

Minutes
Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area (RCCWMA) Meeting
Thursday, February 14, 2013, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm

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

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

Attendees: Carole Gernes – RCCWMA, Laura Van Riper – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR); Dana Larsen-Ramsay – H.B. Fuller Company; Simba Blood – Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District; Mary Lee – Arden Hills Army Training Site, MN National Guard; Katy Chayka – minnesotawildflowers.info.; Chuck Fiedler – Ramsey County Public Works; Dave Nelson – North St. Paul Environmental Advisory Commission.

II. CWMA partner updates and open Discussion

1. Introductions were made. Two new possible members, from North St. Paul and Roseville, were unable to attend.
2. Chuck commented on an email sent by Carole, thanking him for removing common buckthorn along County Road 68 (McKnight-Lakeside Dr). He did not recall any buckthorn projects going on in the area and said he'd check into it. He offered to pick up the Japanese knotweed, at the Larpenteur/McKnight strip mall, for free, if we offered free removal and got permission from the owners/tenants. The group thought this was a great idea and Carole said she would look into it.
3. Carole gave an update: she has approximately two more months of funding for her position if she keeps down to 8 hours or less per week. She said there was still \$10,000 in cost share funds for residents or cities to apply for. Projects need to be pre approved and then receipts submitted for reimbursement of up to 75% of the cost of removal. This applies to removal of the RCCWMA target species, not buckthorn. She sent out funding/new partner request letters and thought a couple of cities were interested. It may be possible to route some of the cost share funds into the coordinator position, but she wasn't sure.

Katy said she was having funding issues for minnesotawildflowers.info as well. She asked about tabling at events. Mary said Katy could have a table at the AHATS urban bird walk on June 8th and 9th. The Audubon butterfly count in August would be another possibility; contact is Dean Hanson. Seed collection of wildflowers could be another possibility. Carole mentioned the Izaak Walton League and offered to send contact info to Katy.

Carole contacted Canadian Pacific Railway about the new parsnip patches found west of Victoria on County Road E. She said the contractor (from Asplundh) was supposed to get a new mower this spring and up until now has only been spraying the parsnip. Chuck was sure Asplundh had a mower and was

wondering why they weren't using it. Chuck said perhaps the right-of-way is too steep for a regular mower.

Carole updated the group on the teasel at County Road C2 and Lexington in Roseville. She said after three herbicide treatments (Chuck and Katy) two flower-head removals (Katy) and a removal of seed heads (Carole) the number of seed heads collected was greatly reduced. Approximately 60 gallons of seed heads were collected in 2011 and about 1.5 gallons in 2012. There are still rosettes in need of treatment in 2013. She said she was still planning to work with that site; Chuck and Katy agreed to continue working on it as well.

Carole mentioned that a couple of new patches of Japanese hedge parsley and parsnip were discovered at a Maplewood park. The plants were pulled up by an Invasive Plant Patrol volunteer. Another patch of parsnip along Minnehaha was reported to Chuck and 3M staff. It was difficult to track down a contact for that 3M property. So far they have not responded.

3. Conversation turned to buckthorn, biocontrols and goats. Laura discussed the unsuccessful search for buckthorn biocontrols. All the possibilities have been exhausted and the research has been discontinued. Control by using goats has limitations, since goats will eat everything. No one has done any follow up studies to see if the buckthorn comes back or if the goat waste contains viable seed afterwards.

Dave mentioned that North St. Paul gives nursery coupons to residents who remove buckthorn. He feels this is a good incentive to get homeowners to respond to city removal programs.

4. Laura updated the group on the updates to the Noxious Weed Law: black swallow-wort, brown knapweed and meadow knapweed were added to the prohibited/eradicate list. Black swallow-wort was previously found and treated at the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus. It is probably gone now, but that needs follow-up. Brown and meadow knapweed has been found in NE Minnesota. All knapweeds hybridize. A hybrid could become more aggressive, so it would be best to prevent that from happening. Spotted knapweed biocontrols do not work for the other two species; they are species specific.

The non-native subspecies of *Phragmites australis* was added to the restricted list. That means it cannot be sold and planted. This will prevent its use in retention pond plantings.

Simba suggested that the next field trip include an area which has both subspecies present and to invite Anita Cholewa from the Bell Herbarium. Carole recalled a pdf document with photos of identification characteristics and said she would forward that to members. She asked others to do the same if they had a good source.

Laura stated that now 5 to 7 counties had added species beyond the state list to their own county lists. She said those could be checked on the wiki link to the lists by county. Ramsey County has not added any species.

Laura passed out new Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Committee (MISAC) invasive species calendars, MISAC's winter meeting minutes and discussed some of the topics. She said the MDA has quarantined walnut and firewood from areas where thousand canker disease of walnut has been found. Wood turners may be vectors of the disease. The MDA has been working with the American Association of Woodworkers, headquartered in St. Paul.

The MNDNR's Play-Clean-Go campaign has online outreach materials to reach those who may spread invasive species in their work, such as mower operators. She said boot brush station designs were now also available for free. A discussion of the effectiveness of the stations ensued. It was suggested that hoof picks be added/hung from the stations to pick out soil that is stuck on footgear to increase effectiveness. It was agreed that the mere presence of the stations will educate visitors to clean their feet.

Dave Hanson, MNDOT, has an updated flip-book of the MN Noxious weeds. Carole said she would forward the link to that document to members.

There are plans to schedule a "Play-Clean-Go" day in May or schedule some sort of presence in State Parks. Money is being budgeted for internet ads that would pop up if, for example, someone was online looking to purchase an ATV.

There is an increased push to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). The Habitattitude campaign and a "crime-stoppers" themed website are being developed for use by kids.

There was a session at the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference presenting a study of what ways people like to get information.

There will be an invasive plant conference in SW MN.

A petition to release a garlic mustard biocontrol insect was submitted to APHIS. There hasn't been a response yet. Gypsy moth has been found in alternate life stages in Cook and Lake Counties, so they are known to be reproducing populations. The SE counties have the next closest sized populations.

Laura also updated the group on emerald ash borer (EAB): the ashes infested near County Road I have had their bark stripped. EAB was found at Como Park near Hamline and Lexington. An invasive fungal disease, annosum root rot, found in eastern Wisconsin has not been found in Minnesota. It appears to be confined to a private pine plantation.

Mary announced an April 4th AHATS partnership meeting, from 10:00 am to noon. They have received or will be receiving a trencher that is from Camp Ripley. The Ramsey County property purchase includes the property on the west. AHATS has the 1500 acres to the east. Of this, 1200 acres will always be open space. A lot of the deer may be pushed to the AHATS side when housing goes in. The osprey nests will be moved, and the buildings will be checked for bats prior to tear-down.

The wash rack building, just beginning construction last summer, will be finished in mid-April. There probably will not be a tour in April, but Mary said she now has a bullhorn for tours.

III. Set next meeting date and location:

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

IV. Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 pm

V. Addendum:

- a. For more information on the MNDNR's Play/Clean/Go campaign, go to <http://www.playcleango.org/>

Respectfully submitted by Carole Gernes, 3/18/13

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