

In Attendance:

Paul Erdmann, Catherine Bach-Ramsey Conservation District, John Moriarty-Ramsey County Parks and Rec., Blane White, Chuck Dale – MN Department of Agriculture, Nancy Duncan-National Park Service, Wendy Crowell-MN DNR, Ken Graeve-MN DOT, Dave Hamernick-MN National Guard, Ginny Gaynor-City of Maplewood, Chuck Fiedler-Ramsey County Environmental Services, Dana Larson-Ramsay-H. B. Fuller/Willow Lake Nature Preserve

Action Items

1. Attendees reviewed and discussed MOU.

The following changes (**in bold**) were made:

I. Background and Objectives: Definition of Terms

d. Local Ecotype Native Seed- seed originating from the **ecoregions found in** Ramsey County. Seed used in the RCCWMA must be Local Ecotype Native Seed, and must originate from as close to the given project as possible. “Yellow tag” certified seed should be used whenever possible.

f. Invasive plant or weed- plant species, typically non-native, that has competitive advantages and can become established in natural plant communities and wild areas and replace native vegetation. **They may alter** the ecosystem and **may** cause economic, environmental, or social harm and **they may** also negatively affect human health.

III. Statement Of Work

c. Provide opportunities to outside interest groups, private landowners, and the public for involvement in carrying out weed management planning **and education** on lands and waters within the Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area (RCCWMA).

Partners agreed to signing MOU before the next meeting. Paul Erdmann will send out the revised version.

2. Terrestrial Workshop

Partners agreed to use the Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS) as well as the Ramsey County Public Works Building (Marsden Room) for the first terrestrial workshop. The program will consist of two parts. The first part will be indoors and will include a presentation by Blane White on the MN Dept. of Ag. invasive plant reporting website and mapping protocols. There will also be a short presentation on the plants listed on the RCCWMA Plant Species Target List, including live samples. The second part of the program will take place outdoors on the AHATS where the group will locate invasive plant species according to the MN Dept. of Ag. protocol using a GPS unit.

The terrestrial workshop will take place on:
September 8, 2008 (Monday) – 9am to 12pm

3. General Discussion

The following invasive plants were discussed:

Ken Graeve asked partners to be on the lookout for Narrow-leaved bitter-cress (*Cardamine impatiens*). It was recently found at Fort Snelling. Michigan is concerned.

Blane White brought in a new invasive thistle, Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*). A small patch was recently found in Ramsey County. As there are many invasive thistles, the RCCWMA will compile a list for educational purposes.

The group discussed *Phragmites australis* and *Miscanthus sp.*, two large grass species. The group agreed to focus on *Miscanthus sp.* This is a popular landscaping grass that is spreading into natural areas. In the United States there are two species, *Miscanthus sinensis* and *Miscanthus sacchariflorus*, *Miscanthus sinensis* seems to be more of a concern. Other ornamental grasses are a concern as well. Studies and debate are ongoing looking into nativity of *Phragmites australis*.

Wendy Crowell spoke about flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*), mentioning that it will realistically never be eradicated and that it shouldn't allowed to be planted for landscaping. The group agreed that monitoring for this species is important as it hasn't been found in Ramsey County.

Ginny Gaynor spoke about Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*). This is another popular landscaping plant that can escape into woodlands.

General Notes:

The RCCWMA will need to eventually come up with a *small* list of invasives that the group will be actively working to eradicate/focus on.

Educate homeowners about how to detect invasives. People need to be more in-tune to what is happening.

If you plant it, watch it. Don't let it spread around. If it does, do something about it.

2 different types of homeowners to focus on educating:

- 1) Gardeners
- 2) Naturalists, people walking in woods as hikers

Paul will be contacting Jay Rendall about MISAC (Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council) and discouraging the selling of invasive plants by the landscaping/greenhouse industry.

4. Next meeting: Thursday, August 21, 2008-2pm- Arden Hills

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