

Minutes
Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area (RCCWMA) Meeting
Tuesday, April 10 2014, 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.

Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
2665 Noel Drive Little Canada, MN 55117

I. Meeting opened at 10:05 a.m.

Introductions were made. Attendees included Carole Gernes, RCCWMA; Simba Blood, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District; Monika Chandler and Emilie Justen, Minnesota Department of Agriculture; Nancy Duncan, National Park Service-Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (NPS-MNRRRA); Chuck Fiedler, Ramsey County Public works; Ginny Gaynor, City of Maplewood; Mike Goodnature, Ramsey County Parks and Recreation; Ryan Johnson, City of Roseville; John Lampe, Green Shoots; Dana-Larsen-Ramsay, H.B. Fuller Company; Meghan Manhattan, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation; Keith Stachowski, City of North St. Paul; Ann White Eagle, Ramsey Conservation District.

II. Partner updates

A. Ramsey Conservation District/RCCWMA:

1. New MOUs: Ann knew she had three turned in, but wasn't able to make a list before the meeting. She will compile a list and Carole will send out the MOU with all of the new partners listed to partners who need to complete one.
2. Grants/funding: Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District is contributing \$10,000 toward the coordinator position again this year. The City of North Saint Paul's City Council just passed a request of support and increased their contribution to \$2000. Ann reported on the status of the 2014 BWSR CWMA Grant. The grant was accepted but there was a glitch with the work plan. The fields appeared to self-populate, but apparently only some of them did, so it needs to be redone.
3. Cost share applications (funded by the 2012-2014 BWSR CWMA Cost-Share Grant) have been received from Saint Paul Parks and Recreation and the City of North St. Paul. The City of Maplewood is planning to submit one as well. Ann interjected that Minnesota Conservation Corp (MCC) removals were not eligible for RCCWMA cost-share reimbursement, since the MCC is a state agency. The BWSR grant is state funded so matches have to be from non-state agencies.
4. Volunteer program updates: Nineteen residents attended the Introduction to the Invasive Plant Patrol program held at Maplewood Nature Center on March 20th. There were 6 people unable to attend who are planning to come to one of the two trainings this weekend. It looks like we will have about 22 volunteers this spring. Carole is willing to do additional trainings for North St. Paul, various staff and interns and late-comers.
5. Carole announced the scheduling of an Invasive Plant Blitz at Fish Creek in south Maplewood & St. Paul. One portion is owned by the city of Maplewood and another by Ramsey County Park and Recreation. Carole will run the blitz similar to past tours to recruit partners and their associates. Four species which have been reported in the past will be targeted and marked and possibly pulled/removed. Species include Japanese hedge parsley, wild parsnip,

common tansy and Oriental bittersweet. An afternoon session of Youth Outdoors program of Conservation Corps Minnesota, will continue with Japanese hedge parsley pulling. Anything not pulled will hopefully have been marked for follow-up contracted treatment.

- B. Minnesota Department of Agriculture: Monika moved that we discuss the updates to the Noxious Weed Law where it was also listed under New Business/Open Discussion. Monika introduced Emilie Justen; the new MDA state eradication coordinator. She works with landowners and MCC crews to ensure that species on the Noxious Weed Eradicate list are eradicated quickly. Emilie has been with MDA for nearly a year, coordinating work with MCC crews. She has been coordinating Oriental bittersweet removal in the Rochester/Red Wing area and is pleased with the speed of progress. She said once the crews got the hang of it, it was easier to remove than they thought it would be. She has also been working on the teasel in Southeastern MN. It doesn't seem to spread to quickly; it has pretty heavy seeds. Monika announced a workshop for parks and public works or other interested staff to learn how to identify early detection species. She will email the flier to Carole, who will forward it to the group.
- C. North St. Paul's City Council approved support of the RCCWMA coordinator position for 2014 in the amount of \$2000. Carole is trying to recruit more monitors from North St. Paul. There are several people monitoring Southwood Preserve, where the knotweed is being managed. Keith suggested contacting Laurie and Jan W. to get suggestions for church and other groups.

Carole introduced John Lampe who did test plots on the knotweed two years ago, followed up using the most promising method last year. The method he used has been used in Washington State but neither John nor Carole have found any scientific papers written on it. Stems are bent, but not broken in summer. After new shoots form, they are treated with a foliar spray of 2% glyphosate. This method has been used successfully in Washington state, but there haven't been papers written up yet, just some online references. A good contact for work done in Washington State (Extension office) is Tim Miller, who has had success with 8.8% Aquamaster (glyphosate). NSP has applied for cost share to continue the treatment this year. John will be their contractor.

- D. Maplewood: Ginny said she was looking at submitting a cost share for tansy and Oriental bittersweet treatments this year. She was planning to hire a contractor and not using MCC crews. She is working on pulling that information together and getting bids.
- E. Saint Paul Parks and Recreation has also submitted a cost share application and may use MCC crews. The city may benefit from Invasive Plant Monitors this season. Meghan will send Carole a map of the parks, since there seem to be St. Paul, Roseville and Ramsey County Parks overlapping in some areas and Carole doesn't have a good handle on who owns which park. Meghan will also list the highest priority areas. Two volunteers are interested in Reservoir Woods, Bruce Vento Trail and Sanctuary and Hidden Falls/Crosby Parks.
- F. Ryan has a new position created by the city of Roseville. He is under the Public

Works and Engineering Department; Dwayne Schwartz is his supervisor.

