

**Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area Meeting
MNDOT Training Center, Arden Hills, July 30th, 2009 10 a.m.**

Attendees:

Paul Erdmann- Ramsey Conservation District, Katy Chayka- Citizen Volunteer, Nancy Duncan – NPS Mississippi River, Mark Cleveland-MN DNR Parks and Trails, Angela Anderson-MN DNR Parks and Trails, Mike Goodnature-Ramsey Conservation District, Russ Peura-MNDOT, Mary Lee-MN Army National Guard (AHATS), Dave Hamernick- MN Army National Guard (AHATS), Brian Miller- MN Conservation Corps, Lee Bruce-MNDOT, Carol Mason-Citizen Volunteer, Monika Chandler-MN Dept. of Ag., Tony Cortillet-MN Dept. of Ag., Chuck Fiedler- Ramsey County, Ken Graeve - MN DOT, Bill Bartodziej – Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District

I. Meeting opened at 10:06am

II. Action Items

A. Partner updates- Each Partner gave a 5 minute summary on their invasive plant management this summer and any species they are concerned about-

Carol Mason- Wondering about distributing information and what our group is all about.

Chuck Fiedler- Has treated the cut-leaved teasel population, will follow-up in the next few weeks.

Bill Bartodziej- Tansy in 3 new locations in RWMWD, seems to be having a good year.

Dave Hamernick- National Guard is continuing to clean up farmstead/brush areas and removing buckthorn and restoring prairie on the Arden Hills Army Training Site.

Brian Miller- MCC partners with agencies to do exotics control. MCC has crews all over the state and could be a good resource for reporting new exotics.

Russ Peura- “Being over-run” Spotted knapweed in Forest Lake along I-35. He has been mapping with a GPS unit several different (11) weeds along state roadsides. Russ is willing to take Paul along sections of roadside on the interstate that have reported populations.

Angela Anderson- Working on leafy spurge, s. knapweed, wild parsnip, crown vetch. Tansy at Bruce Vento. Invasives have been inventoried on the Gateway Trail- Mark and Angela will work on getting Paul access to this info.

Mark Cleveland- With exotic species control, one of the important things- implement an operational order that focuses on management practices that work to slow or prevent the spread of exotic species. DNR has been training staff on this. Incorporate that into the mental culture. Every species mentioned thus far the DNR is dealing with- Mark’s range is the uplands of Mille Lacs to the Iowa border. Also, Queen Anne’s Lace. Fort Snelling may be the release site for the root mining weevils-

Biocontrol agent for garlic mustard. Actively mapping 25-30 exotic species- also woody biomass projects.

Angela Anderson- garlic mustard- increasing along gateway in Maplewood. Target species and other weeds have been mapped along Gateway Trail.

Nancy Duncan- Ongoing- biotech, volunteers, and Exotic Plant Management Team. Bioblitz in Crosby. Biotech doing surveys of public areas in river corridor.

The Exotic Plant Management Team- is a roving team that spends 2 weeks in each park in the Midwest- they work with NPS partners (John Moriarty, Adam and Nate and St. Paul Parks).

Katy Chayka- doing a volunteer plant survey for Ramsey County and John Moriarty. Katy has an excellent website- mnwildflowers.info

Paul commended Katy for reporting infestations of Target Species and her work to control invasives in parks.

Ken Graeve- Would like to coordinate the RCCWMA mapping program with MNDOT's mapping program.

Tony Cortillet- Noxious Weed Law- Chuck Fiedler is still the enforcement on the local level for Ramsey County.

The noxious weed list may go from 11 weeds to 300.

3 new sections

1. Noxious weed and invasive plant species assistance account- but there is no money in it. The language and the strings are there- whether it fills up with money or not remains to be seen possibly in the next biennium, 2 years from now).

2. Noxious weed and invasive species grant program- allows commissioner of Ag to solicit grant apps for any entity managing weeds in the state- In the law they are called "Weed Management Areas" not "Cooperative Weed Management Areas"- BWSR has the funding strings for CWMA's, now that the law has been changed, the Dept. of Ag will have to meet with BWSR to make sure there is a uniform process for the CWMA's. This may become the new funding stream for CWMA's- on a project specific basis.

3. Noxious weed advisory committee- This new group forming now will be the group that oversees the noxious weed law- listing weeds, risk assessments, priorities, etc.

Monika Chandler-Continuing to work on Biocontrol of leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, and development for common tansy. Starting to work on early detection- if someone notices a new plant that is spreading- Monika can be contacted and then goes to advisory committees, etc.

MN Dept. of Ag. rapid response website is coming down as program is being revamped.

B. RCCWMA Budget update-

The original \$16,000 start-up grant from BWSR has pretty much been depleted over the past year starting the program, performing outreach, holding educational events and the workshops, etc. The remaining portion will be used up holding meetings, reporting to BWSR, some education/outreach, and grant writing/seeking. For the program to continue as is- the RCCWMA will have to secure a grant, receive funding from partners, or both, or other options.

Paul presented to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners. They were responsive to the program.

Paul applied for LCCMR funding and recently found out that request was not accepted.

Paul applied for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Pulling Together Initiative. The Pre-proposal has been submitted, still waiting for a response. Main proposal is due in September. The pre-proposal asks for \$25,000. Partners, the county, and/or BWSR or other sources would have to match this.

C. Education update

Paul presented new fliers for Yellow iris, Wild parsnip, and Narrowleaf bittercress. These are available on the website.

Educational material was available at the Slice of Shoreview with the RCD and Sierra Club.

Paul presented to 30+ mowers at the MN DOT mower training for the Metro District.

III. New business

Paul presented his initial findings with the mapping and inventory program. This is a summary:

Miscanthus- 0 sites have been confirmed. Miscanthus cannot be identified positively until late summer or early fall.

Yellow iris- 15- 20 populations were located, 15 confirmed (can only positively i.d. when in bloom). Bloom period is short- Paul will set aside time next year.

Japanese knotweed- 14 populations confirmed- 2 of these are actively being controlled. Many of these are found on private property- planted as ornamentals.

Wild parsnip- 19 populations found. This is a terrible plant and we need to work to slow its spread.

Tansy- 72 populations found throughout the county. How is it spreading?

Other species:

Narrowleaf bittercress, cut-leaved teasel, tamarisk

Next Meeting Date:

Sept. 10, 2009- 10 a.m. at
Ramsey Conservation District
1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive
Arden Hills, MN 55112

Meeting Adjourned 12:15 p.m.

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