

Prior to the Barberrry pre meeting Megan **Mickelson** and Mic **Armstrong** attempted to have a phone conversation with Lisa Brush to find out what if anything the Stewardship Network can offer and if there would be a cost. Even though Lisa had indicated by email this would be a good time for the phone call she did not pick up during the hour or so we attempted to connect. Meanwhile Megan and I brainstormed the MCISWG action plan for 2018. We decided to contact Lisa via email.

Large Conference room Tomah Ranger Station

Megan Mickelson- DNR Forester and Chair of MCISWG, **Sean Davison**- DNR Forester, **Chad Zeigler**- Monroe Co. Forester, **Matt Bauer**-Forestry Specialist, **Matt Modjeski** -Conservation Warden, DNR, **Bob Micheel**, Director, Monroe County Conservation, **Tim Wilder** (Fort McCoy Endangered Species and Wildlife Dept. **Jim Raiten** (CSU-Fort McCoy), **Dave Ohnstad** Monroe County Highway Dept. **Kirk Arity** Director Public Works and Weed Commissioner, City of Tomah, **Michelle Komiskey** -District Conservationist, USDA NRCS, **Randy Poelma**- Environmental Science Program Manager, Ho-Chunk Nation, Black River Falls, **Brandon Bleuer** (Stewardship Forester SW Badger RC&D); **Andy LaChance**- Vernon Co. Forester, **Mic Armstrong** Soil Conservation Technician, USDA NRCS and Scribe

Landowners: **Skip Frazee** (Greenfield TSP), **Chris Barlow** (Greenfield TSP), **Richard Meyer** (Tomah TSP), **Howard Garves** (Sparta N TSP) and **Dan Rasmussen** (Leon and Angelo TSPs).

Megan **Mickelson** reviewed the updated agenda.

Mic **Armstrong** highlighted items from the last meeting (December 14th) pointing out they are now available on line at

<https://monroe.uwex.edu/agriculture/monroe-county-invasive-species-workgroup/>

Armstrong passed around the current versions of the (Draft) **MOU** and **Strategic plan**.

Reported that the CISMA face to face meeting will be held March 7th near Eau Claire. IPAW will fund the food and up to a car load travel expenses per CISMA- see **Education Information** notes.

Megan **Mickelson** reviewed the pre meeting where we met in frigid conditions by **Richard Meyers'** Barberrry patch before an excellent discussion in the warmer confines of the small conference room at the Tomah Ranger Station- see separate report.

Dave **Ohnstad** of the (Monroe Co. Highway Dept.) welcomed the planned mapping training as a follow up to the Invasive plant ID session we put on last year. Dave has been meeting with DOT on mowing widths re invasive species, full width mowing cycles to catch species before they seed out. Dave is encouraging Highway Dept. employees to become certified (Right of Way) Applicators. They will purchase some herbicide application equipment and will then be able to start managing species such as Parsnip. The mapping training will be a part of a broader management plan.

Bob **Micheel** (Monroe Co. Land Conservation) talked about getting a display board ready for events. Bob said they may have some funds available for small projects in 2018. Bob asked if there would ever be a possibility of the Fort McCoy invasive crews working off base to help partner management on neighboring properties or highway areas. **Wilder** would look into it.

Kickapoo Valley: Ben **Johnston** sent apologies. In a phone call said he would be going to the CISMA meeting only on the 7th. Would not be staying at the cabin or doing the planetarium on the 6th nor would he be able to attend the Phragmites Summit on the 5th which we agreed sounded interesting. Ben will nonetheless be showing and telling Buckthorn Baggies, which KVR recently purchased, at the CISMA meeting. Another first for Ben.

Michele **Komiskey**, (NRCS) is looking into getting a pull up display we would be able to use for events, illustrated with invasive species. Michele needs input on what we would like on there.

Towns Association. Sharon **Folcey** apologized via email. Has a WTA Unit meeting Feb 15th In the Tomah American Legion. Dave **Ohnstad** is going to be there and will invite the patrolmen to the March mapping training

Tim **Wilder** attended the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference and was disappointed at the lack of coverage concerning invasives, however, while at the Interpretive Center in Stevens Point where he was impressed with their audio visual display and thought the interactive screens could be used as a standalone display so that folks could learn about invasive species or MCISWG activities. (info from a follow up email archived at Monroe Co. LCD).

