

Held in the Conference room, Monroe Co. Highway Dept.

Megan Mickelson DNR Forester, Chair MCISWG; **Dave Ohnstad**, Monroe Co. Highway Dept; **Randy Poelma**- Environmental Science Program Manager, Ho-Chunk Nation, Black River Falls; **Bernie and Jim Arena** Landowners Little Falls TSP, **Bob Micheel**, Director, Monroe County Conservation, **Tim Wilder** Fort McCoy Endangered Species and Wildlife Dept., **Jim Raiten** Colorado State University Fort McCoy Wildlife Dept.; **Scott Giraud**, Adrian TSP, **Matt Modjeski** (Conservation Warden, DNR); **Skip Frazee** Landowner Sparta TSP; **Andre Paquett**, Landowner, Jefferson TSP; **Chris Barlow** (Landowner, Greenfield TSP, **Chuck Hoffman**, Scott Town Chair; **Joey Esterline**, Landowner, Adrian TSP; **Michelle Komiskey** - District Conservationist, USDA NRCS; **Mic Armstrong** Soil Conservation Technician, USDA NRCS and Scribe

Armstrong started the meeting with a brief power point demonstration using the GLEDN app to map invasive species an explanation of EDDMaps <https://www.eddmaps.org/midwest/> followed by a brief look at the new WISTIPP Viewer, <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wifdn/wistipp-viewer/> unfortunately the presenter was unable to get it to go live on the internet. Note to self- practice makes perfect and click in the Wisconsin map to open!

Additions to the Agenda:

Spotted Lantern Fly

Phragmites

Ben Johnston Wilton Landowner and 'Volunteer extraordinaire' was unable to attend but sent a report indicating his willingness to help MCISWG plan a joint garlic mustard pull event sometime in early June, ideally to correspond with his pulling event on the Elroy-Sparta bike trail, on an adjoining section of trail. This way, more trail will get pulled.

Ben is also leading hikes sponsored by the Kickapoo Valley Reserve on 5 Saturdays this summer. The intent is to aid attendees in identifying invasive species in various growing stages. The hikes are FREE, but it is encouraged that participants consider attending rare and/or invasive species plant training in the future. The hikes will be on Saturday: May 4th, June 15th, August 3rd, September 14th, and October 12th. RSVP a few days prior to the hike at Ben.Johnston@wisconsin.gov or by calling 608-625-2960.

SEE ATTACHED PDF FOR MORE DETAILS, including hike routes and meeting location.

Armstrong passed around our old leaflet printed off by the thousand by the original MCISWG with phone numbers etc. no longer valid. The group decided it was time for a new leaflet with current info, but without individual invasive plants featured. Mickelson assigned to work on it.

Mickelson thought our field days needed better promo- e.g. Facebook, WPR, Towns meetings.

The group then discussed different areas of interest that MCISWG can help to lead, some attendees volunteered to head up the tracts. **Mickelson** and individuals volunteered to take leads below.

- School groups: matching grants, biol. Students, Earth Club, 4H
- Priority lands: e.g. Tri Creek- **Micheel** will talk to **Chad Ziegler**
- Utilize Challenge Academy from Fort McCoy- **Tim Wilder** will research
- Farmers market- **Joey Esterline**
- Garden clubs- **Joey Esterline**
- Shooting sports
- Monroe County Fair
- Dairy Breakfast- **Bill Halfman?**
- Conservation Awards Banquet
- Outdoor clubs-**Mickelson/ Micheel**
- Adopt highway programs -**Andre Paquett**
- Libraries - **Skip Frazee**
- Scouts- **Bob Micheel**
- Kiwanis - **Skip Frazee**
- The group thought we may need a "canned intro" presentation for meetings describing the group, not > ½ hr.-**Armstrong** could create a power point?

Bob Micheel summarized the successful 2018 applications for LCD Invasive Species Management cost sharing: **Prochazka** decided to something on their own but **Armstrong** and **Esterline** will hike back to take another look at the mapped bittersweet and try to make a positive ID in the spring.

