

MCISWG Core Meeting 3/29/18
Justice Center, 112 South Court St, Sparta

Sean Davison-DNR Forester, Tomah, **Bob Micheel**- Director, Monroe County Conservation, **Tim Wilder**-Fort McCoy Endangered Species and Wildlife Dept., Tyson **Langrehr**- Operations Specialist Monroe County Highway Dept., **Michelle Komiskey** -District Conservationist, USDA NRCS, **Randy Poelma**-Environmental Science Program Manager, Ho-Chunk Nation, Black River Falls, **Mic Armstrong** Soil Conservation Technician, USDA NRCS and Scribe

Landowners: **Skip Frazee**-Greenfield, **Chris Barlow**-Greenfield, Howard **Garves**-Sparta N., **Scott Giraud**-Adrian, **Bernie Arena**-Little Falls.

Megan Mickelson could not make the meeting due to fire scheduling so **Bob Micheel** chaired the meeting. No agenda items added.

- **New faces**

Scott Giraud is a landowner from Adrian Tshp and has been managing various invasive plants with **Joey Esterline** in their prairie plantings and woodlands.

Bernie Arena joined the group on a suggestion from **Sharon Folcey**. Bernie manages her land in prairie and is interested in helping with a group like ours. She has grant writing experience too.

- **Highlights of last Meeting**

Armstrong reviewed the minutes of the last meeting, that we met at the pre-meeting Barberry site briefly then filled the room and then some at the Tomah Ranger Station. Minutes are available on line at the website <https://monroe.uwex.edu/agriculture/monroe-county-invasive-species-workgroup/>

- **CISMA Development**

Armstrong talked about The CISMA development paperwork and passed around the current version of the MOU, Strategic plan, Annual Operating Plan (AOP) and Annual Work Plan (AWP), explaining that the AOP differed from the AWP as the operating plan would be more for tracking financials once there were some.

Tim Wilder has been going to the meetings of the Central Sands group; they too are in the process of forming a CISMA. **Tim** said that Fort McCoy would continue to attend both meetings for now. There was concern that if we were to go for a grant, such as the NFWF Pulling Together Initiative <http://www.nfwf.org/pti/Pages/home.aspx#.VaVUzvIVhBc> they wouldn't grant it if Monroe Co. was on both. **Micheel** stated that they would ask first if Monroe Co. would be a signatory so it would not be an issue. Also we are more in line with the SW Badger RC&D in many ways, but we planned on continuing to form a one County CISMA. **Armstrong** met **Amy Thorseston** of Central Sands at the CISMA meeting at Beaver Creek who understood that Monroe Co. would be forming its own CISMA and agreed that we should keep lines of communication open.

Armstrong said it would be good to form a committee look at the CISMA paperwork. **Michelle Komiskey** agreed to head it up, **Armstrong, Wilder, Poelma** would communicate via email and face to face with a completion deadline of **April 13**.

- **Election of Vice Chair**

Micheel said it would be great to have a landowner take up the position, duties would be to run the meeting if the chair was ever absent. **Howard Garves** volunteered and was welcomed to the position.

- **Information Education Update**

Monroe Co. Highway Dept. / Towns Association Mapping meeting. **Armstrong** showed a short, sweet power point summarizing the meeting of March 28. **Armstrong** had the slide show "Invasive or Not" running by 7.30 a.m. **Chris Barlow** handed out Wildcards on each invasive species correctly identified to the "winners". **Anne Pearce** of the Wisconsin First Detector network then showed slides and talked about Invasive species management in the Highway Right of way and then mapping. Anne "went live" and was able to demo the GLEDN app to the group of around 60 people. Observations are mapped using the built in mapping feature of a cell phone, pictures are added, usually a couple -one close up and another showing the whole plant or patch of them, some other drop downs are optional, then save the observation and upload when you have Wi-Fi. **Armstrong** demonstrated how long it took to run through one observation from scratch in less than 2 minutes. **Armstrong** worried that even with the PA it was hard to hear in the shop. **Langrehr** said he was in the middle of the room and it was OK. One great tip Anne shared was to use the "unknown species" option so that when you come upon something obviously invading an area but don't know what it is -upload the report and the team at UW will figure it out or send someone to make a positive ID.

