

MCISWG Core and Pre-meeting notes 9/6/18

Howard Garves, Vice and acting Chair; **Chuck Hoffman**, Scott Town Chair **Tim Wilder** Fort McCoy Endangered Species and Wildlife Dept. **Randy Poelma**- Environmental Science Program Manager, Ho-Chunk Nation, Black River Falls; **Jim and Bernie Arena** Landowners, Little falls TSP; **Sean Davison** DNR Forester, Tomah, **Bryce Richardson**, Monroe County Land Conservation Dept. **Matt Modjeski** - Conservation Warden, DNR; **Carrie Milestone**, Wildlife Technician, Sandhill Wildlife Area, Babcock; **Andre Paquette**, Landowner Jefferson TSP; **Joey Esterline**, Landowner Adrian TSP **Michelle Komiskey** - District Conservationist, USDA NRCS, **Mic Armstrong** Soil Conservation Technician, USDA NRCS and Scribe

The pre-meeting was a site with autumn olive on Brunswick Ave just around the corner from the town hall. Howard and the Arenas had spotted an Autumn Olive even closer to the hall than the ones mapped which was impressive. We talked about the history of conservation plants released by the Soil Conservation Service decades ago for reclamation projects and wildlife “benefits”. **Armstrong** worked at a nursery in Michigan that propagated ‘Cardinal’ Autumn Olive (from seed provided by USDA plant Materials Centers) and the local Nature Conservancy chapter would sell them in fundraisers every spring along with Multiflora Rose, Ginnala Maple, Arnot’s Bristley Locust and several cultivars of Eurasian Honeysuckle. This was in the 1980’s, before many people realized the threats these plants caused to the environment.

Autumn Olive was favored for deer habitat too by no less than Ted Nugent, however Michigan has now banned its sale. It will create shade tolerant thickets and it can be thorny.

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/fact/autumnolive.html>

It is listed as a Restricted species in under Wisconsin’s NR 40 rule. There are some cultivars that are offered for sale in other states that have larger, supposedly tastier berries than the one we have in our woods. If you try to purchase them on line it should give you a message that they are not able to ship them to Wisconsin. Has anyone else tried this with invasive plants offered on the internet?

We discussed the main methods of management using herbicides such as Garlon- Foliar, cut stump and basal treatments. **Armstrong** mentioned he had heard that basal was the most effective on Autumn Olive. Here is a link explaining the process https://www.dowagro.com/en-us/range/esteward_south/october-2017/be-cool-and-basal-spray-in-the-fall-and-winter

This was our first meeting with Carrie **Milestone**, part of a small team that manages around 90 thousand acres of wildlife area.<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/wildlifeareas/sandhill/>

Our plan was to visit a site on Copper road where Carrie had been treating the only known infestation of Garlic Mustard in the township, but she stopped on the way and could not see any. They will continue to monitor the site.

Chuck **Hoffman** talked a little about Scott Township. He mows 28 miles of roadside approximately 3 times a year. On the way back to the hall we stopped to look at Glossy buckthorn as some in the group were not familiar with it. Chuck wondered if his mowing activities would spread these shrubs and we agreed that any with berries overhanging are a problem, they could easily fall on the mower deck and be spread along the roadsides.

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Howard **Garves** chaired the core group meeting in the beautiful Scott Town Hall.

Mic **Armstrong** passed around the minutes of our last meeting pointing out they are available for all to read on the Monroe Co. Extension Website., under the Agriculture tab.

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

Field Day (9-12 noon October 11th)

We discussed the fact that locals were adamant that we timed it poorly as this was mid cranberry harvest and even the Town chair would be busy hauling berries at that time. Chuck **Hoffman** would be there though and would open the hall and if needed the Equipment shed would be available for our demos. We agreed to keep the date as planned as there had not been enough planning time to get it done any earlier and any later would be winter.

Plant ID will be a combination of PowerPoint (Invasive or not) and fresh samples brought in, taking care not to spread seeds in the process. The working group will meet at **1pm on October 10th**.

Armstrong assigned to coordinate.

The agenda will follow plant ID with a session on mapping using phones and iPads lead by Anne **Pearce** of the First detector network. Then **Hallfman**'s Half hour- Bill talking on pesticide applicator regulations. Following that will be Equipment display Q&A with Lee **Shambeau**, as well as hand held equipment lead by Joey **Esterline**. There could be a display of brush eating goats too.

Capping off the morning will be a brief presentation on potential funding for invasive plant management with NRCS, DNR, Fish and Wildlife and Monroe CO. Represented.

It is recommended that presenters bring handouts and business cards for follow up opportunities.

Komiskey will moderate the morning keeping us on track.

RSVP to Megan **Mickelson**

Sean **Davison** said the DNR could bring tables and chairs to supplement the ones there.

Promotion/advertising of the Field day-

FSA Newsletter, **Komiskey**

Radio: Bernie **Arena**

Newspaper- Conservation Corner? Events? **No-one assigned**

Prairie Enthusiasts email- **Paquett**,

Warrens Sportsman's Club- **Richardson**

Coffee, Tea, bottled water, Komiskey, **Armstrong**

Donuts

Target a township? Portland was suggested

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One invasive plant that is prevalent in Scott Township is Spotted knapweed, we discussed the fact that biological controls can be effective at slowing this one down and decided to add the topic to the ID session. Tim **Wilder** would find out if either the *Larinus minutus* or the Knapweed Root Weevil (*Cyphocleonus achates*) would be visible on live samples in October either way we will add a few slides to the ID PowerPoint

In turn this lead to a discussion about biological control of Purple Loosestrife. Bryce **Richardson** gave a little history on biocontrol of loosestrife in Monroe Co. The program is no longer active. There was a suggestion from Andre we involve 4 H in a new program as there are some pretty healthy populations of the weed returning to the area despite the successes of the original program. Bryce said high water and ground disturbance were the main things going against the biological agents. (*Cellas*).