Jim and Bernie Arena hired Nature Works to cut and treat shrubs in their prairie. They learned a lot during the project, but **Randy Poelma** reported they still have a large area they still need help with, wondered about EQIP. **Komiskey** explained some of the limitations of an EQIP brush management contract. **Mickelson** said she would have Sean get in touch to see if there was any DNR funding possibilities

Justin Trails- 2 Part time employees working on buckthorn, then found barberry which became the new priority. They utilized a cut & treat program and will follow up with prescribed burns.

2 new applications for 2019 resulted from the Scott TSP Field Day. **John Komiskey** plans on managing buckthorn, with goats-**Mickelson** will assess the scope of the project. **Howard Garves** was the second applicant. **Mickelson, Esterline** and **Frazee** will hike out to look at the Multiflora Rose infestation Howard has mapped. Both sites will be visited once the snow pack recedes.

Micheel stated the county will cap cost sharing at 3 projects per year so they could do one more. Since then, **Chris Barlow** sent in an application for help managing Autumn Olive in a restored prairie.

- Logo- progress reported by **Paquette and Wilder**
- T shirts- **Mickelson** + MCISWG logo on Blaze Orange.
- Display- **Komiskey**, the printer at the State Office now works so we should see progress soon.
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Nonmetallic mining **Jim Raiten** attended a field trip to a Minnesota pit during the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference but was a little disappointed they were not looking for all invasive species- teasel yes, but then walked by spotted Knapweed.

Micheel thought there would need to be something in local Nonmetallic ordinance, the problem is that you can't single out one quarry owner in Monroe Co. it would almost have to be State wide, and how would it work? **Wilder** wondered if an effort from Fort McCoy could start something- they have contracts with "no invasive species" written in the language-will follow up with the engineers to see if there could be a way to get gravel, sand and rock vendors to inventory and manage invasive plants, (perhaps as a component of a future Ordinance)

Notes from the Frontline:

- **Armstrong** reported The City did not get the Japanese Knotweed on the riprap bellow Perch lake sprayed last fall They are a man down due to an accident at the golf course. The treatment from the year before really worked well (Milestone in early October), but there were a few plants that survived. They will schedule retreatment for this Fall, as well as the other sites of knotweed in town
- Amundson Park: **Armstrong** reported that he mapped lots of Japanese barberry and Multi flora Rose, both in the frisbee golf area and on the other side over Reinie's bridge. **Armstrong** spent a Saturday flagging them with pink ribbon in the event the City will be able to do some basal spraying with Garlon this winter.
- Purple Loosestrife: **Armstrong** has been communicating with a local 4 H group that expressed interest in helping with a Loosestrife Project. Sparta H.S. used to grow the bugs that eat the plants and when it came time to distribute them it was summer recess and it ended up being **Bryce Richardson** spreading the insects to new populations to slow the spread of this invasive purple flower. A 4 H group would be a great fit as they could do work in the summer months. **Armstrong** had trouble getting the correct Extension Agent to respond to email so, hopefully now, we will be able to put something together.
- Phragmites: **Komiskey** recounted that she went on a drive with **Armstrong** who proceeded to put a flashing light on top of the truck and she was given Felco Pruners and a trash bag to collect two sets of "vouchers", one from the ditch on Highway 21, a mile or so east of Tomah and the other by the Distribution Center on Highway 16. The samples were labeled and sent to **Alex Selle**, the DNR AIS Regional Coordinator, in Eau Claire. A couple of weeks later the results were that the population by the Distribution Center is definitely the invasive, alien form of Phragmites and the Hwy 21 patch is most likely native, but Alex will take another look in the spring. A population reported by the Kwik Trip on Hwy 21 in Tomah appears to be being mowed frequently and Alex thinks if they keep doing that it will eventually disappear. As these are the only known sites of the highly invasive Phragmites in the County it will be good to get them taken care of.
- Lantern Fly: **Armstrong** passed around the latest edition of 'Nursery Manager' which has an article on Lantern Fly- "the worst pest in 150 years". **Wilder** knew about it -all military bases are

on alert to make sure it doesn't get in as it spreads by egg masses that attach to metal objects such as trailers, tracks on equipment etc. It eats the sap of various species of trees, and fruits, apparently it is especially fond of walnuts and grapes. <https://spottedlanternfly.com/>

