

**Minutes**  
**Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area Meeting**  
**Monday, June 4 2012, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

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

**I. Meeting opened at 11:05 a.m.**

Attendees introduced themselves: Carole Gernes – RCCWMA, Laura Van Riper – MNDNR, Mary Lee - MN National Guard, Dave Hanson - MN DOT; Ken Graeve– MN DOT, Dana Larsen-Ramsay – H.B. Fuller, Monika Chandler – MN Dept. of Ag, Chuck Fielder – Ramsey County Public Works, John Moriarty - Ramsey County Parks, Ginny Gaynor – City of Maplewood, Nancy Duncan – National Park Service-MNRRRA.

**II. Action Items**

A. Partner updates

1. Carole updated the group on funding for 2012 and 2013. This year, a BWSR CWMA grant is funding development of a cost share program for small businesses and homeowners who remove RCCWMA target species from their properties. Of the \$15,000 awarded, \$5000 is slated for technical assistance (coordinator salary) and \$10,000 for cost share reimbursements. A NFWF PTI full proposal was not chosen for funding last winter and a second spring pre-proposal was not accepted for a full proposal.

Carole discussed RCCWMA's Facebook updates and Ramsey County page. The Facebook page is more up to date, since she can add materials to it from work or home. Materials for the page administered by the Conservation district have to be brought over due to document size limits via email.

An article about the Maplewood Invasive Plant Patrol Volunteer Monitoring Program is slated for publication in the Star Tribune on Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Kim Palmer, reporter and a photographer attended the May 25<sup>th</sup> parsnip removal event at Applewood Neighborhood Preserve. There are still a couple of pockets that were not removed, but the large plants near the playground and south along the trail were cut or dug.

Carole also brought up volunteer monitors reporting more wild parsnip at the Ramsey County Open Space/Harmony School wetland last week. John said he might be able to get that sprayed.

2. Dave Hanson reported on the status of the updated MNDOT Noxious Weed booklet on the MNDOT website. It contains all of the MN Noxious Weed Law updates from last winter. Carole asked about the status of Japanese knotweed. Japanese knotweed risk assessment already has been performed. The recommendation was that Japanese knotweed would require labeling – do not plant near water, etc., ...the nursery/landscapers would rather not sell Japanese knotweed than be required to label it.
3. Ken Graeve emphasized to report noxious weeds along state highways; call them in as complaints. MNDOT has been doing work on weeds, but

complaints are given priority; if none come in, priority will be given to other things. Report anything you see.

4. Laura gave an update on the planning for invasive species day at the MN State Fair. There will be an invasives station inside the DNR building including showing of a documentary on aquatic invasive species. People are needed to staff the room throughout the fair. Monday will feature two terrestrial invasive plants performances at the DNR stage.

There is a new brand for terrestrial invasive plant spread prevention: Play/Clean/Go. Members of the group were encouraged to use the logo, which is available at [play/clean/go.com](http://play/clean/go.com).

The update on buckthorn biocontrol is that after 12 years the program is ending. There will not be any insect controls for buckthorn.

Garlic mustard biocontrols are under investigation.

5. John added that he attended Laura Phillips-Mao's PhD. Dissertation. She researched "driving conditions" for the establishment of garlic mustard. Garlic mustard establishes most successfully in areas that have already been invaded by earthworms. It is less likely to get a foothold in areas that have a healthy diverse native flora, without worms.

John answered Carole's question about the location of the Japanese knotweed at Battle Creek; it is upstream of the main creek area, from Afton heights, park and go north to creek from neighbor's property.

6. Dana reported that more garlic mustard was found at HB Fuller, but thinks it all has been pulled out. White Bear Lake 7<sup>th</sup> graders watched the "Plants Out of Place" video and then come to Willow Lake Preserve to pull buckthorn. Buckthorn removal at H.B. Fuller began in 1999.
7. Mary Lee updated the group on the new building on the AHATS property. Her office is no longer in the Kirkwood Drive building. She offered hosting the next meeting at the new building. The AHATS site burned 75 acres, the deer population is doing fine, but they have an excess number of turkeys.
8. Ginny reiterated the City of Maplewood's support for the Invasive Plant Patrol Program. The group asked how many volunteers were monitoring. Carole estimated 30, but not all had returned reports.
9. An update from MNDOT (Ken and Dave) regarding the newest report of a large infestation of Oriental bittersweet in Red Wing. The infestation was treated with Garlon. Fortunately, the seed for this plant is not viable as long as some other invasives. There was also Oriental bittersweet found near the Grecian foxglove they have been treating in Washington County. They are working with the homeowner at that site. Dalmation toadflax was found in northwest Minnesota. MNDOT's goal for spurge is to get rid of it in road maintenance areas to prevent the spread of the seed.
10. Monika reported that the leafy spurge beetles released by MNDOT at Hwy 494 and France are beginning to produce some results: holes are present in the plants.

She updated the group on the work of the Forest First Detector group, who are tree care, master Naturalist and volunteers. They are monitoring for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), gypsy moth and Oriental bittersweet. The program is administered by Bonnie Harper Lore. Autumn Olive and flowering rush was found on the north side of the intersection of Hwy 35E and County Road J, by Art Hawkins.

Knapweed beetles were released at AHATS. They were also released long ago by Chuck at Gladstone.

11. Chuck added that he would spray the cut-leaved teasel in Roseville again.
12. John stated that he was working on woody species this year. He has been girdling black locust and treating them with Transline™.
13. Nancy added that NSP has received a grant and formed a bittercress group to address the large infestations in the area and which will address best methods to use.
14. Monika added that MIPN now has a control methods page. It is a great resource for control methods for each species. There is a tab for novice or expert: the expert tab is for those with pesticide applicators licenses, novice is for those without a license/homeowners' use. The biocontrol section of this resource doesn't appear to be very successful because only results after one year were documented.
15. John updated Carole on the location of the Japanese knotweed at Battle Creek Park, since she missed that part of the Invasive Plant Tour last year. He said it was upstream of the main creek area.
16. Ken also mentioned that they will be spraying non-native *Phragmites* and the Hwy 36 and 694 *Miscanthus*.

The Grass Lake restoration was mentioned; reed canary grass infestation is a focus.

### III. New Business/Open discussion

- A. Carole asked whether anyone else knew about planting iceplant in MN, as she saw it at a local nursery. It is a big problem along roadsides and beaches in California. Dana replied that she planted some last year and it did not survive the winter. The group agreed that we should not have to worry about this in MN, since it is a succulent.
- B. *Conium* was mentioned as being more of a crop-associated weed.
- C. The MN advisory committee has a Wiki page of the state noxious weed risk assessments.
- D. Carole will send letters to Larpenteur/McKnight strip mall tenants, as she hasn't received a response from the owners regarding the Japanese knotweed to the north of the building.
- E. Discussion moved on to scheduling an Invasive Plant Tour in 2012. Monika and John suggested a knapweed/ purple loosestrife beetle tour at AHATS or Camp Ripley. The root/seed weevil release at Tamarack did not establish. Weevils from Montana do not establish like the beetles collected from Bemidji.

Mary Lee added that she has a bullhorn and two 12 passenger buses available. She is not available the last week of July; the third week of July or sometime in August would work for her. Carole and Mary will communicate to set a date. Carole will send out email blast invite and collect the RSVPs. Mary will prepare a map, directions and route for the tour. If more than 2 vans full sign up, we can do a caravan tour.

**IV. Set next meeting date and location:**

- A. Our next meeting will be the Invasive Plant Tour at AHATS, Monday, July 16, 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

**V. Meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm**

Respectfully submitted by Carole Gernes, 6/25/12

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