Wilder interacted with two neighboring landowners (**Frazee** and **Barlow**) regarding management efforts on invasive species along the boundary.

Wilder will attend the next meeting of the Golden Sands potential CISMA, worried that signing to partner in one CISMA would mean they couldn't be a partner in the other. **Armstrong** thought that wouldn't be a problem, fairly sure entities could be signatories in multiple CISMAs.

Jim **Raiten** (CSU, Fort McCoy) has 3 guys on the crew right now, they are doing buckthorn basal bark treatments on high priority, low density sites. As an example they treated approximately 300 acres with 3 gallons of product. They recently uploaded the treatment database to the GIS department where it will magically become the 2017 ARC GIS layer. These maps are a big help in planning. A discussion about basal treatment temperatures developed. **Raiten** said they quit at about 16 ° F. because the nozzles start gumming up. Someone mentioned mixing with antifreeze, Chad **Zeigler** stated diesel fuel doesn't gel up.

There was a question about treating Barberry. McCoy cuts them in the fall, early winter with chain saws or brush cutters then treat every stump with Garlon in bark oil. Someone asked if you need to treat every stem, no one knew but you have to treat every stem when doing honeysuckle to get a kill.

The Fish and Wildlife Conference they attended had very little on terrestrial invasives, a couple on aquatics and worse yet the bee presenter was promoting Crown Vetch (*Corinilla varia*) a hard to control restricted species <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/CrownVetch.html>

Wilder has been heading up bumble bee surveys on McCoy. Also waiting to hear from the army on priority buckthorn sites they will need to treat to facilitate training. **Wilder** thought it was great to see this many people at the MCISWG meeting.

Kirk **Arity** (City of Tomah). As the Weed Commissioner he would get requests from citizens to take care of noxious weeds, hasn't had much in the way of complaints. Mickelson asked about the city forest

program -they will be starting a small nursery, still discussing what species they will be growing. They do not take ash trees down until they become a hazard after Emerald Ash Bore attacks.

Richard **Meyer**, still picking away at the Barberry, with Glyphosate at 2%. Working his way in from the boundary fences. Recently purchased an ATV mounted sprayer.

Chris **Barlow** Enjoying the conversation, has Autumn Olive problems in the prairie. Thanked the guys from Fort McCoy for treating Autumn Olive along the boundary. Chris was using the herbicide Progeny, CSU were using Garlon. It will be interesting to see if there are different results.

Dan **Rasmussen** has been fighting barberry using 8% Glyphosate. Dan has hard water, the difference when he started hauling water from the house (after going through the water softener) was like night and day. **Raiten** concurred, saying that Glyphosate was tricky-the molecules bond to the minerals in the hard water. They use Choice Weathermaster adding 1 oz. per 3 gallon to the water prior to adding the Glypho concentrate. He noted that some Surfactants have it premixed in.

Skip **Frazer** described the buckthorn problems at the Spring Bank property. His neighbors include Fort McCoy and the Unimin sand mine.

Howard **Garves** has Buckthorn, Multiflora Rose and Autumn Olive problems has bought a new mower and is excited to get some mowing and herbicide treatments going. Congratulated the group on its growth. Commented that he hoped the Towns patrolmen were invited to our mapping training and they should receive training on timing mowing to not spread invasive seed. **Armstrong** promised that it would be part of the agenda at the mapping training.

Matt Bauer gave a brief presentation on Tax Law and MFL. Matt recommends that landowners always do invasive work first in order to assure productive timber. Monroe County Management and Stewardship plans may be eligible for cost share. Contact Matt or **Cody Caulum** depending on your area 608-372-2811 for more info.

Andy LaChance Talked about an exciting invasive species inventory in Vernon Co. They are in the planning stages of mapping the 2000 acre County Forest. Andy went into considerable detail on methods of data collection for this complex project. Andy is working with **Brandon Bleuer** of SW Badger who is also mapping La Crosse County highways for invasive species.

