

**Minutes**  
**Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area (RCCWMA) Meeting**  
**Friday, 9 November 2012, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 pm**

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

**I. Meeting opened at 2:10 a.m.**

Attendees: Carole Gernes – RCCWMA, Laura Van Riper – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR); Nancy Duncan – National Park Service, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA); Monika Chandler – Minnesota Department of Agriculture; Simba Blood – Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District; Ginny Gaynor – City of Maplewood.

**II. CWMA partner updates**

1. Noting the lack of MNDOT attendees, Monika mentioned that most MNDOT employees work four - 10 hour days a week; many of them are off on Fridays. Carole took note of this for scheduling future RCCWMA meetings.
2. Laura brought a stack of 2013 Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council Invasive Species Calendars and MN DNR “Stop Invasive Species in your Tracks” posters for the group to distribute.
3. Monika and Laura updated the group on the 2012 Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) that was held in La Crosse, WI; October 29-31. Online information is posted at [UMISC2012.org](http://UMISC2012.org).
  - A. Opening plenary speakers included an update on Asian carp control strategy (John Goss) Peter Riech and Don Waller discussing invasive drivers and passengers, and a discussion about consequences of fecundity reduction as a “safe” alternative in cultivars of invasive perennial plants (Kayri Haven-Young). The results of the latter suggest that the only “safe” cultivars of invasive long-lived woody plants are sterile.
  - B. UMISC field trips were deemed interesting and worthwhile. One stop was a western Wisconsin chestnut plantation where chestnut blight did not infect the trees until 1987. American chestnut is not native to Wisconsin and this plantation was very isolated, so it took longer for the fungus to get there. Biological controls (a hypovirus, which inactivates the fungus) are being investigated there.

This trip also explored a heavy emerald ash borer infestation at a state forest; an Oriental bittersweet infestation in Winona MN; and Annosum root rot (*Heterobasidion irregular*), a fungal disease which may infect several genera of trees (conifers and deciduous). The fungus produces

little white puffs on tree roots that are visible to the naked eye.  
Participants sanitized their footgear with alcohol before leaving this site.

C. Other presentations attended:

Policeman's helmet, *Impatiens glandulifera* and *Impatiens balfourii*. Both are likely to be able to grow in MN (one present in WI and Michigan the other in Canada). *I. balfourii* has been reported, but not confirmed in northern MN, planted as a contaminant in plants purchased for shoreland restoration. *I. glandulifera* has not yet been reported in MN.

Tony Cortilet and Tim Powers presented the MISAC Japanese barberry risk assessment. They emphasize that it is important to show why a species is bad, not just say it is bad, in order to convince the landscape industry why it should be prohibited. Show examples of its effect on natural areas. MIPN is producing a video geared toward the landscape trade.

4. Carole brought up a recent article in Better Homes and Gardens that recommended porcelain berry for an arbor panting. The group recommended writing a letter to the editor or online forum (which may or may not be published).
5. Nancy mentioned a talk given by Mark Davis, from Macalester College, for NPS staff, where he said economic impacts (landscape industry) should be considered and that not all invasives were bad. He did not discuss the economic impact of loss of native flora and fauna, erosion, etc., when invasives colonize.
6. Monika and Laura updated the group of the MISAC recommendations to the Ag commissioner regarding the latest species risk assessments:
  - A. Non-native *Phragmites*, which is/has been planted in water treatment areas has been deemed too widespread to be a prohibited/eradicate species and has been placed on the restricted noxious weed list, much like common buckthorn. It cannot be sold, transported, planted in MN.
  - B. The *Miscanthus* species risk assessment is waiting for references and is not listed. Recommendations are to place *M. sinensis* on a watch list.
  - C. Black swallow wort will likely be placed on the prohibited noxious weed list in 2013. Pale swallow wort will not be listed. It grows further south and will most likely not be a problem here.
  - D. Marsh thistle (*Cirsium palustre*) had a well done risk assessment. There is a concern that the noxious weed list is getting too long, so it will not be listed at this time even though it has been found in Wisconsin.
  - E. Giant and Japanese knotweed will be specially regulated, requiring a label warning against planting it near waterways. The landscaping industry will probably phase it out rather than sell it with a required label.

- F. For Japanese barberry, discussion will likely revolve around whether it should be recommended that highly fecund cultivars should be phased out.
7. Ginny asked about emerald ash borer (EAB) in the area. She said she received a call from the DNR to see what trees were taken down in construction projects where trees were removed. The Maplewood City Council decided not to allow chemical tree treatment on city land.

Monika replied that EAB has been pretty quiet here but they are dropping a lot of trees in Houston County MN. Active treatment of trees is spotty. Trees are being treated in Milwaukee and along the Mississippi river in St. Paul, but not in Minneapolis. EAB was found at Fort Snelling Golf Course, along the bluff. The City of Minneapolis used that area to dispose of their storm damaged trees before 2009. It may be at the new NSP Coldwater property (Steve Kotovich?).