Here is a link that explains the current program. <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/loosestrife.html>

2018 County Funded grants

Armstrong passed around the 3 grant proposals submitted for consideration for the Monroe Co. grant. Bob **Micheel** had said, before going on a trip, that the Co. would fund all three if they were eligible.

Komiskey passed a sheet around with approximate values for cost share based on the NRCS EQIP rates for brush management, explaining that, for example a \$600.00 amount would cover 7.1 Ac of mechanical (small shrubs) brush management. We agreed that a small “committee” would form and volunteers would form groups, visit each property and inspect the areas selected for management. Maps should indicate the areas and acreages of the various practices and species being managed.

Johnston and **Poelma** had already agreed to help “ground truth”, since then Andre **Paquett** would help Ben. Joey **Esterline**, volunteered to help on the Coles Valley one with **Armstrong**.

Komiskey asked if anyone had comments on the process **Poelma** worried that in some of the applications there were native species being targeted for control (e.g. Prickly Ash and Grey Dogwood). We agreed that there would be no grant money for management of these plants (should only be NR-40 listed species)

Slogan/logo

Komiskey's “Know it before you Grow it or Mow it” is still unassailed by competitors.

Paquett has experience designing logos and will present something at our next meeting

Non Metallic Mines

Wilder introduced the topic by relating an observation they had made in the impact area of Fort. Some new targets had been installed in shooting ranges and they were finding invasive plants in areas

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previously mapped as free of any of their target species. They appeared to be coming from gravel fill hauled in around the targets. Jim **Raiten** toured some Gerke pits, including one used to temporarily store different types of fill and they observed various invasive plants around and on the heaps. Contractors do sign an agreement that fill will be clean but it would be hard to enforce and **Raiten** discovered through research that unlike some of the western states, there is no certification program in WI for sand rock and gravel. At the last meeting it was suggested we send a letter to The State Non Metallic Mining Committee. **Richardson** said he was on the Committee, no need to send a letter. The only input they have is in reclamation of mines, nothing for operations. **Wilder** went on to say there would be a presentation at the upcoming UMISC Conference on the topic and **Raiten** would report back immediately after the conference. If we had something **Richardson** could take it to the Technical Committee the following week.

Here is a link to the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference in Rochester the week of October 15. <https://www.umisc.net/>

Dispatches from the front line

Chad's Teasel Wars: Received email from **Zeigler** that following the August field meeting about Teasel : "My son and I made an attempt to reduce the teasel population on county X over the weekend. It was kind of mix n match effort; there was a lot more there than I noticed at the meeting. We collected and burned about 5 gallons worth of seed heads, the rest, I pulled and left them.....it didn't appear that the seeds were mature yet?? It'll be interesting to see if it helps. I may try to spray next year to kill the plants."

Dog Pound Site: **Armstrong** reported on a dispatch from David **Onsted** Monroe County's Highway Commissioner

WE Energy is exploring using a part of the Highway Department's corporation yard east of Sparta (sand pit / dog shelter) as an equipment storage / mobilization site for an upcoming pipeline project through Monroe County. As part of their environmental review they found invasive species (~~map attached~~) in certain areas of the site. They have volunteered to treat those areas prior to us completing some land-leveling. (They do not want to incidentally transfer seeds to their pipeline route, and we as well do not want to spread the infestation.)

Armstrong met the group from Highway and WE Energies on site the 5th of September. Agreed the management plan should work, but noticed a lot of Black Locust and some "Pampas" Grass that were not on the Environmental Review Map. **Armstrong** followed up with an email to **Onsted**:

The Black locust that was not mapped will probably want to keep popping up even through the hardscaping, but can be treated, although it complicates the management of the site. For those that aren't familiar, the juvenile form has thorns perfectly capable of puncturing tires. Another concern I have that we did not discuss at the time is that the larger trees around the perimeter could have seeds that blow a fair distance and could end up on some piece of equipment.

Ideally all of the surrounding Black Locust trees should be removed, or some sort of buffer zone should be established where equipment and materials are excluded.

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Japanese Knotweed on Hwy 16: **Wilder** reported that they hoped to treat the Knotweed infestation on Jackson pass, along with some on neighboring property to McCoy, They were in communication with John Mueller from DOT for permission to spray in the Right Of Way.

They were also planning on going off base to spray the Knotweed infestation on Cty A, they worried and were approved because of the possibility of the invasive making its way to McCoy via the adjacent Silver Creek. As this one is a part of the County highway network they would coordinate with Monroe County Highway Commissioner.

Armstrong mentioned that the feedback we are getting from other CISMAs and the First Detector Network is that the most successful treatment for Jap. Knotweed was to apply Milestone as a Foliar spray (14 Fl.oz/ Ac) after the plants flower and before a frost (October).

<https://fyi.uwex.edu/wifdn/2018-video-series/>

Historian Update

Garves reminded the group that **Mickelson** was collecting photos of our events and meetings.

Next Meeting: Dec 6th at Monroe Co. Justice Center.

Komiskey would ask Connie to book the room.

Garves adjourned the meeting.

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