Feb, 2010; most likely in Park Falls

- Darienne is working with Ted Ritter from Vilas Co invasive species group (WHIP) and Marjy B. from the USFS to coordinate a symposium to gather weed groups from northern WI and the western U.P.
- NCWMA members suggested inviting other groups that deal with invasive species but may not have that as their focus - ex. lake associations, watershed organizations, river groups, etc.
- regarding the session on control techniques, Colleen and Carmen mentioned two online databases being developed which will list control techniques and trials for various species

• NR40 Public Workshop -

- this will be a one-night workshop hosted the night before the symposium
- Kelly Kearns (DNR) will be present to answer questions
- we will send targeted invites to local nurseries and landscaping companies to be sure they know about NR40 and how it may affect them
- we should have an article about NR40 in the paper prior to the workshop, then mention there will be more info available at the workshop

- **Municipal Workshops**

- Darienne is attending town meetings from now until the workshops to tell town supervisors and crew supervisors about the workshops, get their input, and confirm their attendance
- Stefania talked to the Hwy Supervisor in Bayfield Co, he is enthusiastic about the workshops and willing to help plan the agenda; Darienne will follow-up with him
- Suggestions from the NCWMA:
 - include a short video, such as the “Dangerous Travelers” video
 - avoid having it be all front-of-the-room - ex. have a power washing demo
 - Tana suggested talked to the WI Towns Assoc. to be sure they’re supportive of this, in case towns go to them with questions/concerns after the workshop
 - is there some way to get an article about invasives in the statewide municipality magazine (called Crossroads?)? this is read by many of the town crews and supervisors

- **2010 Invasive Work Days**

- several people have asked us to host a work day at their site in 2010, we need to have criteria for picking sites and then start making commitments
- before agreeing to a site/group, ensure they will provide volunteers, and ask for help with herbicide costs, food, marketing, etc.
- commitments as of Dec 2010: May - Northland College ravine with SOEI students, Aug - Iron Co loosestrife project

- **Round Robin:**

- **Jane** concerned we are duplicating efforts with other local groups such as river groups and lake groups, asked that NCWMA members mention the NCWMA and our projects when we’re working with others so they are aware of our activities
- **Matt** has a contract to treat knapweed in northern half of the Washburn Ranger District in the Cheq-Nicolet NF; working on Partnership Agreement between NCWMA and USFS; addressing invasives in contracts for upcoming timber sales in the NF; the ATV washing station at Valhalla seemed to get lots of use last summer, and he was able to retrieve dirt and seeds it had captured; the Northwest Sands Project will begin this month - this is a large-scale effort to restore barrens habitat which will involve timber harvests and burning in the spring
- **Carmen** still working on GLRI; two more classes left in her invasive species course at Northland College, students will be filling out an evaluation about the course which should provide valuable info and insights
- **Stefania** wrapping up grant; helping with Bayfield Co GLRI proposals; helped develop a card that will go into all tax bills in the county to thank residents for their role in protecting local lakes from AIS, and reminding them what they can do to prevent the spread of AIS

- **Heather** busy with the native plant sale for Bayfield, Ashland and Iron counties; grant reimbursements
- **Peggy** she will be attending as the new representative from the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
- **Tana** the annual meeting for the North Country Trail Association will be in Ashland in 2010, she asked that we help make sure invasives are on the agenda - Carmen has connections with this group and will make some calls; Tana will try to get the new DNR BMP's for invasives on the NCTA website and the Ice Age Trail website

Happy Holidays!

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2010
Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center
9am Donut Discussion (Topic: TBD) - 10am Business Meeting