The MN Department of Agriculture has a new online app that allows you to measure the distance between your trees and the nearest infected trees. It leaves it up to the person checking to determine the risk to their trees.

Rob Venette gave a good talk on the EAB invasion scenario: fewer EAB larvae are overwintering in Grand Rapids research area than southern MN. It may be that Minnesota has a different scenario than Michigan. Nancy asked if there were studies on selection for cold hardiness. There are not studies on EAB overwintering cold hardiness selection due to difficulties in raising the beetles, but there have been similar studies of the overwintering larval instars of light brown apple moths.

8. Carole updated the group on the decision to extend the cost-share grant moneys to cities (she needs to justify this change in her e-link reporting). She gave a short update on additional treatment of the fruiting-sized Oriental bittersweet at Maplewood Nature Center. The plan is to try to brush cut the remaining small vines that are cascading down the hillside this fall. A follow-up foliar treatment would be done next year after resprouts start. The group recommended a foliar treatment in July using 2-3% Garlon®. Carole mentioned the “sticker” that Steve from MNDOT used on the cliff near the WI border. It is called New Film® and is really sticky. It holds the herbicide on to the leaves longer to increase absorption time. He only had to do one application. Nancy recalled that he said it is hard to clean from equipment. Equipment needs to be cleaned right away or it gums things up. Carole also mentioned that he said it was fairly inexpensive and comes in pint bottles if you only need a little.
9. Carole updated the group on additional reports of wild parsnip along Minnehaha Ave right-of-way, Vista Hills Park in Maplewood (pulled by Invasive Plant Patrol volunteers) and discovery of additional spread along County Road E in Arden Hills/ Shoreview. She brought up the statement by Steve from MNDOT at our last meeting, that Escort kills parsnip seeds even if they are mature when the plants are sprayed. Most of the group thought that seeds would still germinate, but seedlings would be killed by residual herbicide in the soil.

10. Carole discussed trying to identify a stand of bittersweet in Acorn Park (Roseville) and asked the group if they had tried to id Oriental bittersweet by forcing leaf buds during the summer, rather than during the spring. Nancy said she had and had mixed results. Some of her tested vines opened like Oriental bittersweet. Later she learned that the plants that were taking over a large forested area were the native American bittersweet. Carole concurred; her experiment showed leaves opening book-like and unrolling. Identification of these plants will have to wait until spring.
11. Carole mentioned the bittersweet in Gervais Millpond Park in Little Canada that did not have fruit for the second year, but had many rounded leaves. The vines were removed by the watershed district as a precaution.

### **III. New Business/Open Discussion**

Discussion concerning the lack of applications for the BWSR cost share grant money became the focus of the rest of the meeting.

Members suggested calling Dan Shaw to check to see if an extension or further flexibility (in the target species list) was possible. Simba is interested in finding out if the watershed district is eligible along with cities. Members suggesting calling Craig Andresen to see what he is working on, he may be able to get work done fast. Simba will send Megan from St. Paul's contact info. She took Nate's place in the Ecoservices dept.

Suggestions were made regarding future funding for RCCWMA:

One suggestion was to seek funding from cities and corporations within the county. One benefit of partnering with RCCWMA would be to receive services from a hired contractor who would control species on partner sites. The proposal letter would state here is what you get for \$\_\_\_\_; make sure to state deliverables such as a site survey, coordination with a contractor, treatment of up to \_\_\_\_ area per year. Figure out & state how many partners will be needed to make this work.

Deliverables should be promoted as being free to partners: offer training for city/ corp staff, training for IPP volunteers, identification training sessions, tours, liaison services/ communications/ recognition to prevent problems down the road. Connect land owners with biocontrol resources and pool with other entities to get basic training for species like buckthorn.

Monika referenced the Department of Agriculture's First Detectors program. They are training 600-700 volunteers throughout the state this winter.

Members suggested looking for grant opportunities from Wild Ones, Parks and Trails and perhaps the Izaak Walton League.

### **IV. Set next meeting date and location:**

- A. Carole will send out a new Doodle poll to schedule a meeting in January.

**V. Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm**

**VI. Addendum:**

- a. For more information on the MNDNR's Play/Clean/Go campaign, go to <http://www.playcleango.org/>
- b. For information about giant Miscanthus and biofuels: <http://www.nwf.org/~media/PDFs/Wildlife/Growing%20Risk-2-FINAL-LOW-RES.ashx>

Respectfully submitted by Carole Gernes, 11/26/12

Carole Gernes  
RCCWMA Coordinator  
Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District  
2665 Noel Drive  
Little Canada, MN 55117  
(651) 792-7977 fax (651) 792-7951  
[carole.gernes@rwmwd.org](mailto:carole.gernes@rwmwd.org)  
<http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/cd/cwma.htm>