Randy Poelma is responsible for environmental programs on Ho-Chunk Nation land including Monroe Co. They have been treating Reed canary grass in a wetland mitigation area. Randy manages properties some very large in Jackson, Sauk and Clarke Co.'s totaling almost 3000 acres. They have inventoried 70% of their lands using standard methods looking for species listed on NR-40. They have a matrix prioritizing treatments- Autumn Olive, Buckthorn, Garlic Mustard, Spotted Knapweed, for example, utilizing prescribed fire, herbicides and a Fecon mower (contracted). Trying to protect natural areas. They have received GLRI grants in Shawano Co. but it is not so easy in other parts of the state. Ownership in Monroe co. complicates the permissions aspect of treatment, they may inventory (and treat) the Rolling Thunder parcel and the land on the La Crosse Co. line. They are currently conducting large prescribed burns on the Badger Ammo property in Sauk Co. -doing prairie restoration and brush management assisted with EQIP grants.

Randy asked me to send the (very draft) MCISWG Strategic Plan and MOU so that he could add comments. He did that with some excellent ones. Randy also added some text on the Ho-Chunk Nation in Monroe Co. I will copy it here for anyone who will not see the Strategic plan while we work on it.

The Ho-Chunk Nation is unique from most other Native American tribes in that it does not have one large contiguous reservation. Nation lands include approximately 15,000 acres spread over 23 counties of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois. Tribal land ownership in Monroe Co. includes almost 1,500 acres with roughly 432 acres held in fee-simple by the Nation and the remaining 1,066 acres held in Trust by the United States for the benefit of the Nation or the People (individual trust allotments). Land-use varies widely on tribal lands in Monroe Co. including areas developed for residential, institutional and commercial use. In addition, a substantial amount of the land is maintained for agriculture, conservation (wetland, forestry, prairie) and cultural use.

Information and Education Update

IPAW CISMA meeting at Beaver Creek by Eau Claire March 7. following the Aquatic Invasive species meeting (March 6th) at Beaver Creek Reserve S1 County Rd K, Fall Creek, WI 54742. They recently added a Western WI Phragmites Summit on the afternoon of the 5th. For anyone wanting to stay overnight on either the 5th or 6th inexpensive cabins are available, and I believe the planetarium will be available for Star and Tesla gazing (the 6th). You will also be fed courtesy of the Invasive Species Association of WI (IPAW). Anyone interested coordinate with Mic. We will need to register by Feb 14th. This is a great opportunity to learn what works in cooperative invasive species management and education.

Mapping March 28th Monroe Co. Highway Department Shop, 715 Depot Street, Sparta WI. This will be an early morning event, Ann Pearce will lead a training in the use of smart phones to report (Gledn app) and computers to review (EddMapS). We will also talk about mowing protocols. The Towns patrolmen are invited to join the Highway crews and any of our Core group interested. Should be a good time! Agenda will be sent out soon.

Summer Field day. IPAW are putting together several field days this year but the SW did not make the cut, Plan on something big in 2019. However, In the meantime, we have decided to do our own thing. We have enough talent, knowledge and enthusiasm to put together a great one day program on invasive plant ID and management methods. Megan **Mickelson** will contact **Rick Schulte of Crop Protection Services** who is well versed in current herbicide recommendations to be an instructor. Our site of preference will be the picnic shelter at the end of the Fort McCoy campground near Trout Falls. Tim **Wilder** will check on permission/ availability.

Action plan for next meeting

More landowner representation from other parts of the County: Bob **Micheel**

Banner/ Display Michelle **Komiskey**

Mapping report on mapping training **Armstrong**, Buckthorn treatment layer map **Wilder**, GIS planning map **Poelma**.

Next meeting 2-4 pm, March 29th County Board meeting Room 112 S Court St, Sparta, WI 54656

MCISWG Core meeting Feb 1st 2018

Next Field /Pre-meeting March 29th 12.30 p.m. **Autumn Olive** and other species.

Location: Red Pine Valley loop, Fort McCoy, between Tomah and Sparta Map will be added to Agenda for next meeting.