

Minutes
Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area (RCCWMA) Meeting
Monday, December 19, 2016; 12:00 pm – 2:00 p.m.

Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
2665 Noel Drive Little Canada, MN 55117
651-792-7959

I. Call to order and introductions, 12:10 pm

- A. In attendance: Nancy Duncan, National Park Service – Mississippi National River Recreation Area (MNRRA); Anna Waugh and Mary Hammes, Mississippi Park Connection; Laura Van Riper, MNDNR; John Lampe, Green Shoots; Ginny Gaynor, City of Maplewood; Emily Dunlap and Shannon Montante, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation; Simba Blood, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District; Monika Chandler, Minnesota Department of Agriculture; Carole Gernes, Ramsey County CWMA.

II. Partner updates

- A. Ramsey Conservation District/RCCWMA:
 - 1. Carole summarized RCCWMA 2016 accomplishments via a PowerPoint presentation and discussed continued challenges, including training public works and park staff to clean their equipment to stop the spread of invasive plants.
- B. Other partner updates
 - 1. New in attendance were Anna Waugh and Mary Hammes from the non-profit Mississippi Park Connection (formerly known as Mississippi Park Fund). Mississippi Park Connection supports the Mississippi National River Recreation Area in the five county metro area, all the way south to Hastings, MN; working within partner's plans.
 - 2. Minnesota Noxious Weed Advisory Committee updates
 - 3. Laura brought 2017 MISAC Invasive Species Calendars for the group and asked for species suggestions for future editions.

III. New Business/Open discussion

- A. Mississippi Park Connection is looking for input on natural resource management plans in the Mississippi River corridor, and advice on whether starting their own CWMA would be advised or working with established CWMAs along sections. The organization has a Green Corps forester. We discussed how the Minnesota CWMAs were set up by the Board of Soil and Water Resources by awarding grants to County Soil and Water/Conservation Districts. Carole invited Mississippi volunteers to attend RCCWMA volunteer training sessions. Monika also suggested volunteers attend the Minnesota Extension Invasive Blitz trainings which are announced on the Minnesota Master Naturalist Website.

Anna and Mary encouraged RCCWMA partners to attend the Working Together for a Better Mississippi River Conversation, Thursday February 23, 2017, 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM CST; Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, 2522 Marshall Street Northeast, Minneapolis, MN 55418. Carole will share the invitation on the RCCWMA Facebook page and email it to partners.

- B. On the topic of invasive plant trainings, Shannon would like to see volunteer,

Conservation Corps (including Youth Outdoors) and professional trainings. Carole gave praise for MNDOT's spring trainings. She thought a MNDOT training for city staff would likely make a bigger impact on city staff than CWMA trainings. Information on protecting saplings from weed whipping could be covered as well. Monika let the group know about new managers trainings this year. Extension received money to purchase tablets to use during training.

- C. Laura was asked about the status of garlic mustard biocontrols. A petition for release was filed for the weevil that we've discussed at past meetings. APHIS is asking for more species to be tested. More than one biocontrol species attacking different plant parts will provide better control/ do more damage than one species alone. The tested species under review have root crown and seed feeding larvae.
- D. Monika brought sealed voucher specimens of Palmer amaranth, which was discovered in Yellow Medicine County, in a restoration project. It likely arrived in contaminated seed. Crews are incinerating plants and seed in the fields. Treatment will continue into the growing season. Identification characteristics include petioles longer than the leaves and long, undulating seed heads. There are male and female flowers.
- E. Simba asked about the status of baby's breath and whether it is moving into the metro area. It has been reported in Park Rapids. There is a 50 acre infestation at Camp Ripley¹, members were not sure which species. Members thought it would be difficult to deal with. Baby's breath² is a regulated species in Alberta. There may have been a weed of the month posting for California Davis in the past³.
- F. Ginny asked whether false spirea is causing any problems. Carole knew about a couple of reports in the Duluth area, but nothing local.
- G. Jumping worms have been reported at the University of Minnesota Campus and Dodge Nature Center. They are spreading due to use as bait and as a big box store mulch contaminant.
- H. Cottonwoods are being planted along the Mississippi River in areas where reed canary grass is being controlled. The trees will likely shade out the reed canary as they grow.

IV. Set next meeting date and location:

- A. Carole will set up another Doodle poll for our next meeting; likely in February or March. Members suggested requesting to hold our next meeting at the Bell Herbarium on Wednesday, February 1st, asking for a plant pressing demonstration similar to the one we had at the EDDMapS Verifiers meeting a year ago, and seeing vouchers of species such as Japanese and common barberry, Japanese, Bohemian and giant knotweeds.

V. Adjourn meeting, 2:00 pm

VI. Addendum

¹Voucher specimens at the Bell Herbarium include *Gypsophila paniculata* from Anoka, Becker, Beltrami, Benton, Cass, Clearwater, Hubbard, Itasca, Morrison, Pine, Ramsey, Renville, Todd and Wadena Counties; *Gypsophila muralis* from Aitkin, Itasca, Lake,

Otter Tail, Lake, St. Louis; and *Gypsophila elegans* from Cass and Kittson Counties. The voucher of *G. paniculata* from Morrison County was collected from Camp Ripley.

² *Gypsophila paniculata*

³ http://wric.ucdavis.edu/information/natural%20areas/wr_G/Gypsophila.pdf
http://msuinvasiveplants.org/documents/extension/weed_posts/2015/May_babys_breath.pdf