

Minutes
Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area (RCCWMA) Meeting
Tuesday, December 17 2013, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

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

I. Meeting opened at 1:05 p.m.

Introductions were made. Attendees included Carole Gernes, RCCWMA; Mary Lee, Arden Hills Army Training Site, MN National Guard; Nancy Duncan, National Park Service-Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (NPS-MNRRRA); Laura Van Riper, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR); Mike Goodnature, Ramsey County Parks and Recreation; Ann White Eagle, Ramsey Conservation District; Meghan Manhattan, St. Paul Parks and Recreation; Simba Blood, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District.

II. Partner updates

A. RCWMA:

1. Carole presented a short PowerPoint to be used for city councils/new partner recruitment and asked for critiques/suggestions. Suggestions included:
 - a. explain how the cooperation with partners works
 - b. focus on economics – use a shocking example – for instance the costs of trying to manage knotweed in Washington State.
 - c. Give an example that is an incoming threat to community:
 - i. flowering rush highlighted for White Bear Lake and lake associations
 - ii. wild parsnip health threat- get permission for a more dramatic burn photo, expand on cost of injuries and tie to management costs and mowing.
 - iii. Move on to discuss volunteers being our eyes in the field, finding prohibited invasive species (which must be legally managed or eradicated) while patches are small will help keep taxes low.
 - d. Include info on financial support and that it is not supported by the county
 - e. Mention staff trainings including Ramsey County Parks maintenance workers and public works
 - f. Explain role of coordinator being the point person to receive reports, map and get information to partner network; one city's work benefits its neighbors. "Be a good neighbor".
2. Carole gave a grants/funding update:
 - a. Did not receive National Fish and Wild Life Foundation Grant (2nd time). Is it worth the time to apply to these?
 - b. Submitted BWSR CWMA grant for 2014
 - c. Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District has pledged \$10,000 cash contribution to support the coordinator position.
 - d. North St. Paul likely to make another small contribution. Carole will present to city council, likely in February.
 - e. Seeking funding from additional cities. Will start volunteer program with St. Paul Park and Rec this year.

- B. Monika Chandler did not make it to the meeting due to illness, so the scheduled discussion of Emilie's new position was brief. Laura explained that the position will focus on Eradicate List species of Minnesota Noxious Weeds across the whole state; partnering with the Conservation Corps. The position is funded through the LCCMR for two or three years.
- C. Laura updated the group on the decision to phase out sales of the 20 seediest barberry cultivars, as Connecticut has done. Carole asked about how to sell removal of knotweeds, since they are not on the MN Noxious Weed List. Laura replied that Japanese knotweed is listed as a terrestrial invasive species on the MNDNR website. Laura also passed out 2014 MISAC Invasive Species calendars.
- D. Ryan Johnson, formerly of Ramsey Conservation District, just started a new position with the City of Roseville, in the Public Works Department. His first day was yesterday. Carole received a call from the city, saying he would attend, but apparently he did not get the message. Ann suggested that he come to the next meeting to explain MS4.

III. Action Items

- A. Carole reminded attendees to renew/sign MOUs if they hadn't yet. MOUs are good for five years and expire the end of 2013. Addition of a signing date to the last page was requested. Carole agreed to add the line and send out the new document.
- B. RCD 2012-2013 audit by BWSR: Carole will be emailing a spreadsheet with activities/infestations reported to each partner, meeting and tour attendance. Please assign an in-kind value for mapping, treatment, communications, facility use, tour planning, trainings, educational materials or other RCCWMA matches. Ann asked partners to use their normal billing rate to calculate values. She also said a simple check list of activities for each year might be sufficient for her records.
- C. While looking for an area for a native vs. non-native *Phragmites* field trip, Carole found that she made the only Metro Area report of European phenotype *Phragmites*, on EDDMapS. That patch is along a road without a shoulder and stopping would be a safety concern. Ann added that Ryan found a patch of the native at McCarron's Lake. Simba knows about a patch next to the new senior housing on Phalen.

IV. New Business/Open discussion

- A. Invasive Plant Tour(s). What species would you like to see?
 1. Carole presented these notes for the previously discussed possibility of a 2014 boat tour – Pontoon rental is on Bald Eagle Lake, 6, 9 or 10 passenger, \$89 or \$55/hour 1st hour; \$25/hour for additional hours. Known species present in the lake: flowering rush. The plants were hand pulled this past summer. We could look for more coming up but it might be best to look from land or skip this idea to prevent spread.
 2. Carole suggested a "Land Lubbers" tour of Fish Creek. Carole and Mike described the bluffs, a little limestone gorge and invasive species present including Japanese hedge parsley, wild parsnip, tansy and a heavily infested

area of burdock. The group was interested in setting this up. Carole will get the ok from Ginny Gaynor to tour the Maplewood Parcel. A date prior to prime Japanese hedge parsley treatment was suggested as a good time.

- B. Should target species be updated? Carole showed photos posted to Facebook of Burnnet-Saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*) discovered at Elm Creek Park Reserve; Three-Rivers Park District. A suggestion was made to ask if John Moriarty would be willing to show this and other nearby invasives. Carole will contact John. Angela Isaacson was hired by Three Rivers over the summer. Her position is funded for 5 years. The group decided to table discussion of updating the target list until we see the plant/infestation.
- C. Laura asked the group to submit suggestions for species to be included on the 2015 MISAC Invasive Species Calendar. She is in charge of coming up with species each year. Immediate suggestions were:
 - 1. Burnett saxifrage
 - 2. Feature some biocontrols
- D. Carole brought up Maplewood's plan to start a community garden at the Londin Lane Fire Station, since the development sale fell through. There is common tansy scattered in large patches covering 2.3 acres there. Simba suggested use of the MNDNR PlayCleanGo signs and benches with shoe brushes attached. These could also be used for park areas with tansy infestations. Participants should receive education on seed bank issues and preventing spread.

V. Set next meeting date and location:

- A. Carole will send out a new Doodle poll in mid to late January to schedule our next meeting in February. The agenda will include any updates to the Minnesota Noxious Weed Law (law updates to occur in January) .

IV. Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm

V. Addendum:

- A. Signed MOUs may be mailed to:

Ann White Eagle
Ramsey Conservation District
1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive
Highway 96 & Hamline Ave
Arden Hills, MN 55112

or, they may be scanned and emailed to: ann.whiteeagle@co.ramsey.mn.us.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Gernes, 1/3/14

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