*Note if you are the first to find a prohibited species in the wild send your pics to the DNR Invasive species coordinator and you may win a \$25.00 Bounty (collect a voucher for the herbarium and you could earn double). Kelly.Kearns@wisconsin.gov

- **IPAW/CISMA meeting report.**

Armstrong said there will be a full report soon, just waiting for a couple of details from other attendees. Some highlights: We learned about how to run meetings from an extension expert. A representative from the Governor's council advised us to think big- e.g. Duck Dynasty may help fund programs to reduce loss of duck habitat by invasive species encroachment. There were 9 CISMAs that did a brief update on their activities. Christa from DOT/IPAW reminded us that anyone doing roadside surveys should get a permit from their DOT Regional Office. IPAW will pay up to \$200.00 for CISMAs attending trade shows etc.-must use IPAW logo and have IPWA literature. Using flip charts we brainstormed how IPAW can help CISMAs and vice versa. Beaver Creek Reserve- nice place with cabins, a planetarium, ski trails and everything. We could have spent 3 days at meetings there learning about Phragmites and Aquatic Invasive species but Ben and I opted to car pool for the one day meeting, Next year could be somewhere else. Kelly Kearns presented a power point with an eye opening 42 new species of Invasive Plants to be watching for. It was great to learn from other CISMAs how they tackle different aspects of the invasive species problem their areas.

- **Kickapoo Reserve: Landowner Workshop Invasive plants on your land**

Chris Barlow reported that the meeting was well attended 30-35, mostly landowners. They had a quiz on Invasive species ID, a discussion about mechanical and chemical control of invasive plants; a report on activities of SW Badger RC&D; Anne Pearce gave a presentation on the GLEDN app and mapping

invasive species. Sponsored by SW Badger RC&D, University of WI, UW Extension and the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. IPAW (The Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin) provided lunch and a copy of the much sought after, 2 ring, Field guide to Terrestrial Invasive plants in WI to all attendees.

- **Display**

Michelle Komiskey reported that there was a display at the state office we could customize and house in the Sparta USDA office for invasive species outreach events. We can customize the laminated photos. A deadline to design the display was set so that it is ready for the **June 1st** Dairy breakfast. A subcommittee was formed- **Wilder, Komiskey, Micheel and Armstrong.**

- **Summer Field Day**

We brainstormed some ideas on the proposed Field Day, **Tim Wilder** had checked and we are good to go on a shelter at the Pine View campground. The Garlic Mustard, Honeysuckle and Buckthorn populations provide an opportunity to review data and methods from years of management activities. There is a big enough area to have displays of equipment-**Wilder** thought that the new CSU forestry shredder would be available to display, some spraying equipment on UTVs, back packs and hand held sprayers. Propane torches? Wicks? Buckthorn baggies? Buckthorn blaster? Goats? Weed wrench??

There will likely be stations where a trainer will lead a group in different topics. Possible stations: Basal bark herbicide application, Invasive plant ID walk, Mapping Invasive species, Cut stump application, Foliar Application Hand pull/ non chemical management, Forestry practices, Garlic Mustard (including volunteer/ challenge academy story?), Wild Parsnip, Herbicide Labels/calibration. Treatment by species Biocontrol on McCoy? Uses of wood from invasives e.g. buckthorn walking sticks? The “herbicide” applications will probably be done with just dye and carrier to be safe. **Guest speakers. Randy Poelma** talked about having the DNR **Field guide to invasive plants in WI** book available.

https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/documents/TR_Pub_Catalog_rv2014.pdf

Promotion: Newspapers, Monroe County Contractor newsletter, Garden Clubs, Cover crop meeting, word of mouth, Fliers, Farmers market, Fort McCoy, Facebook, WI First Detector Network?

Wilder will check into whether there will be a problem if we invite contractors*. Suggested the preferred site is the North Pavilion as it has more parking. Also they are working on the bridge nearby which would give us the option of a nice circular (invasive species ID) walk with educational signage along the La Crosse River.

If the program goes from 9-3 we will need to figure out a lunch plan. Agreed to form a **Task force-** **Megan Mickelson** to head. **Mickelson, Wilder, Micheel, Johnston. Armstrong** to scribe.

Rick Schulte of Crop Production Services and **Anne Pearce** of the WI First Detector Network are both coming.

Agreed we need to have registration (RSVP) to get a handle on attendance. Lunch potentially provided we are seeking donors.

*The word on the vendors being present at the Field Day is - they can be present and show what they have to offer as far as invasive species treatment/management - but they actually cannot sell anything that day (no commercial solicitation and/or sales involved).

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The date of the Field Day will be **Thursday June 14th**

- **Round the Table**

Farmers market **Joey Esterline** is planning to put together a display in June at the Sparta Farmers Market- she will need volunteers to help.

Howard Garves said he had a landowner ask about the group because he has 5 acres of black locust, thought they were coming to our meeting.

Send a note out at tax time

Ag classes

MCISWG **Slogan? Have a contest**

Monroe Co. Economic development conference-organizer **Steve Peterson** said we would have a spot next year.

Next Meeting: **May 17 at Monroe Co. Justice Center**

Pre meeting Field trip: Garlic Mustard Pine View campground, Suukjak Sep Lake, Fort McCoy

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