Minutes

Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area Meeting / Invasive Plant Tour
Wednesday, October 29, 2018
1:00 pm – 3:00 p.m.

Meet at Stillwater Manchu Tuber Gourd Site,
Intersection of Cherry and Everette Streets,
Stillwater, MN 55082

I. **Call to order and introductions, 1:10 pm.** In attendance: Carole Gernes, Division of Soil and Water Conservation - Ramsey County CWMA; Laura Van Ripe, MNDNR; Christa Rittberg, Gary Hipple, Laurie Robinson and Mark Larson, CWMA volunteers; Ginny Gaynor, City of Maplewood; Simba Blood and Chris O'Brien, Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District; Dăna Larsen Ramsay, H.B. Fuller Company/Willow Lake Preserve; Emily Dunlap, Linnea Wier and Maggie Barnick, Saint Paul Parks; Tony Randazzo, Washington Conservation District; Heather Butkowski, City of Lauderdale; Dave Woods, Urban Roots; Justin Townsend, Ramsey County Parks and Recreation, Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

Carole updated the group on dissolution of Ramsey Conservation District in July of this year. The district was absorbed by Ramsey County Parks and Recreation and is now the Division of Soil and Water Conservation, retaining all staff with little interruption in services. Offices remain in Arden Hills and all phone numbers remain the same.

II. **Site 1, Stillwater Manchu Tuber Gourd**

Tony Randazzo, Washington Conservation District, led the group, discussing history, rediscovery and treatment trials being conducted on Manchu tuber gourd in McKusick Ravine Park; Stillwater. Vines had been killed by frost prior to our visit, were dry and fragile and easily overlooked. Carole Gernes passed photos of vines taken in August, when they covered shrubs and trees much like kudzu. A RCCWMA training participant reported a second infestation in Stillwater, also in a gorge. Tony checked that report to confirm it, but said it did not look as extensive as this infestation. Treatment of that site will begin next year.

III. **Site 2, Maplewood Nature Center Oriental Bittersweet**

Carole discussed past use of the site and passed photos of the infestation prior to treatment. Large vines were cut by Joy Cedarleaf's Century College Biology students over the course of several years and treated by Maplewood Nature Center staff. A Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) CWMA Grant funded foliar treatments of the thick, smaller diameter vines that looped down the steep slope and stairs; creating tripping hazards. Grant funds were used to treat the 2018 top ten priority infestations in the county. The contractor hired by Ramsey Conservation District was Minnesota Native Landscapes. Carole described the seed mix and plugs, also installed by the college students. Some of the graminoids were up and creating ground cover.

IV. **Site 3, Roseville Cut-Leaved Teasel**

Carole led participants through the site pointing out areas where teasel had been eliminated, to an area still infested with small rosettes. Jeff Korpik's Century College Ecology students mechanically removed at least 150 large rosettes in late August. Carole followed up by removing 200 more in the ditch bordering Lexington Avenue. The site may be developed for single family housing in the near future. Carole spoke to the contractors regarding keeping soil on site to prevent movement of teasel seeds.

V. Site 4, Lauderdale Japanese knotweed

Heather Butkowski introduced the group to the site where planted knotweed had spread downhill from a condominium complex, to form a tall hedge along apartment garages and then further downhill to public and private wetlands to the south and southwest. This infestation was also treated through BWSR's CWMA Grant. Treatment methods included bending stems down to induce production of more shoots, followed by a foliar herbicide treatment. Tony asked which herbicide was used. He recently read that Milestone was the most effective. Carole said she'd check her notes from the knotweed session at last week's Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference and add an addendum to the minutes to share with the group.

VI. Next meeting

A. Justin will set up a Doodle poll for our next meeting/tour in early December.

VII. Adjourn meeting, 3:15 pm

VIII. Addendum

Summary of two UMISC presentations regarding herbicide effectiveness on invasive knotweeds:

A. Invasive Knotweed Control: On the Ground Experiences

Katie Grzesiak, Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network, Grand Traverse Conservation District, 1450 Cass Rd., Traverse City, MI 49685; kgrzesiak@gtcd.org; 231-941-0960.

Foliar spot spray applications:

1. Milestone works in late spring to early summer (very effective in spring when ~3 ft tall)
    a. Trees are sensitive
    b. Not aquatic approved
2. Habitat
    a. Aquatic approved, but trees are sensitive

For areas with trees and water:

3. Clearcast (Imazamox) cocktail (5% Clearcast + 1-2% mso (methylated seed oil) + 1-2% glyphosate)
    a. Use 60 days before frost
4. What doesn't work; vinegar and glyphosate. Glyphosate only top kills.

Cut stem and injection applications;

- use in sensitive areas or on small populations
- more time consuming
- establish injector checkout program for homeowners

Herbicides:

a. Milestone
b. Glyphosate (works for injections)
c. Clearcast cocktail

B. Optimizing Japanese Knotweed Control and Estimating Costs

Mark Renz, University of Wisconsin; 1575 Linden Dr., Madison WI 53706; mrenz@wisc.edu; 608-263-7437.

Study included:

- herbicide effectiveness (selective and non-selective)
- application timing

- effectiveness of mowing prior to application:
    - mowed in June at 10-12 inches tall, allowed to resprout; herbicide applied at 1 – 2 ft tall in July or
    - mowed, mowed July and sprayed in September
- cover change over time
- treatment costs over time (labor only)

Results:

1. Imazapyr (Arsenal) applied in summer or fall, to previously mowed populations, provided the best long term control (18 months). This herbicide was more effective when applied in July than in September. It also resulted in the most bare ground after treatment.
2. Aminopyralid (Milestone) was more effective when applied in September, and resulted in more grass cover after treatment. Control was high for 12 months, then fell sharply. Mowing prior to Milestone use did not increase control, but is beneficial for other reasons (not spraying over your head, amount of herbicide used, time reduction / labor costs).
3. Can get similar results using glyphosate if used at higher brush concentrations in September.
4. Costs decrease significantly over time:
    - Year 1 treatment: $19 / 1000 square feet
    - Year 2 treatment: $4 / 1000 square feet ($174 / acre)
    - Year 3 treatment $1 / 1000 square feet
    - None of the populations were eradicated in 3 years, so continued monitoring/ spot spraying necessary after year 3.

    Summary: Initial high costs reduced 3 fold in later years.
5. Percent knotweed cover over time:
    a. Year 1: Reduced to 63% cover
    b. Year 2: 22% cover
    c. Year 3: 13% cover

    Summary: Restoration after control is necessary. Vegetation remaining included creeping Charlie, thistle. State-wide management plans need to be developed.