

Minutes
Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area Meeting
Wednesday, July 26, 2017; 1:00 pm – 3:30 p.m.

Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS)
4761 Hamline Avenue North, Arden Hills, MN 55126

I. Call to order and introductions, 1:10 pm

- A. In attendance: Mary Lee, Minnesota National Guard; Steve Hockett, Great River Greening; Nancy Duncan and Erin Steinhibel; National Park Service; Maya Swope, Mississippi Park Connection; Emily Dunlap, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation; Michelle Prosser, Justin Townsend, Andrea Prichard and Dan Wolski, Ramsey Conservation District; Amy Jo Forslund, Tamarack Nature Center; Clair Riley, Mary Range, Erik Bicknese and Emily Ward, Conservation Corps MN; Carole Gernes, Ramsey County CWMA.

II. Partner updates

- A. Ramsey Conservation District/RCCWMA:
1. Updates to educational fliers have begun in order to include control methods and save the amount of time Carole spends on emails and phone calls about same. Handouts passed out to group:
 - a. A new Japanese hedge parsley flier, with management info in the flier text (one page).
 - b. An updated common tansy flier with Non-chemical and the top two chemical control methods on the back page (snips from the Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) Control Database).
 2. Carole summarized Laura's update on approval of garlic mustard biocontrols from the February meeting.
 3. Mary passed around Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Spotted Knapweed Biocontrol handouts and bottle collectors (developed by Monika Chandler of MDA). She gave an overview of AHATS history. The land (1500 acres) was formerly farmed and acquired by eminent domain. The entire area was mapped in 30 days. At first, there wasn't much maintenance done. There was no stabilization of the gravel pit we will visit today.

Two biocontrol weevils have been released at AHATS; a seed head weevil and root weevils. Root weevils are found by looking for areas with dead plants. The first releases were done 10 years ago. Releases need to be documented with MDA and include release dates and GPS coordinates.

This is a bit early for beetle collection, they are likely just starting to feed on flowers. Seed head weevil adults feed for 30 days then repeat the cycle.

2. Michelle, Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) updated us on the CWMA BWSR contracted treatment; 10 high priority infestations have been treated and checked for effectiveness. RCD will follow up by seeding the treated areas.

III. Open Discussion/Action Items

- A. Steve introduced himself as a new staff member of Great River Greening (GRG). He discussed use of goats in areas where prescribed burning may cause problems. Both grazers and browsers are used for restorations. Goats prefer woody species. The University of Utah developed a behavior modification program, "*Behave*", where they train goats to eat specific plant species, (such as garlic mustard) in a relatively short time period (about 3 days). They do not need to be trained to eat buckthorn and love to eat the resprouts. Dodge Nature Center provides goats for GRG projects. A intense sheep/ goat/ cattle rotation in a fenced section is followed by a rest period for a couple seasons.
- B. We discussed Japanese beetle control; some recent literature claims milky spore does not work. Parasitic nematodes require watering your lawn to keep them alive. Some birds and ground squirrels eat Japanese beetles.

IV. Field session:

- A. Mary showed us a map of collection and release areas for the day, passed out beetle collection and water bottles. We caravanned to two areas to collect beetles, drove to a third location and released the beetles.
- B. We wrapped up by climbing to the highest point in the county for a photo op.
- C. Returned to parking lot and building to pick up any items left in the meeting room

V. Set next meeting date and location:

- A. Carole will set up another Doodle poll for our next meeting; likely in late September or early October. Some site suggestions include the Bell Herbarium at the University of Minnesota's St. Paul Campus; and the Sunray Library, which reportedly has invasive knotweed coming up through the floors in its new addition.

VI. Adjourn meeting, 3:30 pm