

Minutes
Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area Meeting
Monday, April 18 2011, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation
2015 North Van Dyke St., Maplewood, MN 55109

I. Meeting opened at 12:05 pm

Attendees: Simba Blood – Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, Katy Chayka – volunteer, Chuck Fielder – Ramsey County Public Works, Carole Gernes – RCCWMA, Justin Knabe – MN DOT, John Moriarty - Ramsey County Parks, Steve Pavek – MN DOT.

II. Action Items

A. Partner updates

1. John told group about an MPR spot (this morning) about the nutrition of weeds: “Foraging the Weeds for Wild Healthy Greens”. Garlic mustard (discussed as a weed- not invasive plant) supposedly has the highest nutrition value. We should promote picking and eating. Carole found this link to the program later:
<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/features/npr.php?id=135412640>
2. On the topic of Japanese knotweed, John said that the population of knotweed at Battle Creek, upstream from the new float, (just off lower Afton) was almost gone.
3. Steve reported on a Japanese knotweed population on a steep slope off Hwy 95 in Stillwater. He said DOT used a new spreader/sticker with Accord herbicide and after 3 years the knotweed is gone.
4. John reported that the County will be using grant money to remove Japanese knotweed and buckthorn at Grass Lake Park, but they would not be treating garlic mustard.
5. Carole will ask Laura Van Riper and Monika Chandler for an update on garlic mustard weevils.
6. Carole relayed Monika’s question: whether anyone has spotted Grecian foxglove in Ramsey County. No one had. The closest the group reported were the Stillwater and Afton State Park sightings.
7. Steve updated the group on the possible Oriental bittersweet found in Hastings. The DOT is waiting to determine which species is present.
8. Carole mentioned advertising fliers by Michigan Bulb Company. The flier says they are selling American bittersweet, but the photo is obviously Oriental. Carole will contact Monika about this.
9. Carole asked Chuck about teens, who need community service hours, digging teasel at Lexington and County C2. He gave the go-ahead.
10. John asked whether Carole had contacted the Canadian Pacific Railroad/Asplund contractor, regarding the wild parsley on County Road E. Carole hadn’t, but said she would.
11. Katy asked whether anyone had taken care of the non-native poison hemlock at Long Lake Park. She described it as an embankment about 20 x 15 feet, uphill from water. It has not been sprayed.

B. Update on Carole’s activities:

1. Carole passed Maplewood Invasive Plant Patrol binder around. Parks/Open Spaces being monitored include those from Maplewood, a couple from North St. Paul, Battle Creek East (Ramsey County) and the Ramsey County wetland that is west of Casey Lake. We also have a volunteer watching Pike Island (Fort Snelling State Park), Cosby Farm and Hidden Falls (St. Paul Parks). Monitors are Master gardeners, Master Naturalists, Maplewood Volunteers and from the MN Native Plant Society.
2. RCCWMA Facebook page still needs more work. A redo may work best, without it being linked to Carole's personal page.
3. Will table at Waterfest, Saturday, May 21, at Lake Phalen.
4. Will present/table at "Landscape Revival- Native Plant Sale and Expo, Saturday, June 9th, in Roseville.
5. CWMA budget- Grants
 1. Approximately \$11,692.82 of grant used as of 4/9/11
 2. Received Minnesota Naturalist Association Environmental Stewardship Grant for GPS unit and accessories (small grant).
 3. Looking into other grant possibilities as time allows
6. Carole also expressed interest in the May Master Naturalist Annual Conference, confirmed that it was at Northwestern College and said she'd look into it.

III. New Business/Open discussion

- A. Discussion moved to details of the proposed July invasive plant field trip: Because bus transportation was not available, the group decided that meeting at Battle Creek Park, 9:00 am, on Tuesday, July 19th would be the best option. John will send an email with details.
- B. The group had a short discussion regarding petitioning to add Japanese knotweed to the noxious weed list. It is on the Noxious Weed Advisory Committee evaluation list. Monika emailed this morning to let the group know that we could petition for it to be on the county list, but we should think about that decision carefully, because if the county lists it, it would have to be enforced. Based on that information, the county will not move to list it.
 1. Honeysuckle is also on the evaluation list. A short discussion of honeysuckle removal success followed.
 2. Pea shrub was also mentioned as being difficult because it is a legume and has suckers. Transline™ or Milestone™ work well on legumes.
 3. Burr oak blight was mentioned as a new oak disease.

IV. Set next meeting date and location:

- A. Carole will set up another Doodle poll for our next meeting and will offer fewer choices.

V. Meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm

Respectfully submitted by Carole Gernes, 4/20/11