

Ramsey County CWMA Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2008 - 2:00pm

Next Meeting: January 15, 2009

In attendance: Paul Erdmann- Ramsey Conservation District, Ginny Gaynor-City of Maplewood, Bill Bartodziej-RWMWD, Dave Hamernick-MN National Guard, Nathan Johnson-Saint Paul Parks and Rec., Dana Larsen-Ramsay-HB Fuller, Russ Peura-MNDOT, Stan Ross-MNDOT

Meeting opened at 2:05pm

MOUs

Paul accepted signed MOUs from HB Fuller/Willow Lake Nature Preserve and the City of Maplewood

In addition to these, the RCCWMA has signed MOUs from: Great River Greening, MN DOT, National Parks Service, Ramsey Conservation District, Ramsey County Parks, Ramsey County Public Works, and Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District. Still waiting on signed MOUs from: MN Dept. of Ag. and Rice Creek Watershed District. Dave Hamernick stated the MN National Guard should also be signing on. Nate Johnson stated that St. Paul Parks and Rec. is interested also.

Steering Committee

There was some discussion over the steering committee. Paul stated it was needed, as this committee ultimately takes over the CWMA, provides direction, creates a management plan, etc. This was one of the goals listed in the original grant application to BWSR. Meetings from here on out will now be steering committee meetings, but will be open to everyone.

Partners that have signed or will be signing the MOU as official partners of the RCCWMA have appointed someone to the steering committee. This will be the person that will attend meetings, and will represent and serve as the contact for their organization. Paul will create a spreadsheet with Steering Committee contact info and distribute at the next meeting or sooner, and will contact those that haven't appointed anyone yet.

Signed MOUs

Agency/Organization	Steering Committee Representative
Ramsey Conservation District	Paul Erdmann
Ramsey County Public Works	Chuck Fiedler
Ramsey County Parks and Rec	John Moriarty
HB Fuller/Willow Lake Nature Preserve	Dana Larsen-Ramsay
MN DOT	Ken Graeve
City of Maplewood	Ginny Gaynor
National Park Service	Nancy Duncan
Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District	Bill Bartodziej
Great River Greening	

Pending MOUs

Agency/Organization	Steering Committee Representative
MN Dept. of Ag.	Blane White
Rice Creek Watershed District	
St. Paul Parks and Rec	Nathan Johnson
MN Army National Guard	Dave Hamernick

In Kind Contributions

Partners should keep track of their own hours when contributing to the CWMA. Paul is able to gauge this by the sign in sheets and the minutes, but is not keeping track formally. As we go on and partners get more involved, a spreadsheet will have to be created to keep track of in-kind contributions. If you can help with this please let Paul know.

The RCCWMA currently has two focus areas- Education/Outreach and Mapping/Surveying. Partners discussed both.

RCCWMA Education/Outreach

The "Lookout" flier was discussed. Comments: plant descriptions are too technical for the general public, font is small, "Report" should be larger and highlighted, current pictures are good. Paul will revise.

Miscanthus was discussed. What should be the groups take on this popular ornamental? The group needs a better understanding of it. Ginny will invite Mary Meyer (U of M) to come and talk to the group about Miscanthus, as well as other ornamental grasses that are invasive or could be (variegated ribbon grass [reed canary grass]).

Paul brought up that he thinks this group could work on educating and working with plant nurseries and retailers. The group decided to invite the MN Nursery and Landscape Association to come to a meeting or join the CWMA. The MN Invasive Species Advisory Council will also be contacted, to see what is on their list (if any) of plants they are concerned about.

Paul will be writing an article/editorial for the Lillie Press introducing the CWMA to the public, perhaps by way of a buckthorn article. This could be built on or become a regular event that partners could contribute to as well. These could be prepared ahead of time for the spring.

Fact sheets could be sent to local press, cities, parks, recreation etc. that highlight each of the 5 target species shortly before they bloom. This could be in a wanted poster type format. The goal here is to spread the word. Ginny mentioned that some of her coworkers would find this most valuable. Paul mentioned that Dawn Pape from Rice Creek offered to possibly to some design work for the group.

Stan and Russ mentioned that seeing a picture of a plant is not as useful as seeing it in the field or as a live/dried sample. Perhaps different offices could hold samples, or have them in one central location. Nate mentioned starting a herbarium with dried and pressed samples.

