

Megan Mickelson DNR Forester, **MCISW Chair**, **Bob Micheel**, Director, Monroe County Conservation, **Tim Wilder** Fort McCoy Endangered Species and Wildlife Dept., **Jim and Bernie Arena** Landowners, **Ben Johnston** Volunteer, **Howard Garves**, MCISWG Vice Chair, Sparta TSP and Landowner, **Randy Poelma**-Environmental Science Program Manager, Ho-Chunk Nation, Black River Falls **Mark Pfof**, Private lands Biologist USFWS Necedah, **Sharon Folcey**, WI Towns Association , **Michelle Komiskey** -District Conservationist, USDA NRCS, **Kris Oja** Summer Intern USDA NRCS, **Mic Armstrong** Soil Conservation Technician, USDA NRCS and Scribe

Field Day Summary

Location great. Well organized. **Megan Mickelson** thanked the team.

Q. Should we do another at the same location or move around? Every other year same place?

Tim Wilder reported that **Jim Raiten** suggested that if we did another field day in that location we could do a bus tour of different nearby sites.

Mic Armstrong commented that The Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin (IPAW) may be planning a multi County Field day (perhaps in Necedah) in 2019. The deal there would be a free lunch for IPAW members and \$20.00 or so for nonmembers. (Membership is \$25.00) <http://www.ipaw.org/Home.aspx>

At our field day people were really engaged, Megan handed out a summary of the comment cards which were all positive.

Perhaps we could have giveaways such as a water bottle with our logo, (we would need a logo).

Interestingly from the sign in sheet 7 people there did not manage for invasives. There were 31 people excluding agency and presenters.

Wilder commented that the Gldn app was more powerful than he had realized and may have application for McCoy. **Armstrong** said that there is an even more powerful software package available for a few hundred \$ and they should probably invite Anne Pearce or someone from her group to talk about it.

The timing of the Field day was great, however we could highlight different things at other times of the year.

Next Event? Treatment day. ID session

Charles Hoffman of Scott Township would like assistance (mapping invasive species)

Howard Garves commented that he has an absentee neighbor and the property is full of Multiflora Rose.

Armstrong summarized a teleconference on timing of mowing organized by Highway commissioner **Dave Ohnstad** with the Threatened and Endangered species experts from DNR, this resulted in changes to the mowing schedule based on roadside zones in an attempt to balance wildlife concerns with timing to avoid the spread of invasive plants. Dave realized that this would be much more effective if we had a map of roadside invasives and has proposed contracting a survey as a budget item for 2019.

<https://monroe.uwex.edu/files/2018/06/Conference-call-on-Monroe-Co-Mowing.pdf>

Sharon Folcey lamented that this survey probably would not include township roads, which sparked a discussion about the use of the Gledn app, mapping on paper maps then having someone load them to a computer, but there would need to be photos to review. More (one on one) training with the Gledn app for townships? We would need some sort of buy in from the towns that they would actually do something with the information.

Michelle Komiskey updated the group on the status of the tabletop display. The Printer needed to produce the background panels was broken. The person putting it together would like a portrait oriented photo of the oak woodland to pair with the Garlic mustard one. **Wilder** would get us some. The idea Michelle explained is to have the back ground photos with smaller, interactive “invasive or not” cards that could be flipped over to read about different invasive plants or natives. That way we can customize for different events or locations, possibly using magnets to attach.

Joey Esterline sent Megan a message that she was planning an invasive species outreach event at the Sparta Farmers Mart, (date tbd), she would need help as it was hard to do that and sell at the same time.

Megan reported that **Dave Stutsman** of the Tomah Schools had received some volunteer help from Boy Scouts but would accept more help when they start treating invasives in the School Forest (across from the VA) later this summer.

Update on the Poison Hemlock by the sand mine in Tunnel City. **Dave Texley** told **Wilder** that he had reported the population 3 years ago. C’mon Dave! To whom? At this point the only report in EddmapS is the one Anne Pearce put in as a polygon. <https://www.eddmaps.org/distribution/point.cfm?id=7613417> **Wilder** also reported that the plants were still there, so the Sand mine did nothing yet. We will keep watching and if necessary go back to plan A with Ben’s pre-lunch blitz. **Wilder** also mentioned there is Garlic Mustard right there too and thought the Highway Department should be alerted to prevent the spread of that invasive plant.

Bob Micheel stated that Monroe County could offer cost sharing towards Invasive species management by landowners. Question: would Public lands such as the school forest be eligible? Bob, No, just landowners. There would need to be some basic ranking. After a little brainstorming the ranking criteria proposed included:

- Presence of invasives but not too many
- Landowner interest, commitment and ability to continue management
- Proximity to natural areas, creeks or roads/trails that could exasperate spread.
- Site visit and NHI review would be prerequisites.

Jim Arena talked about his ongoing attempts to manage woodies in his prairie plantings and the search for a contractor with a Fecon head mower. Wilton Police Department owns the old Barco from Fort McCoy but did not answer Jim’s call. **Armstrong** thought they were still working out details of how to charge for the machine and benefit the department/community. Other contractors Jim had talked to were Steve Leis, and Lamberts. **Wilder** thought Hayes of Tomah did Fecon work and someone else recommended Johnsons Ops Treecare out of Holmen. **Randy Poelma** uses EC3 out of Madison. **Megan Mickelson** maintains a contractor list but it doesn’t say who has Fecons

Randy suggested **Jim and Bernie Arena** look into NRCS (EQIP) funding to help with their project.

Armstrong mentioned that the cleaned up versions (5/23/2018) of the MOU and strategic plan had been sent out to the committee by the June deadline and no further comments were received.

Armstrong was assigned to send the paperwork out to participants for signatures.

Sharon Folcey mentioned that the next meeting of the Monroe Co Unit of WTA is Thursday, August 16th at the Leon Community Center, 20638 Jameson Road, hosted by Town of Leon. Leon is located 3 miles south of Sparta on Hwy 27. Social Hour 6pm, Dinner 6:30pm; Meeting 7-9pm.

Next Core meeting: August 2nd, 2-4 p.m. at Monroe County Courthouse Building

Pre Meeting on Teasel at 1 pm. Location in Sparta area TBA.

I left the meeting for an appointment as **Mark Pfost** passed around for ID and discussion a posy of Bouncing Bet, *Saponaria officinallis* <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/speciesNR40list.asp>