

Core Notes 12/14/17

Present

Ben Johnston (Concerned citizen and Volunteer extraordinaire); **Brandon Bleuer** (Stewardship Forester SW Badger RC&D); **Megan Flynn** Tomah Monitor Herald; **Tim Wilder** (Fort McCoy Endangered Species and Wildlife Dept.); **Sean Davison and Megan Mickelson** (DNR Foresters); **Mark Pfost** (Private Lands Biologist, Necedah National Wildlife Refuge and Partners for Fish and Wildlife); **Michelle Komiskey** (District Conservationist, USDA NRCS); **Bob Micheel**, Director, Monroe County Conservation Department; **Tim Steele** (landowner Greenfield TSP); **Chris Barlow** (landowner Greenfield TSP); **Dan Rasmussen** (Landowner Leon and Angelo TSP); **Matt Modjeski** (Conservation Warden, DNR); **Mic Armstrong** (Soil Conservation Technician, USDA NRCS and Scribe).

Micheel proposed an addition to the agenda- a discussion on the chair of the group.

Micheel also proposed another addition to the Agenda that **Brandon Bleuer** talk about his program with SW Badger RC&D.

Armstrong summarized the scribe notes from the Oct 25th meeting. Most people are reading it in the emails and seem to like the links to pertinent web sites that are added.

Armstrong reported that he has the MOU and Hold Harmless agreement ready enough to send out to a couple of other CISMA's (Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership and SE WI invasive species consortium). The Management plan is now over 20 pages long, still a work in progress and was also sent out for an initial review. **Wilder** mentioned that when he went to the Golden Sands CISMA set up meeting there was an organization there that helps do the paper work, Tim wasn't sure what they get out of it but he would look up the contact. **Armstrong** thought (based on **Jim Raiten's** report at the last meeting that it was the Stewardship Network. Tim repeated the idea that a CISMA can get a lot done by strength in numbers (2+2=8) but could see how a smaller (Monroe Co.) group might be more effective able to pick what we want to work on.

Armstrong explained **CISMA- Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area**, a modern version of the Cooperative Weed Management Area. The idea is to form a group within a geographical area

Micheel proposed asking if **Megan Mickelson** would agree to chair the MCISWG meetings. Megan agreed with unanimous support. **Armstrong** and **Wilder** explained that Dave **Texley** who at one time offered to chair would not be able too anyway but that he and his expertise would always be welcome at the meetings.

Brandon Bleuer Stewardship Forester from SW Badger RC&D was recently awarded a WMA grant for inventory and management of invasive species, they will be doing some mapping in the Kickapoo reserve as well as work days on new species to the area. It would be possible for landowners in Monroe County to benefit from the grant. **Micheel** said we would get some names for Brandon to contact.

Action Updates-Micheel.

Monroe Co. Highway Dept. Not present, no report

Monroe Co. Land Conservation (Land Conservation) :

- **Micheel** commented on the plastic knapweed and leafy spurge that **Armstrong** had brought to the meeting. **Wilder** wasn't sure if they had other species such as Garlic Mustard at the Fort, but he would check and see so that we could take a look. We will wait before making an investment in more of the plastic weed models or bouquets available at: http://www.weedcenter.org/store/weed-models/overview_weed_models.html
- **Micheel** will see if we can resurrect an invasive species display we could use at events. Will need to update. Tim Steele mentioned he had seen an Invasive species display at a Flea market up north.
- We can now use the Monroe Co extension website to post MCISWG information <https://monroe.uwex.edu/agriculture/monroe-county-invasive-species-workgroup/> there are three links on there now, all seem to be working.
- **Micheel** proposed mapping invasive at same time as land use transect survey.

Ben **Johnston** has been out and about mapping and treating invasive Japanese Knotweed infestations in the Wilton area (Cty HWY Z). He received a DOT permit so by that time it was too late for teasel but he will zap it next year. Ben will share with anyone the permit process and how easy it is.

Fort McCoy. **Wilder** apologized for **Raiten** who had a scheduling conflict. Tim thanked **Armstrong** for bringing **Amur Maple (*Acer ginnala*)** to their attention at the pre-meeting on 6/27/17. They found that several had been planted around the State Patrol Academy at Fort McCoy, they are in the process of removing and replacing with non-invasive trees.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/AmurMaple.html>

Wilder welcomed seeing neighbor Chris **Barlow**- over the years they have coordinated efforts to manage **Garlic mustard** and more recently **Autumn Olive**. Tim stated they recently discovered **European Spindle Tree** in that area http://wisflora.botany.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/detail.cgi?SpCode=EUOEUR&Genus=Euonymus&Family=Celastraceae&Species=europaea&Common=European%20spindle-tree&photo=.%2Fphotos%2FEUOEUR_RRK2.jpg&thumbmaps=.%2Fthumbmap%2FEUOEUR.gif&hand=

