

CWMA Meeting Minutes – August 21, 2008 - 2:00pm

In attendance: Paul Erdmann, Catherine Bach-Ramsey Conservation District, Tina Markeson-MN DOT, Chuck Fiedler-Ramsey County Public Works, Chuck Dale- MN Dept. of Ag., Dave Hamernick-MN National Guard, Dana Larsen-Ramsay-Willow Lake Nature Preserve, Bill Bartodziej-RWMWD.

September 8 workshop discussion:

Paul will check with John where exactly we are going on the AHATS site. Carpools are OK for transportation. Check with county people/partners about vans. Meeting capped at 50 people. 21 have signed up so far.

MNDOT will try to carpool together (ex. 15 person van-maybe-Tina will check on this) 7 MNDOT herbicide applicators attending.

Ford Escape and/or Lou's van could be used for transportation.

Blane -on vacation-presenting mapping system how to collect data in field, how to upload data into GIS system.

RCCWMA needs a Power Point Presentation about target species we're worried about in Ramsey County for the workshop. (Paul can do it but others may be more knowledgeable about invasive plants. Chuck D. says he may have an existing presentation that may be more/less inclusive but will be helpful)

Partner contributions:

Paul: Has contributed 110 hours towards development of CWMA (Takes \$\$ away from \$16,000 grant)

Looking for partners to put in in-kind hours (in addition to attending meetings) to help make program successful. Distributes 'Potential Partner Contributions' document, included here:

RCCWMA Invasive Plant Workshop

- Create PowerPoint presentation on Target Species for September 8 workshop.
- Collect samples for display at workshop

Education

- Invite other organizations, individuals, businesses to join the RCCWMA
- Hold workshops in the field for schools, general public, NR professionals on how to ID target species.
- Create educational materials for distribution (posters, pamphlets, displays, etc...)
- Go into schools/universities and teach kids about invasive plants
- Conduct general outreach to public through newspapers, editorials, magazines, news outlets

Management Plan

- In conjunction with steering committee, create invasive plant management plan for Ramsey County
- Identify high quality natural areas/restorations to focus efforts on

Early detection

- Conduct field surveys and map out target specie populations

Management/Control

Coordinate and host volunteer control events (buckthorn busts, garlic mustard pulls, etc)

Administration

- Create spreadsheet to keep track of Partner contributions

Tina: people probably have presentation/education material and we should avoid starting things (i.e. management plan) from scratch. (Maybe existing county management plans) (Contact John Moriarty and Blane about existing presentation materials.)

AHATS/Mapping:

Quite a few specimens of invasive species in back. Dave Hamernick stated that AHATS has already been mapped, both species and location (Done by graduate students from St Cloud State-he could invite students to explain to everyone how they did the project.)

Target Species List:

Issue: Lists need to be made smaller in order to show any progress. (i.e. half dozen species). Other CWMA's are focusing on 5 species or less.

Teasel is moving quickly-spreading to other states south of us quickly. On roadside backslope it towers over the rest. Also noticed a lot of chicory -right along gravel.

Dana: We shouldn't focus on common ones like buckthorn-it is nice to introduce a larger variety of weeds that people aren't familiar with.

Tina-Remove some from early detection list and move to a separate "watch" list (ex. 'we don't think they're here yet but we should be watching for it')

Group decided on ten species to focus on:

Early Detection/Management

WILD PARSNIP

TANSY

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

YELLOW IRIS

MISCANTHUS

Education/Management

GARLIC MUSTARD

EXOTIC HONEYSUCKLES

AMUR MAPLE

SPOTTED KNAPWEED

REED CANARY GRASS

Chuck D. suggestion: Herbicide trials on some of these weeds to see the effects, possibility for the Univ. Of MN to be involved.

Non-native terrestrial plants-booklet

Leech Lake/Carol Mortenson invasive plant booklet-good glovebox book and fairly cheap (Tina will e-mail paul with title of booklet)

U of M article on miscanthus-sterile variety (extension site)
-not an absolute sterility (does occasionally produce a few seeds)

Teasel-not spread yet in Ramsey County-only one population and it is under control.

WORKSHOP IDEA: Involve as many species as possible, but FOCUS on 5 or 6.

ANOTHER ISSUE: people WANTING to plant species that don't grow naturally in MN

Target Species List: Two categories will be changed to: Early Detection/Management and Education/Management.

CWMA long-term progression: First, prove results with four or five test species.

Yellow Iris/Oxeye daisy-people don't realize iris/daisies can be bad

Tina-Amur Maple- One of the iron clads that will survive, for example, 694. MN DOT won't plant it next to natural areas, but they will continue to plant them. They are careful about where they put it, but they won't stop planting it. Amur Maple produces a lot of seeds. Ex. Not a lot of seeds will spread on 94.

In certain spots, eradication should not even be worried about, but other spots it is critically important.

Tina: MNDOT should no longer be planting trefoil and crown vetch.

Other invasives not on the list: *Reed Canary Grass (ribbon grass)? *Siberian Elm? *Russian Olive? *Japanese Barberry-popular in nurseries-supposed to be sterile but there are cases where they are not-people are trying to find out what's going on with it. (Approved for sale on the basis that it's sterile). These species will be added to the comprehensive list.

Part of education: People are actually excited about planting non-native species. Educate people on bringing in unfamiliar species. People find invasives on the roadside and other places and bring it home and plant in their garden.

Message to homeowners: DON'T BRING HOME something you don't know.

EDUCATION/CONTROL=Educate people and encourage them to control them.

Paul brought up two new species and pictures of them he took at Woodview Marsh, a Ramsey County property. Comfrey, looks like Virginia bluebells but has fuzzy leaves, was introduced and is considered naturalized. The other species is a sow thistle (*Sonchus* sp.), but it is very tall. Concerned if it is *Sonchus palustris*- marsh sow-thistle, one on many invasive plant watch lists.

Paul stated that he received an e-mail from Wendy Crowell, MN DNR, stating that she was changing positions within the DNR and will not be able to attend meetings and that the DNR will not be signing on as a partner of the CWMA at this time. Ann Pierce may come to meetings in the future. The group suggested that Sue Burks be contacted. Or call Luke Skinner... Somebody from DNR should be involved.

Group discussed creating a steering committee. Discussion will continue at Sept. meeting. Steering committee would ultimately be in charge of creating the comprehensive management plan for the county. Thought of as "facilitators" with more ownership, responsibility, involvement. Tasks would be divided up between steering committee members.

September 18 or October 2 - next partner meeting. Paul will send e-mail asking for response.

CWMA Workshop on September 8:

***PLEASE LET PAUL KNOW IF YOU WILL BE THERE OR NOT-staff people are welcome to come as well.