

Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area Meeting - 6/19/08

Attendees: Paul Erdmann – Ramsey Conservation District, Michelle Wohlers – USDA/NRCS, Tom Petersen – Ramsey Conservation District, Chuck Fiedler – Ramsey County, Dave Hamernick – MN National Guard, John Moriarty – Ramsey County Parks, Deborah Karasov – Great River Greening, Matt Kocian – Rice Creek Watershed District, Paul Walvatne – MN DOT, Dave Bauer – Rice Creek Watershed District, Nancy Duncan – National Park Service, Blane White – MN Dept of Agriculture, Chuck Dale – MN Dept of Agriculture, Ann Heyer - Ramsey Conservation District

Action Items

- A. Review of Partner List: After reviewing the current partner list, it was suggested to contact Wendy Crowell, the DNR Regional Rep, about joining the group. Deborah Karasov suggested contacting the Port Authority and informing them of the goals of the CWMA. It was also suggested that the Railroad be contacted. Paul Erdmann will send invitation letters to these contacts. Paul mentioned that the partner list is short on non-profit organizations, private business, and private individuals.
- B. Review of General Schedule/Timeline: It was noted that the date for the Terrestrial Workshop should be moved because September 1st is Labor Day. The Terrestrial Workshop is now scheduled for September 8. Deborah Karasov asked if BWSR is committed to funding the CWMA beyond the current 18-month contract. John Moriarty responded that the grant has already been decreased by BWSR twice since the initial application. Paul Erdmann suggested searching the Midwest Invasive Plant web site at: www.mipn.org for more information on CWMA's. When the question over the Ramsey Conservation District being the fiscal agent for the grant was raised, Moriarty clarified that it would not prevent other partners from applying for grant money.
- C. Discussion of Chairperson & Vice-Chair/Board/Steering committee: The Board is forming now, these are the partners that are attending meetings/expressing interest, that will sign the MOU. After the MOU is signed a steering committee and Chairperson and Vice-Chair will be appointed.
- D. Review of Draft MOU: Paul Erdmann provided a printed draft MOU to the partners, but said he would email and electronic copy for partners and requested comments by Friday, July 11th. There are several partners with experience writing MOUs and committed to sending feedback. RCCWMA hopes to have partners sign this MOU at or soon after the next meeting so the group can move forward.
- E. Review of Draft Plant Species Target List: The list of invasive plant target species was reviewed. The list split plants into two categories – Early Detection/Eradication and Education/Control. Paul asked partners to review the

Target list and welcomed comments and ideas. The following invasive plants and locations were discussed.

- Yellow iris along Hwy 100 in the lilac bed
- Cut-leaved teasel in Wisconsin
- Giant phragmites at Hwy 35E and Hwy 36

Blane White suggested keeping wild parsnip in the Early Detection/Eradication group, he stated that it is not well established in Ramsey County and can be controlled. He explained that bio-controls are being used in Ramsey County to deter different invasives such as purple loosestrife, leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, and some of the exotic thistles. He also said that the DNR is working on a biocontrol for garlic mustard and buckthorn. Matt Kocian said he was interested in more of the aquatic invasive plants, such as Eurasian water milfoil and curly leaf pondweed. Paul and John mentioned that these are well established in the county, and the group will focus on education with these plants. Hydrilla is a new aquatic invasive that the group will be on the lookout for, as well as flowering rush.

Open Discussion

Paul Walvatne explained that he is working on eradicating Grecian foxglove and explained the difficulties in eradication in the SW quadrant along Hwy 94 and 95. Blane White said that he could bring a sample of Grecian foxglove for the first workshop. John Moriarty suggested that the workshop could be at Battle Creek Park or on the National Guard property north of the RC Public Works facility. Moriarty explained that there was a lot of Tansy growing at Battle Creek Park. Walvatne remarked that control and containment are goals for many of the invasive weeds, rather than eradication. He said beetles were being used to control Cypress spurge. Chuck Dale responded that in the past, a large amount of herbicide was used to control Leafy spurge, but that it proved ineffective. White said he was encouraged to see the success of invasive plant control at the Flying Cloud airport. He also gave out a handout from the MN Department of Agriculture on an invasive plant reporting website (http://gis.mda.state.mn.us/website/invasives_locator). There was discussion over which phragmites species is established in Ramsey County and which one is not. Paul will research this.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 17, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

Please Contact Paul Erdmann paul.erdmann@co.ramsey.mn.us with any questions or comments.