

Northwoods Weed Initiative
Meeting Minutes
Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center
03-31-2004

Attendees: Carmen Chapin, Ben Dufford, Miles Falck, Kristy Maki, Steven Spickerman, Wendy Stein

Carmen Chapin explained her role as leader of the Exotic Pest Management Team for the National Park Service. With a crew of 4 people, Carmen will conduct inventories in 8 parks throughout Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Indiana. She will also augment the parks efforts to control exotics.

Over the long term Carmen will establish EAs (Environmental Assessments) for parks working toward invasive management.

Carmen will maintain an informal relationship with NWI as her priority is the work in 8 national parks.

Miles will get a supply of *Plants out of Place* and *Target Leafy Spurge* brochures to Carmen.

***Invasive Workshop:**

Miles reported on his involvement as a member of the planning committee working for an Invasives Workshop. Thus far, plans are to have 3 consecutive (yearly) workshops: Aquatics in March 2005, Terrestrial in 2006, and Forest pests (pathogens and insects) in 2007.

The focus will be on the Lake Superior basin. Invitations will be extended to resort association leaders. A morning session will discuss why we should be concerned, impacts, etc. The afternoon will be break-out sessions with a goal to get commitment from attendees to take some action. Actions might include sponsoring equipment washing at boat landings—pay youth to assist, and distribute literature to bait shops.

***Poster Update:**

Martine stopped in to show us the latest updates/pictures for the poster. Everyone thought the poster looked great and will be very useful. One change was suggested to change “toxic to cattle” to “toxic to cattle and other wildlife”. The contact information will remain blank to allow whoever is using the poster to add their specific information.

Martine provided a CD with the poster file. Ben will take the CD to print copies of the poster for use at an Ashland County Land & Water Planning meeting tomorrow (April 1st).

Tom Cogger is seeking funding to get the posters printed.

***Miscellaneous:**

-Agreed we would like to release additional beetles this spring. Wendy offered to contact Trempeleau Wildlife Refuge and Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture.

-Suggested having a table at the Spring Farm & Garden show—maybe the Ecology Club could take this on. (*Note: Too short of notice. The show was 4/3/2004.*)

-Ben didn't have any luck with potential grant sources. Need to look at IPAW invasive grant. Other potential sources of funding could be the Elk Foundations, Sharptails Unlimited, Turkey Foundation.

-Add Carmen to NWI mailing list.

***Next Meeting:**

-Miles suggested meeting for coffee in Washburn in mid to late May (I recommend Chequamegon Book & Coffee). We could have a short meeting and then take a field trip to the spurge site. I'll contact everyone once the spurge starts emerging!

Wendy Stein

Notetaker