

Megan Mickelson DNR Forester, **MCISW Chair**; **Bob Micheel**, Director, Monroe County Land Conservation; **Tim Wilder** Chief, Natural Resources Branch, Fort McCoy; **Jim Raiten** Colorado State University, Fort McCoy Wildlife Dept.; **Sharon Folcey**, WI Towns Association; **Howard Garves**, Sparta Tsp; **Joey Esterline**, Landowner Adrian Tsp; **Michelle Komiskey** -District Conservationist, USDA NRCS; **Chris Barlow** , Landowner, Greenfield TSP; **Mic Armstrong** Soil Conservation Technician, USDA NRCS and Scribe

Mickelson opened the meeting with additions to the agenda.

Pre meetings:

Armstrong presented a powerpoint showing some highlights of the premeetings we have enjoyed since 2017. We agreed they are a worthwhile part of our structure.

Farmers Market:

Esterline and **Armstrong** reported on the Event at the Farmers Market on May 11th. We assembled live samples of invasive plants from within about 5 miles of town with an assist from the Fort McCoy wildlife crew. Despite competition from a cute lamb on the stage we had a steady stream of people asking questions, picking up literature specific to the invasive species they were bothered by. Many fliers for the upcoming field day were also distributed.

Future Farmers Market events could include another demo on the stage in the fall. We also discussed having a “poster” of an Invasive Species of the Week. To display prominently. The effort could be even more effective with coordinated press releases.

Micheel mentioned that **Bill Halfman** has an Invasive Plant Book published by MINDOT we should take a look at.

Field Day Comment cards.

Mickelson summarized the cards completed at the field day on June 13th: 52 people signed the sheet and 33 completed comment cards, all but one positive. Some good ideas will be incorporated into the next event.

Next Field Day.

Little Falls Township have requested we meet at their facility. The group thought that if Bernie and Jim Arena were amenable, we could also take a field trip to their Monroe County funded invasive Management project. Probably a 9:30 -2pm event in early October. We discussed the possibility of having **Lee Shambeau** bring some equipment as he did last fall or failing that if Fort McCoy would be able to bring some. Suggested we put some bark oil in a tanks/ backpacks and do an actual demo of coverage (calibration) on some plants. **Mickelson** would talk to **Shambeau**. **Raiten** would check on the possibility of taking their machines off base. Agreed not to have mapping on the agenda but there will be instruction available for anyone interested at lunch time. One of the latest ideas to surface from the comments was to have more content geared to hunters, a DMAP session was suggested. **Halfman's** Half Hour is still wildly popular, and we hope Bill will come armed with timely wisdom and a handout. 'How

to work with your contractor' was another suggested topic- invite contractors including the ones who helped the Arenas. Howard **Garves** will bring his collection of Greenworks Battery operated chainsaws, **Armstrong** will bring the buckthorn Blaster for show and tell. Someone else said they would bring a sawzaw. The Cost share discussion will be brief. Equipment demos should be at the end of the event.

Towns Meeting

Folcey invited MCISWG to the next meeting at Club 16 in August 16th. **Armstrong** will attend and is scheduled to show the Premeeting PowerPoint.

Notes from the Front Line

Komiskey saw Phragmites on Hwy 16 both sides of Oakdale. She will take Armstrong to map and voucher for an ID.

Raiten talked about the new Poison Hemlock populations by Tunnel City, will coordinate with Covia (sandmine). Armstrong mentioned that some of the staff in his office say they are seeing Poison Hemlock all over the place. Raiten suggested we take another look (via email) they may be Water Hemlock which are starting to pop up on Fort McCoy, he has also seen it in different parts of Monroe Co. and La Crosse Co.

Mickelson has been coordinating a management effort in the Monroe Co Forest targeting Buckthorn, Honeysuckle and barberry.

Someone asked if the DOT was treating the Japanese Knotweed on Cty. A. This was actually a crew from Fort McCoy attempting to manage the population so that it does not sneak into Fort downstream along the Silver Creek. We were worried about a County Bulldozer which made a couple of passes along the upper edge, hopefully no propagules were spread by this action.

Armstrong: Amur Maple, showed pic of seedlings in a 1' grid by Speeds Bikes in his powerpoint as well as a pic of a label taken at a local retail outlet, sparking a discussion on what to do when outlets are found selling regulated invasive species. **Wilder** added that McCoy is very concerned about the invasive Maple and will see if there would be a way to help manage these populations straddling snowmobile trails that lead to Fort.

Armstrong relayed that Dave **Ohnstad** was getting bids to have the Highways mapped for invasive plants as they had already budgeted for SW Badger to do it.

Armstrong Reported that the Barberry, Multiflora Rose, Buckthorn and some Black Locusts basally treated with Garlon last winter by City of Sparta staff in Amundson Park were smoked. Next year we plan to continue the effort using a different colored flagging ribbon to mark plants when they are covered in berries and most visible.

A series of slides in the powerpoint **Armstrong** presented showed the progress we have made since installing the Loosestrife tent at a prior premeeting and the fun our local 4H group were having with this biocontrol project.

Tee Shirts.

Mickelson showed the design and color scheme of the new MCISWG T shirts. All liked and would buy some. Suggested we get extras for event prizes etc. **Micheel** to look into some “promo” funding.

Meadow view School Apparently have 2-3 Ac of buckthorn they are concerned about. **Micheel** thought that Necedah F&W already did some work there, Mickelson to contact Pfof.

Disposal of Invasives

Esterline worried about appropriate disposal of invasive plant material such as Garlic Mustard pulled by hand that may still be capable of spreading. Interesting discussion ensued, in this case we determined **Micheel's** Wood stove would be an appropriate spot

Municipalities.

Micheel was interested in pursuing grants to manage invasive species on a Municipality level. **Barlow** commented that there is a lot of buckthorn on the Golf course in Sparta

Signage and Boot brushes. Was one of the suggestions on a comment card. **Armstrong** reported there is a grant available, he signed us up for signs at the CISMA meeting. Should be added to the next agenda.

Next Premeeting Clean Boats, Clean Water Perch Lake? Sept 5th