- i. He has been there since December and the responsibilities are still evolving. He mostly deals with storm water management issues. He may be responsible for invasive species in the near future.
 - ii. Monika answered a question about EAB in Roseville. She thought the part-time forester was having a difficult time keeping up with it; there are a lot of infected trees and they aren't all on park property. Ryan added that the city likes to stay off private property.
 - iii. Carole will email links to Ryan of the EDDMapS reports of cut-leaved teasel and Oriental bittersweet in Roseville.
- G. AHATS: Mary Lee was not able to make it today, but Carole and Mike gave a brief update from the AHATS Annual Natural Resource meeting last week. Brian Sanoski from Wright County Conservation District was hired to manage invasive species at AHATS and Camp Ripley. He has a lot of experience managing wild parsnip. He has been working at Camp Ripley to date, but will start at AHATS as well. The cypress spurge treatment is going well...
- H. Ramsey County Public Works: Chuck asked whether RCCWMA cost-share money could be used for buckthorn removal. Since it can only be used for treatment of early detection target species, Carole suggested applying for reimbursement to treat the teasel in Roseville and tansy along McKnight Road (CR 68). A brief discussion of Carole's request for a turtle-crossing sign on CR68, on behalf of Maplewood staff, ensued and was tabled; to be continued with a RC staff contact at a later time.
- I. Ramsey County Parks and Recreation: Mike said he was also contracting with Minnesota Conservation Corps for removal projects. He received a list of hot spots from John Moriarty, when he took over the position last year. He has also treated several patches that Carole reported after he came on board. He and Carole also checked out a report of water lettuce and water hyacinth at Perry Park in Arden Hills. Carole said she'd do a follow-up check to see if it overwintered. If it has, Mike and Carole have discussed getting a canoe to see if it is in additional parts of that waterway.
- J. MNDOT: There were not any MNDOT staff attending. Carole said she would be attending their annual Pesticide Applicators training on April 17th. The annual MNDOT Roadside Vegetation training meeting had to be rescheduled due to a snowstorm. Carole was not able to attend the rescheduled meeting because it conflicted with her Maplewood job.
- K. National Park Service: Nancy said much of the NSP activities have centered on the restoration at Coldwater Creek and Minnehaha/Fort Snelling. National Parks received a grant to do herbicide trials on Narrow-leaf bittercress two years ago and that is in progress.

III. Action Items

- A. Reminder to renew/sign MOUs if necessary

IV. New Business/Open discussion

- A. Monika gave an overview of the 2014 Minnesota Noxious Weed Advisory Committee updates to the Minnesota Noxious Weed Law:

- i. Species on the Noxious Weed Eradicate List did not change this year. Garlic mustard was moved from the Prohibited Control List to the Restricted List. It was determined to be too difficult to enforce management without having biocontrols as a management tool. This may change when biocontrols become available.
 - ii. Musk thistle was removed from the Noxious Weed List entirely, because it becomes established in disturbed areas and does not invade undisturbed sites. Rather than concentrating on the plant itself, it makes more sense to stabilize any disturbance for prevention. Roadsides with musk thistle will continue to receive attention. Counties can be add musk thistle to their lists if they wish.
 - iii. Knotweeds (Japanese and Giant) were added to the Specially Regulated List. Nurseries must attach a warning label to each pot or plant knotweed being sold, advising not to be planted within 100 feet of a waterway or floodplain.
 - iv. Japanese barberry was not added to the Noxious Weed List, however, the Commissioner signed an order to phase-out varieties that produce 600 or more seeds per plant. This will be a three year phase-out. Connecticut and Wisconsin have also gone this route and it seems to be working well.
- B. Possible EDDMapS training; audience targeting, scheduling, publicity: members felt that a *Train the Trainers Workshop* in late May is a better idea than training non-professionals. Then trainers, like Meghan, Mike and Ryan could train their staff. Monika is creating a list of EDDMapS verifiers, who can check reports and a list of super-users who can edit other people's reports. This would help for example, if someone mistakes cow parsnip for giant hogweed.
- C. Volunteer Waiver forms and background check discussion: Carole asked the group whether they required volunteers to sign waivers for liability reasons and/or background checks. Maplewood requires both; Saint Paul Parks require a waiver, as does Ramsey County Parks. Ramsey Conservation District and Roseville do not.
- D. Midwest Invasive Plant Conference will be held in Duluth this October. Details to be determined.
- E. The group asked for an update on the emerald ash borer (EAB) survival after our harsh winter. Monika replied that a spring survey found 30- 70% mortality of EAB larva from freezing. Fort Snelling was one of the survey areas. Minus 30°F appears to be the magic number for EAB mortality. Larvae of the parasitoids were found last fall in Winona last year, so they have a reproducing population and are dispersing ½ mile away from the release sites. They are being re-released at the sites. Parasitoids suffered mortality from freezing as well. Funds for the EAB program (trapping and regulations) has been cut from \$1,000,000 to \$100,000 for this year. Studies have also shown that root kill has been demonstrated with injections. ?

V. Set next meeting date and location:

- A. Carole will set up another Doodle poll for our next meeting, likely in June.

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- A. Carole will send out a new Doodle poll in mid to late June to schedule our next

meeting in June or July..

IV. Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 pm

V. Addendum:

A. Signed MOUs may be mailed to:

Ann White Eagle
Ramsey Conservation District
1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive
Highway 96 & Hamline Ave
Arden Hills, MN 55112

or, they may be scanned and emailed to: ann.whiteeagle@co.ramsey.mn.us.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Gernes, 5/12/14

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