

**Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area Meeting  
Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 10 a**

Attendees:

Nancy Duncan – NPS Mississippi River, Ginny Gaynor – City of Maplewood, Dewayne Jones - MNDOT, John Moriarty - Ramsey County Parks, Simba Blood – Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District, Carole Gernes - RCCWMA

**I. Meeting opened at 10:03am**

**A. Attendance/ Introductions**

**B. Review of Agenda**

**II. Action Items**

**A. Partner Updates**

1. Members commented that not much has happened since the February Meeting.
2. Discussion moved on to updating/reviewing and answering questions for Carole: The group recommended contacting Monika to set up a knapweed beetle collecting day at Tamarack or AHATS as discussed at the February meeting. Members of the group would collect and then release in their own areas. This is a time sensitive activity and needs to be done in the fall.

Monika was also said to be working on developing a weed chart with photos of weed seedlings, young plants and buds. Dewayne said he would be interested in having something similar for DOT people. Simba has similar cards (or same as?) Weed of the Month cards. Small laminated ring-bound cards would be good education tools for staff and volunteers

Carole agreed to contact Monika.

Carole's questions and answers provided:

- a. Did anyone find out which *Phragmites sp.* is/are in our area? Simba usually identifies it by it's' behavior. Dewayne will send an email that Ken Graeve sent with pictures of the differences. Also differences in rings and coloration. Sue Gladowitz is working on genetic differences and advantages in habitat near the Platte River.
- b. Was an invasive species management plan drafted? Answer: there are state and national plans in place.
- c. From the minutes of August 08: AHATS was mapped by SCSU students. John stated that that mapping was incomplete. It included purple loosestrife, leafy spurge – all things that already have biocontrols.
- d. Are we still using the MDA Invasive Plant Locator for reporting/mapping? Answer – check with Monika.
- e. Did we ever get info from the DNR about invasives along the Vento Trail or Gateway? Only a few are on our maps. John responded that the Vento Trail is owned by the Ramsey County regional Rail Authority and the Gateway was owned by the DNR. Answer was probably not.

- f. Do we have or have access to any maps of areas being treated, biocontrol treated area maps, or areas where an invasive was eradicated? No. The only thing that was eradicated was teasel @ Co. Rd. C2 and Lexington in Roseville. Monika may have a management action column in her database.
  - g. Disposal issues: any changes? Could corrections or others construct a hotbox? John answered that it is being done just for ash.
  - h. From the January 09 minutes: Were Bachman's and Linder's contacted/ invited to meetings? We did have a nursery/landscaping Assoc. member attend one time.
  - i. Do we have contacts for other CWMA's? No. Ramsey county master gardeners would be a good group to contact.
  - j. Did Paul do an article for "The Scoop" (MN Nursery and Landscape Assoc.)? Carole mentioned that she needs to call Paul, since he didn't make it. Dewayne mentioned that he saw oriental bittersweet at the farmers' market at Hwy 36 and Dale. Suggested to attend (?) the farmer's markets. Carole suggested getting a page in the MN Grown publication. It was suggested to contact Monika about this as well. It was suggested to get links on the Dept. of Ag and DNR websites.
  - k. Is the electric "weed board" still available for events? Where is it? Answer: contact Mike or Ryan at the Conservation District.
  - l. Survey question from the 4/09 workshop: what is the best herbicide for parsnip? Answer: check with whoever did the parsnip presentation for the workshop. Carole will contact Tony Cortilet.
  - m. Was there ever a bug picking day (mentioned in February 09minutes). Which bugs/plants? Try to set up with Monika to collect knapweed beetles at Tamarack or AHATS. Find out what density is needed for release.
  - n. From February 2010 minutes: Laura Van riper is mentioned as the new DNR Invasive Species Coordinator. Did she fill the open terrestrial coordinator position? Answer – yes. Used to be Wendy Crowle, who left.
  - o. Have we used the "Hold harmless" agreement? We didn't. Roseville teasel area (maybe?).
  - p. Was narrow-leaf bittercress at Vento sanctuary treated or pulled? John stated that it was at Crosby Park – Megan Manhattan was in charge and is now on maternity leave. Ask Nate – he has had MCC crews work on things.
  - q. I have a "Narrowleaf Bittercress Riverside Park Management Options" draft that was transferred with Paul's files. By whom, for whom? Members thought that it was being passed around and was written by someone in Wisconsin. It was mentioned that bittercress has hairy seeds.
- B. Carole passed a copy of the MBWSR 2010/2011 Cooperative Weed Management Area Grant Program Request for Proposals (RFP). John mentioned that no grants went to metro counties and the DNR small grants are already spent. There may be some still in the water portion.

### **III. New Business/Open Discussion**

- A. Who to report other weed issues to: Code enforcement if in Maplewood; Chuck Fiedler for the county, he doesn't inspect but might check if called.
- B. Website: should it stay at the conservation district? Ask Ann if she would be willing to maintain or should it migrate to Ramsey County or to the watershed?
- C. "Most Wanted" Flier: the group discussed hydrilla and how difficult it would be for laypeople to look for and identify. It was decided to remove hydrilla from the poster and substitute narrowleaf bittercress. Go to MIPN for photos.
- D. Simba and Ginny discussed starting a city demo garden for *Aster sp.* Ginny said she would contact Bruce Christensen, Operations Manager for Ramsey County parks (takes care of the demo gardens outside barn by parking lot) about tansy education. Tansy should be mowed now, not treated. Treat with Transline early in the spring. Simba has Escort Flowable for tansy, but was not sure about the timing. Prairie restorations and Craig Andresen have treated tansy in the past.
- E. Simba said she will contact Nate in St. Paul about Tansy education. It was mentioned that we need to be selective about what we do – i.e., there aren't many blue flowers out there, so easy to tell mowers to go around chicory.
- F. Dewayne mentioned that he is working with Monika; beetles were released on leafy spurge and areas are staked and marked with yellow ribbons to mark no mow areas.
- G. The group suggested an early spring training on parsnip, tansy, and teasel. Maybe not teasel, since there has only been one site and it's under control.
- H. Education for now should include:
  - 1. Print up a bunch of "Not Wanted" posters/fliers and send to public works and park and rec. directors. Ask about the status – are you controlling these and would you like to participate – put tansy fliers and vase containing plant in work/break rooms for maintenance people to see. John thought it could be like a public works weed of the month. Ginny thought Maplewood would be a good trial. Carole found that Paul had a couple months like this started with yellow iris, tansy, parsnip and knotweed. They are on the website. Louise has a list of Public Works contacts within the watershed.
  - 2. Master Naturalist training – possibly at Maplewood. Advertise at Master Naturalist website. Check how other volunteer groups work – Community efforts in Michigan with garlic mustard (ask Oakley), Friends of the Miss. and Great River Greening. Most of these groups pay employees to collect volunteer groups. We need early detection and public education. Master Naturalists are a good group to start with.
  - 3. Carole mentioned the Slice of Shoreview and that there are fees involved. Nancy did not see any problem using grant money for fees. Contacts mentioned were Karen Ekman or Suzanne Fuller of the Shoreview Green Community CR club.
  - 4. Education for members of group:

- a. USDA/EOA- new permitting is tied in with the Clean Water Act, with new guidelines. Application deadlines are December and April
- b. Simba will forward an email with a link to an EPA webcast about storm water permitting. Dewayne will forward a Department of Ag email.

**IV.** Carole will check with Monika about bug picking for our next meeting, TBD.

**V.** Meeting adjourned at 11:55pm

Submitted by Carole Gernes, 7/22/10