- **Mickelson** announced they now have a UTV set up for pumping water on wildfires, but it will also have a second slip on unit for spraying which could be made available for invasive plant management in Monroe Co. (Spraying unit not yet installed). They are going to purchase tracks too, so it will be able to go through wetter terrain, within reason.

Next Meeting March 28th at Monroe Co. Justice Center down town Sparta. 1pm-3pm (Note we switched from the old 2-4 format by popular demand)

Premeeting will be a at the Sparta Elroy Bike trail "kitty corner" from Speeds Bikes on John Street in Sparta where we will take another look at Amur Maple, hopefully with some stakeholders of the site. Meet 11.30 am, then we will have time to take lunch (on your own) at 12.30 before the main meeting at 1.

** Ben's Report

Mickelson, Megan M - DNR

From: Johnston, Ben C - KRM
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 11:59 AM
To: Mickelson, Megan M - DNR
Subject: RE: MCISWG 2019

Megan,

I cannot attend the 24th meeting. Yet with respects to the new events and fun outreach programs.....

Below is an announcement of a series of hikes I will offer in the KVR this summer. As I hopefully convey in the announcement, the goal is to educate folks on common plants so they will be more aware of not so common plants. I decided on the same route for each hike to hopefully show the same plants at different growth stages throughout the summer.

A similar hike series could be replicated in MoCo. If so, I would be very willing to attend/participate as I am available, but I wish not to be the one in charge....only because I am already committing to the hikes below.

Also, I will once again instigate a garlic mustard pull along the Elroy-Sparta Trail from CTH T (west side of Norwalk) to the Summit Tunnel. This will be the fourth such event on this trail segment.

In my idealistic, make-believe world where everyone wants to eradicate invasive plants, there would be other groups working on other sections of the trail on the same day. Maybe MoCo could organize or coordinate a section of trail. Otherwise, we can use this as a MoCo event.

I will shoot for the first weekend of June (1st or 2) or possibly, but not desired on Sunday June 9th. I prefer/suggest pulling this late in the GM season since the opportunity for spraying is over (any previously sprayed plants should be dead), and the plants are tall and easy to pull.....a bit harder to see due to other vegetation....yet the seed heads are not dried out such that seeds will readily fall to the ground.

Anyways, those are two ideas I have to offer.
Awesome.

Til next time.....

As a Jedi Master might have once said.... "before surveying for rare (or invasive) plants, first the common plants, one must know". Therefore, to promote invasive and rare plant monitoring, the Kickapoo Valley Reserve is offering 5 (five) Plant identification hikes Saturdays May 4, June 15, August 3, September 14, and October 12, to learn some of the common plants of the area. For each date, the hike will meet at the south gate of Old Hwy 131 Trail at 9 am and will walk north on Old 131, observing and identifying the plants at different growth stages throughout the summer, while watching for the next flower to bloom. Topics such as native vs non-native, invasive vs aggressive, control methods of invasive plants, comparisons with other plants, and/or propagating native plants might be also discussed.

The hikes are free, with the understanding the attendee agrees to *consider* participating in rare and/or invasive plant monitoring in the future (additional training required). Actual participation in these programs is encouraged. Registration is not required, but an email indicating attendance is appreciated a day or two in advance. Questions, thoughts, concerns contact Ben.Johnston@wisconsin.gov or the KVR Office 608 625 2960.

The hike leader(s) reserves the right to plead ignorance whenever necessary. Despite all good intentions and efforts, sedges might only be identified as "probably a *Carex species*". These informal hikes are intended to be educational for all.

From: Mickelson, Megan M - DNR <Megan.Mickelson@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 11:23 AM