

Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group (MCISWG)

Attendees: Bob **Micheel** (LCD), Mic **Armstrong** (USDA NRCS), Megan **Mickelson**, Sean **Davison** (DNR) Foresters; Jim **Raiten** (Center for Environmental Management Colorado State University (Fort McCoy); Tyson **Langrehr** (Operations Specialist, Monroe Co. Highway Dept.); Sharon **Folcey**, (WI Towns Assoc.) Bill **Halfman** (Agricultural Agent UW Extension), Sparta; Howard **Garves** interested landowner.

Notes:

- **Introduction: (Micheel)** around the table intros
- Sharon **Folcey** stated that Mic did a great job at the Towns Meeting back in August.
- Mic reviewed highlights from the last meeting including the presentation by Chris Gaetzke of the Lower Chippewa Coalition and passed around notes from the two Outreach meetings in August (Towns Assoc. and Highway Dept.)
- **Armstrong** agreed to look at verbiage for a MCISWG CISMA.
- Highway Dept report from **Tyson**: mowing ended end of August, crews working on Jackson Pass road widening. They have a safety meeting after the end of the year, may be a good time to talk invasives?
- **Micheel** talked about the need for a better website. **Halfman** said we could post information on the Monroe County Extension -could add a page to their site in the meantime.
- **Micheel** looking into purchasing some plastic plant (invasive replicas)

http://www.weedcenter.org/store/weed-models/overview_weed_models.html

- **Micheel** suggested an invasive weed survey, perhaps at the same time the county does it's transect (Soil Erosion) survey. **Davison** has records of all county and state land (every 10 years) with invasive plants by %
- Jim **Raiten**: Crews spraying Garlic Mustard rosettes will stop when it freezes. A Plant survey found a population of Amur Maple just off a snowmobile trail There were 6 Acer ginnala plants around 3" caliper (5 year old??) Raiten will cut down, treat the stumps and map both in the McCoy system and to report to GLEDN (Great Lakes Early Detection Network) A discussion on this plant followed http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/documents/classification/LR_Acer_tataricum.pdf is still a popular ornamental originally introduced by SCS as a seed propagated cultivar (Flame Maple) Amur Maple can be found on most streets in Sparta. Anyone wanting to see how invasive it can be should park at Speeds Bike in Sparta walk across the street to the abandoned railway track/snowmobile trail go in a few yards then look at the seedling population between it and the Ag field to the north. Great to see something outcompete Box elder? Although wind disseminated, it is interesting that Raiten's discovery is just off the snowmobile trail (no bicycles involved) Perhaps seeds get caught up in the tracks of these machines??
- **Raiten** reported that Tim **Wilder** went to the Central WI (Golden Sands) meeting about forming a multi county CISMA that would potentially include Monroe Co. A bigger group could get more done. Mix of Federal Partners and landowners. 2+2=8 Tim said that the Stewardship Network was helping set up the CISMA <http://www.stewardshipnetwork.org/about-us>

- Sharon **Folcey** wondered if some 'patrolmen' could come to the meetings. By all means. The next Towns meeting would be Nov 16th in Cashton Community Center. She would bring it up. As to a field training workshop the best time would be end of June. There is an Economic Development Conference (17 counties) at the 3 Bear Lodge in Warrens. Might be a good idea to set up a display.
- Howard **Garves** said his son Jeff may be the one coming to meetings. Howard talked about multiflora rose. A brief discussion followed about the history and best management practices of MFR, as well as a discussion about the pros and cons of Tordon including its high mobility in soil. Howard talked about the difficulties of getting to the plants on steep slopes. Mic mentioned an article in the latest (10/25/17) TechLine News on Herbicide Ballistic Technology. Usually great information <http://techlinenews.com/e-news/> (usually excellent articles but- 'buyer beware' -it is put out by Dow Chemical).
- **Mickelson** had been looking at grants, discovered they were very specific. Need to decide what we want. The grant list is on the MIPN website <https://www.mipn.org/Grants/>

Pre-Meeting Report 11/25/17 – Landowners: Frank **Schenecker** from Tomah and Mr & Mrs **Strain** from Cataract attended the meeting. Also present were Bob **Micheel** Monroe Co. LCD, Mic **Armstrong** (NRCS), Sean **Davison** (DNR) and Brad **Gilbertson** (City of Sparta).

Jim **Raiten** introduced himself and the work his Colorado State land management team do at Fort McCoy. The specific project aimed to lessen the density of buckthorn to an acceptable level for the Army to utilize the Compass training course. Jim demonstrated ID and the basal treatment used on Glossy Buckthorn. Showing the plants treated last year then some done this fall. Basal Applications using Garlon 4 @ 15 %+ Polaris @ 2% in Bark Oil can be applied until Temperatures drop to below 16 Deg. F

This project covered 115 Acres and so far they have spent 316 MH since 2017. 8 people can do about 10 Aces per day. They have used 150 Gals of the mix so far and are almost done.

Jim then showed Common Buckthorn next to a Glossy Buckthorn and Mic and Sean joined in pointing out some features to differentiate the two as well as similar native plants in the same area such as Winterberry (Deciduous Holly), and Black Cherry.

Both landowners made follow up visits to the office and got literature on Buckthorn and Black locust.

Follow up from Japanese Knotweed Pre-meeting- Brad **Gilbertson** reported by phone that they had purchased some Milestone and sprayed the area below Perch lake dam before any frosts. Plants were obviously wilting. Will need to do follow up treatment(s) next year.

Brad wondered what else they could do with Milestone. The label lists several invasive plants probably spreading within the city limits. They include Knotweed, (there are more places), spotted and possibly other knapweeds, Black Locust and Teasel.

- **Before Next meeting** we should firm up Newspaper articles in Sparta, Tomah and entries in “What’s Happening” about meeting and Pre-meeting in Tomah. Also post in Monroe co. Facebook, Extension Web page? Finish draft MOU. Contact by phone our possible attendees that may not see the email eg. City of Tomah, Fish and Wildlife, Cranberry contact? Talk about carpooling from Sparta,
- **Future meetings** we should talk about:
 - CISMA Documents and a Public Meeting,
 - Grant opportunities
 - Education
 - Training,
 - Website(s),
 - Farmers Market schedule 2018,
 - Econ. Development Conference
 - Table top Display Use County Conservation one add Invasive pic’s and info, plastic flowers, box of Leaflets that Connie keeps alphabetized and mini cards.
 - Discuss other educational efforts e.g. When Bill took a bag of Rose Chafers to Theisens
 - Poster with website info
 - Invasive species forms
- **Action Items:**

Armstrong: Report on Draft of MOU, MCISWG Management Plan, Hold Harmless Agreement
CISMA/AIS Meeting March 6&7, IPAW Field Days 2018

Mickelson- Newspaper Article

Possible Project Collaborations e.g. Toro, US Silica other sandmines, Xcel energy

Identify the target groups/audience, e.g. Schools, public land users, hunting groups,

Facilitator/Leader/Chair. Dave **Texley** proposed.
- **Next meeting of Core group-Invited only:** Thursday Dec. 14 (2-4pm), Tomah DNR Ranger Station, 1706 Academy Avenue, Tomah WI 54660.
- **Pre meeting:** Public Invited Sean and Megan, Tomah School Forest, WOLF Building Glendale/Veterans Park East 12.30 Dec 14th.

Scribe Notes: 10/25/17 (M. Armstrong)



Field trip: Buckthorn management in the compass course.