McCoy crews have been treating Garlic Mustard rosettes, the contract was renewed with CSU (Colorado State-Center for Environmental Management). Talked a little about prioritizing efforts for example mapping invasives in areas where Frosted Elfin Butterfly was present, the Compass course we visited at the last pre-meeting was unusual in that the army asked for buckthorn to be managed, most of the other areas it would be hard to justify spending money on buckthorn control, there is just too much. They are replacing their Fecon Forestry mower, it was always breaking down. They found Diffuse Knapweed in the Badger Dropzone, as well as a couple of Teasel- it is a lot easier to treat a handful of plants than after they get a foothold. Here is a link to the knapweed:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/DiffuseKnapweed.html>

and teasel: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/fact/commonteasel.html>

Wilder also mentioned a research project being coordinated on Fort using EDNA testing on turtles and also Eurasian Milfoil. They will, perhaps, be able to test the water in different lakes (and streams for turtles) to detect the presence of the DNA from each species. This would help management of milfoil if it is detected in a “clean” lake they will be able to send divers in to weed out early occurrences.

Here is a link to Eurasian Milfoil: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/fact/eurasianwatermilfoil.html>

Armstrong asked if we could possibly arrange a **Bristly Locust (*Robinia hispida*)** Field meeting on McCoy (East Silver). Should be OK- coordinate with Jim **Raiten**. No one in the room had heard of the plant, **Armstrong** explained it was another USDA SCS introduction, a shrub legume related to **Black Locust** that did well in mining reclamation and was promoted for conservation. Apparently it is not easy to control because the McCoy site has had more than one treatment. It can also be found in the Mississippi River Refuge and would be a good plant to learn to recognize.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/BristlyLocust.html>

Towns-No report

Municipalities-No Report

Pfost expressed opinion that **Pampas Grass** would be a species of concern to the Necedah refuge. **Armstrong** thought it was not regulated and would be a good one to suggest adding to the next round of NR-40 reviews.

Scribe’s note-hard to find much about Pampas grass in Wisconsin. It is however in a 2016 work plan for the Coulee experimental Forest (La Crosse Co.)

‘Control Pampas Grass infestation along County II (1/2 mile south of Antony Road and County Hwy. II intersection) and adjacent to Berg Prairie SNA’

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stateforests/coulee/documents/AnnualWorkPlan2016.pdf>

Landowners:

Howard Garves called prior to the meeting- had a conflict, sorry would not be at the meeting this time

Tim Steele has Elderberry and buckthorn problems, also grape vine.

Dan Rasmussen has been fighting Barberry amongst other things. Used glyphosate foliar treatments then Garlon foliar. **Armstrong** wondered if he would be available for a (fall) pre-meeting on Barberry, he would but later said it was quite a hike and mostly controlled.

*

Chris Barlow Autumn Olive problems. Has been treating, noted you get dense populations under Cherry trees (poop trees), Chris has been removing these trees as well to try to keep Autumn olive from taking over his prairie planting.

Education:

- A meeting is planned to take place at Beaver Creek Reserve near Eau Claire March 7th following the Aquatic Invasive Species Meeting on the 6th. The meeting on the 7th is a chance for CISMAs from around the state to get together face to face and discuss

topics of mutual interest. IPAW (Invasive plant Association of WI) can help fund CISMAs to get there (one carload per CISMA). Lunch is also paid by IPAW. Lodging will be available at a low cost in cabins. Will forward more details when available, but please save the date.

- There will also be an opportunity for our area to host an IPAW Field day this summer. One possible site could be the Necedah Wildlife Area. **Pfost** said there was inside accommodation for 60-70 people and it would make a good site for outdoor workshop activities. **Armstrong/Mickelson** will coordinate with **Mark Renz and Anne Pearce**
- **GIS Mapping Training**
Armstrong/Mickelson will coordinate with **Anne Pearce, Ohnstad and Folcey** to try to get mapping training to Sparta before the mowing season, at the Sparta Highway shop in March. Date and agenda soon.

Next Meeting: February 1st Tomah DNR Ranger Station (1706 Academy Ave) 2-4 pm.

*

Field-meeting 12.30 pm, Feb 1st. **Japanese Barberry** site on Holiday Road south of Tomah.
Directions:

From Tomah take 131 South, turn left (East) onto Cty. A, after a couple of bends turn left on Holiday Rd. We will meet by the first pasture to the east (Amish owned), there might also be some Barberry in the road ditch on the left by the restored Yoder Quarry. We are hoping to meet with the landowner there for about 20 minutes then drive to the bottom of the hill (carefully look at the valley on the right as you down the hill). We will park by 18481 Holiday where we will meet the landowner of that property and walk into the woods to look at and discuss Japanese Barberry. At 1.40 we will depart for the inside meeting (2pm at the DNR Ranger Station).