

**Minutes**  
**Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 1, 2017; 10:30 am – 12:30 p.m.**

H.B. Fuller Company  
1200 Willow Lake Blvd., Vadnais Heights, MN 55110

**I. Call to order and introductions, 10:30 am**

- A. In attendance: Mary Lee, Minnesota National Guard; Nancy Duncan, National Park Service; Emily Dunlap, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation; Justin Townsend, Ramsey Conservation District; Dana Larsen-Ramsay, H. B. Fuller Company/Willow Lake Preserve; Julia Bohnen, University of Minnesota; Carole Gernes, Ramsey County CWMA.

**II. Partner updates**

- A. Ramsey Conservation District/RCCWMA:

- i. Tree-of-heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*, treatment and removal; St. Paul: There is only one known infestation in Minnesota, growing in a retaining-wall enclosed planting area at the former Affinity Plus, Sherburne Avenue and Park St, downtown St. Paul.<sup>1</sup> Carole was contacted by Ken Graeve, MNDOT, to report that the building had been sold and remodeling /work being done on the building. He contacted the construction company that he thought was doing the work, but was incorrect. He contacted Carole to check to see if the new owners / contractors would be willing to treat the infestation. Carole learned that the property was purchased by Bethesda Hospital and tracked down two of the building and grounds staff. The building is being demolished and the space turned into green space. After giving an overview of the species, invasiveness and protocol for treatment, they agreed to cut and treat the stumps, then keep roots on site. The site was checked on 9/27/17. Growing, green leaves were found at stump bases. Carole contacted grounds staff again and asked them to cut and treat those sprouts.<sup>2</sup>
- ii. Justin Townsend presented a PowerPoint highlighting this year's contracted treatment, of the 2016-2017 Ramsey County top ten priority infestations. Treatments were made possible through funding by the last BWSR CWMA Grant. Simba Blood followed-up with a second treatment of the Matoska Park Japanese knotweed infestation along the White Bear Lake shoreline. Justin and Michael Schumann, Ramsey Conservation District, and a recruited Invasive Plant Patrol volunteer raked to remove stems, seeded the area with a pollinator mix and installed erosion blankets. Justin also highlighted the new top ten infestation list which was included in this year's BWSR CWMA grant RFP. Carole briefly described the infestations and locations. Members asked to be reminded of the "sticker" MNDOT uses for knotweed herbicide applications.<sup>3</sup>

- B. St. Paul Parks and Recreation; Amur corktree, *Phellodendron amurense*; discovery, identification characteristics and locations. Emily Dunlap shared her

recent discovery of Amur corktree in Mounds Regional Park and Willow Brook, a MNDNR property near Pig's Eye. Between 60 and 75 acres are effected at Mounds Park, with 603 trees found and treated. Of these, six were large enough females to have fruit. At Willow Brook, 209 trees were found; all juveniles without fruit. The infestation appears to have spread from nearby boulevard plantings. About 300 Amur corktrees have been planted in St. Paul. Emily created and shared an identification characteristic handout; with excellent photos of leaves, unusual u-shaped leaf scars with buds or petioles arising in the middle, bright yellow under bark and corky bark of mature trees. Trees are either male or female (dioecious), and superficially resemble ash, with pinnately compound, opposite leaves. Unlike ashes, there is no terminal leaf bud; leaves are lighter green on the bottom sides with hairs along the mid-vein. The crushed leaves smell like citrus or turpentine. Leaves are held longer into the fall than ash and stay green. The Minnesota Arboretum has already removed their female Amur corktrees. There has not been any removal by the City of St. Paul yet, because it was a busy year for EAB management.

- C. Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District: water lettuce, *Pistia stratiotes*, was found in Wakefield Lake, covering a large area. Plans to scoop it all out were scrapped. Simba Blood will check for winter survival next spring.
- D. Laura Van Riper was unable to attend but provided new 2018 MISAC Invasive Species Calendars for partners. Questions from attendees;
  - i. What size are the new invasive red swamp crayfish?<sup>4</sup>
  - ii. Where is the Java waterdropwort infestation?<sup>5</sup>

### III. Action Items

- A. Be on the lookout for Amur corktrees. Carole will post photos and information on the RCCWMA Facebook page; please email Emily with any questions. Carole will forward information with Emily's email to the group.

### IV. Open discussion

- A. Julia Bohnen, University of MN, presented information about an invasive *Phragmites* genetic study: <https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/oct17-news#plants>. The study is being funded by the EPA for two years, to find a baseline infestation level in order to develop a management plan. Management will concentrate on wild rice waters and other high priority areas first. Infestation is just beginning in MN; we'd like to prevent a huge problem. Some history: non-native *Phragmites* was purposely planted in 16 rural wastewater treatment systems in Minnesota. It is escaping, but it isn't known whether it can produce viable seed. There are 50 to 60 known populations, many reported in the Duluth and Willmar areas and on private land. Currently, there are 115 -120 people looking for infestations. Volunteers are reporting infestations using apps, filling out an identification characteristic checklist, collecting leaf and seed head samples for genetics and seed viability. *Phragmites* is not self-compatible. Remote sensing may be possible to search for infestations away from roads, but it is expensive. To receive a Phragmites collection kit, email [MNPhrag@umn.edu](mailto:MNPhrag@umn.edu).
- B. Carole contacted April Londo, MNDNR about purple loosestrife biocontrol populations being unable to keep up with loosestrife populations in the county. The beetle propagation program is no longer being run. She said "We largely rely on

counties, lake associations and other LGUs to take an interest in this type of management. With that said, we do and can offer information regarding the process for anyone who is interested.”<sup>6</sup> She was not aware of any studies looking into biocontrol population reactions/trends in relation to large spring rain events.

#### **V. Set next meeting date and location:**

- A. Carole will set up another Doodle poll for our next meeting; likely in January or early February. Location TBD.

#### **VI. Adjourn meeting, 12:30 pm**

#### **VII. Addendum**

- <sup>1</sup> A second report of tree of heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*, has since been reported by MNDOT in Houston County MN; EDDMapS # [5182579](#).
- <sup>2</sup> A second inspection was done on 11/4/17. Heavy equipment was on site excavating the building's basement. The retaining wall area where the infestation had been was still intact and undug.
- <sup>3</sup> From the September 2015 meeting minutes: re: the herbicide and sticker used on the steep hillside near Stillwater, along Highway 95. MNDOT used 3% Rodeo and Newfilm<sup>®</sup> sticker for a foliar treatment. Newfilm helps hold the herbicide on the leaves so it doesn't run off. It doesn't clog the spray nozzles. Mix at 1 quart per 100 quarts spray.
- <sup>4</sup> A description and photos of the Louisiana or swamp red crayfish, *Procambarus clarkii*, is found here; <https://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/factsheet.aspx?SpeciesID=217>. Adults range from 2.2 to 4.7 inches long.
- <sup>5</sup> Java waterdropwort, *Oenanthe javanica*, was discovered in LeSueur County MN: <http://news.dnr.state.mn.us/2017/01/23/invasive-java-water-dropwort-found-in-le-sueur-county/>
- <sup>6</sup> Carole will forward April's email and attachments to partners interested in collecting and rearing purple loosestrife biocontrol beetles. For lake associations and other LGUs in Ramsey County, contact Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator Carole Gernes: [carole.gernes@rwmwd.org](mailto:carole.gernes@rwmwd.org).