

Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area Meeting – HB Fuller- 1/15/09

Attendees:

Paul Erdmann, Michael Goodnature – Ramsey Conservation District, Chuck Fiedler – Ramsey County Public Works, Dana Larsen-Ramsay - H. B.Fuller/Willow Lake Nature Preserve, John Moriarty - Ramsey County Parks and Rec., Brittany Hummel – Minnesota DNR , Steve Malone, Anthony Cortillet - Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Nancy Duncan – NPS Mississippi River, Ginny Gaynor – City of Maplewood, Katy Chayka– Volunteer, Paul Walvatne – MN DOT, Bill Bartodziej – Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District

Meeting opened at 2:05pm

I. Action Items

A. Lookout Flier Update

The heading of the flyer was changed to “Most Wanted.” Other alterations included plant description changes. Paul and Bill worked on this to make it more understandable to the general public. Paul will send a finalized version of the flier to partners when it is complete. Please distribute widely, as this is our main flier at this point. Paul has also put together a contact list for the RCCWMA, and will send this out electronically as well.

B. CWMA Midterm reporting

The CWMA Midterm report was sent to BWSR on Jan. 15. The report included information on the progress of the RCCWMA thus far. Paul listed what the group has accomplished in the first 6 months: selected Target Species and created and distributed lookout flier, 11 partners signed on to the MOU, formed steering committee and holding monthly meetings, held first workshop with 40 attendees, presentations given to high school students and tabling at Slice of Shoreview, created the website and began preliminary aspects of the mapping program, and control of cut-leaved teasel patch. Paul has a more detailed report if partners are interested in seeing it.

Ginny commented that this spring Mary Meyer (with the U of M) could present on the identification of *Miscanthus* and for the partners to investigate the U of M website for more information. Paul commented that he has invited the MN Nursery and Landscape Association and the MN Invasive Species Advisory Council (Jay Rendall) to attend a CWMA meeting but has not gotten a response yet from either. John Moriarty commented that Paul should check with Linder’s and Bachman’s, because they are members of the MNLA and may be a closer contact in the county.

C. Website update, partners linking and contributions

Paul stated that the RCCWMA website is up and running, but more work needs to be done. Website content currently consists of: the partner list, links to other

invasive plant sites, minutes and agenda info, and general inv. Plant info. Others are invited to add content and asked to link from their agency website to the RCCWMA website. The address is:

www.co.ramsey.mn.us/cd/cwma.htm

D. Plant disposal update

The city of St. Paul disposed of a large mass of Garlic Mustard within waste receptacles that were not taken by the disposal company. The city looked into alternative methods, primarily incineration, of disposal for large quantities. Nate Johnson mentioned that they are looking into incinerators, but this option is quite costly. John Moriarty stated that on a smaller scale all noxious weeds pulled should be piled and left on site to avoid spreading of seed and the need for a noxious weed transport permit.

E. MIPN Membership

The CWMA will be joining the Midwest Invasive Plant Network, and Paul will write up a feature to be published in the March newsletter.

F. Comm. Conservation Assistance Grant update and General discussion

Paul E. informed the group that the grant was awarded for the mapping and inventory of the 5 target species on partner managed lands. Paul E. would like to devote 1 day a week to conducting field inventories of the target species during the field season. All agreed that small patches should be controlled if found during the inventory if possible. Ginny questioned if Paul could be contracted by the partners to conduct plant removals. Paul, as of now, sees it as more of a partnership, working together with partners to do control on their sites. Tony suggested that other CWMA's partner with herbicide companies and that the RCCWMA should look into partnering with the companies to get herbicide donated. Local representatives to look into could be DOW, Sutherland, and BSF. Ginny suggested that partners could share chemicals. Paul commented that other CWMA's have a central garage or storage areas/tools/herbicide everyone could access, and this is what the RCCWMA should ultimately look at, possibly hosted at RC Public Works in Arden Hills. Tony commented about the possibility of expanding this CWMA into a larger, Metro-wide CWMA. John M. commented that he inquired about this and that BWSR regulated to a county extent. Paul commented that he has talked with the Washington County and that they have yet to use any of the CWMA money they were awarded, but hopes to work with them and surrounding counties in the future.

II. New Business/Open Discussion

Paul E. set next meeting date for February 19th, 2009, at 10 am. John M. will check about hosting the meeting at the Ramsey County Parks building on White Bear Ave. If John M. cannot host, Ginny volunteered to host. *UPDATE* The next meeting will be at the Maplewood City Hall, 1830 East County Rd B, in the Maplewood Room.

III. Presentation given by Tony Cortillet

Tony's presentation was a live demo of a field tablet form displayed and stored within ESRI's Arcpad software. This field tablet form was a user friendly way for field personnel to enter plant inventory data. The form included menus and pull downs to enter data collection area information and specific plant information including: unique id, plant name, abundance, etc. Tony and others used this form to enter data from several surveys they have conducted. The data they collected was analyzed many ways and interpolated to display invasive plant concentrations on maps. The form was utilized to conduct an ongoing state wide plant survey over four quadrants across the state. Tony's suggestions to the CWMA were to keep the inventory process as simple, but effective, as possible and to start the inventory process from scratch. Paul E. asked how the money for the inventory should be broken up. Ginny commented that the use of volunteers could help. There was discussion on if volunteers were used they either had to be proficient in plant id, or just be able to locate and E-mail Paul so that he could go into the field and verify the plants. Paul and Mike will put together a protocol for the inventory program for the next meeting; partners should bring their ideas as well.

The group then discussed the future workshops, and it was decided that the spring workshop will focus on management of the five target species, and be geared towards managers in the field. Paul asked partners to coordinate a management specialist for each of the plants. The following people will present or find a contact to present on the following plants:

Tansy – MDA- Monica Chandler
Wild Parsnip – MDA-Tony
Japanese Knotweed – NPS-Nancy-Carmen Chapin
Miscanthus – City of Maplewood- Ginny-Mary Meyer (U of MN)
Yellow iris-MN DNR- Brittany

The management workshop will take place sometime in April, most likely in the Marsden Conference room in Arden Hills.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15pm
Submitted by Mike Goodnature and Paul Erdmann, 1/20/09