Paul reported that there is now a CWMA section on the RCD website. It includes: the partner list, target species, lookout flier, and minutes. Paul will add the PowerPoint he made ("Invasives 101+ Target Species") and other content soon. Feel free to

contribute ideas and content. Go to <http://www.ramseyconservation.org/> and on the left click on "CWMA."

Future Workshops

Partners spoke about future workshops.

1)"Train the Trainer" workshop- Part I. March 2009 (Indoors) Part II. Summer 2009 Id in the Field

This will focus on identification (of target species) and will be geared towards natural resource workers, parks workers, volunteers and the general public. This could be a 2 part workshop, to be able to show people live samples in the field. Mapping could also be included so well trained volunteers could do some mapping. Great River Greening, St. Paul Parks, Maplewood Nature Center, RWMWD all have volunteer lists that could be invited via e-mail.

2) Technical Management workshop- This would be a more technical workshop where we invite experts or people that have worked on controlling the target species to present their findings. This would be geared more towards professionals, CWMA partners, but could still be open to the public. This too could incorporate mapping. The Dept. of Ag. and DNR would be good resources for this.

Paul can organize these workshops but will need to utilize partners as well.

RCCWMA Mapping/Surveying

Paul and Ann Heyer from the RCD have applied for the MN DNR Community Conservation Assistance Grant, in the amount of \$5000. Ramsey County Public Works has agreed to provide a \$5000 match. This would provide funding for Paul to actually go out in the field to map the target species, collect and compile data, and produce reports and a geodatabase. Dec. 5th we should know more.

Standardized forms and protocols will have to be used for a successful mapping program. The Dept. of Ag. and the DNR already have systems. Paul would like to invite Tony Cortillet from the Dept. of Ag. to the next meeting to get things going on this.

At this time, partners have agreed to continue to use the MDA Invasive Plant Locator website to report the 5 early detection target species that they are aware of on their sites/managed lands.

http://gis.mda.state.mn.us/website/invasives_locator/viewer.htm

Username: mdainv

Password: skibo

Target Species: WILD PARSNIP, TANSY, JAPANESE KNOTWEED, YELLOW IRIS, MISCANTHUS

Collecting data on populations of these species will provide essential baseline data on which to base any future management decisions. Should the program prove successful, hopefully we can work on control in the future.

RCCWMA General Discussion

Discussion was started concerning disposal of invasive species. Different agencies have had problems disposing of large amounts of garlic mustard, burdock, and buckthorn. Some waste disposal agencies will not accept large amounts of "vegetable matter." The concern here is to make sure invasive plants are properly disposed of to ensure that seeds are not coming back as mulch or in other ways. Ideas were discussed as to one agency hosting an incinerator specifically for this purpose. Nate and Adam Robbins from St. Paul Parks have started to research this. More discussion will follow at the next meeting.

Joe Walton from Great River Greening e-mailed Paul concerning greater celandine (*Chelidonium majus*). If you are familiar with this plant please contact Paul. Click on this link for more info:

<http://wisplants.uwsp.edu/scripts/detail.asp?SpCode=CHEMAJ>

Paul invited partners to join the Minnesota Invasive Species Discussion group. It is supported by the MN Invasive Species Advisory Council. This is a new Yahoo group that could be a good online forum for the CWMA.

To join go to Yahoo! Click on "Groups." Search for "MISDG" to join the group. You must have a Yahoo address to join. Click on the link below to get started.

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/MISDG/?v=1&t=search&ch=web&pub=groups&sec=group&slk=1>

The Midwest Invasive Plant Network has created a new aquatic invasive flyer. Click on the link below.

<http://mipn.org/Aquatics%20Early%20Detection%20Flyer.pdf>

Next Meeting

Partners discussed alternating the location of meetings between partners. We will try this again for the next meeting. Dana offered to have H.B. Fuller/Willow Lake Nature Preserve host the next meeting. Paul will send out a reminder e-mail as the day gets closer.

Please mark your calendars:

**Ramsey County CWMA Meeting
January 15, 2009 2:00pm**

**Location Change!
Office Address:
H.B. Fuller
1200 Willow Lake Blvd
Vadnais Heights, MN 55110**

If you have any questions or comments on the CWMA or these minutes, please contact:

Paul Erdmann
Conservation Technician
Ramsey Conservation District
1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive
Arden Hills, MN 55112
(651) 266-7277
fax (651) 266-7276
paul.erdmann@co.ramsey.mn.us