

KISMA Meeting Minutes
Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area
May 18, 2015, 12:00-2:00PM EST
Marsin Nature Center

The KISMA partners have not had the opportunity to meet in at least two years—this meeting gave partners a chance to meet face-to-face and update the group on plans for field work in 2015 and upcoming events/workshops. Lunch was provided. Below is a summary of the updates from each partner in attendance.

- *Marcy Erickson, KISMA Coordinator, Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District:*
Reported that a workshop on Wild Parsnip will be held in Eagle Harbor on July 7, 2015 from 10AM-3PM EST. Janet Marr will lead the workshop. No cost to attend, please contact Marcy to register. More information will be sent out closer to the date of the workshop. Also reported on workshops on behalf of Bonnie Hay, Gratiot Lake Conservancy. The GLC will be hosting a series of workshops this summer, some include invasive species. Visit the website for more information: gratiotlakeconservancy.org
- *Steve DeLong, Keweenaw National Historic Park, steve_delong@nps.gov*
The KNHP is a partnership park and wants to continue partnering with organizations to work toward common goals. Steve expressed a need for invasive species inventories on KNHP or partner's properties - contact Steve to coordinate if you have man-hours to assist.
- *Mike Schira, MSU Extension, schira@msu.edu*
Reported that a program called "Eyes on the Forest" was funded by the DNR. More information with details is pending. Will have dates when individuals can participate in a guided trip to see Emerald Ash Borer 'signature trees'. Also mentioned that the MSU entomologist reported the three top invasive species of concern for trees are 1) Asian Longhorned Beetle, 2) Emerald Ash Borer and 3) Thousand Canker Disease (affects walnuts)
- *Meral Jackson, former KISMA coordinator/MTU, meral.jackson@macd.org*
Reported that Casey Huckins received funding for the Eurasian Watermilfoil project, which covers the entire Portage Shipping Canal. His project will include outreach/education, watch for more information as the project gets underway.
The KISMA group expressed an interest in hearing more from Huckins on this project. Perhaps a talk or can he be included on a future conference call?
- *Ian Shackelford, Ottawa National Forest, ishackelford@fs.fed.us*
The National Forest has a four-person crew focusing on invasive species management. Their target is to treat 1,310 acres in 2015. If any partners have an invasive plant project they would like help with, they should contact Ian. Bids were recently solicited (due 5/22/15) for invasive plant control contracts that focus on glossy buckthorn, Japanese barberry, exotic honeysuckle, purple loosestrife, and garden valerian. All sites are outside of the KISMA area, however. Irish Lake in southern Houghton County will be surveyed by Flambeau Engineering for aquatic invasive species. Past AIS survey results are posted on the Ottawa NF web page. Ian led a team to address the knotweed infestation at the Ford Forestry Center on May 27, 2015

The Ottawa NF currently has 16 invasive plant agreements. Partners include WePIC, KISMA, Friends of Sylvania, Gogebic Conservation District, Iron Conservation District, Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District, Bergland Township, Lake Gogebic Improvement Association, Watersmeet Lake Guards, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Langford Lake Eurasian Watermilfoil Association, Upper Peninsula Power Company, UPRC&D, Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association, and the Long Lake Property Association.

The US Forest Service is changing the way they share GLRI funding for CWMAs. The Ottawa NF will no longer receive any GLRI funding for CWMAs. Instead the funding will go the US Forest Service State and Private Forestry Division. The money will be awarded through a competitive grant process. The first invitation to submit project is expected to come out in June, with applications due in July or August.

- *Evelyn Ravindran, KBIC, eravindran@kbic-nsn.gov*
Reported that KBIC is working on writing a terrestrial invasive species plan. They already have an aquatic invasive species plan. KBIC has an invasive weed crew to work on invasive species management.

- *Erin Johnston, KBIC Lake Superior Program Coordinator, ejohnston@kbic-nsn.gov*
Reported that KBIC has an aquatic invasive species (AIS) management plan that was written by Whitewater Associates. KBIC received funding for 2 years to implement the plan. KBIC has an AIS crew to help with field work, including monitoring sea lamprey trap stations on the Misery & Silver Rivers.
- *Jacob Haapapuro, KBIC Clean Boats/Clean Waters, jhaapapuro@kbic-nsn.gov*
The KBIC has a trailered boat-washing station that can be brought to events such as fishing tournaments/derbies or other public events near water to demonstrate proper boat washing techniques. Contact Jacob to schedule or refer an event.
- *Deanna Hadden, KBIC Invasive Species Coordinator, dhadden@kbic-nsn.gov*
There are two scheduled events to be held in 2015, one the week of June 15 and the second the week of July 13. From June 15-19 (8:30 - 4:00) there will be daily plantings of native pollinators at Sand Point, Baraga. A weed pull is scheduled for July 13-16 (9:00 - 4:00) Volunteers are needed, all supplies + snacks will be provided.
- *Nathan Miller, Keweenaw Land Trust, nathan@keweenawlandtrust.org*
Reported that KLT received funding through the Coastal Zone Management Program to pair local students with professionals to renaturalize shoreline, including invasive species management. KLT works with multiple properties and many have invasive plants. KLT is interested in coordinating efforts for invasive species management on these properties.
- *Dana Richter, MTU, drichter@mtu.edu*
Dana runs a diagnostic lab for the DNR in identification of oak wilt. Attended as a member of the steering committee.
- *Darcy Rutkowski, Executive Director, UP Resource Conservation & Development Council darcy.rutkowski@uprcd.org*
UPRCDC has a three-person weed crew available to focus on efforts in the KISMA area—contact Darcy to coordinate. Also has one certified pesticide applicator available. Provided updates on the ‘Pulling Together’ grant program. Announced a workshop on mapping invasive species on 5/28/15. Noted that invasive species can be landfilled but need to clearly label bags as ‘invasive plants’. UPRCD has about seven eDNA test kits available for the KISMA area. If you know of a lake that would be a good candidate for testing, contact Darcy.
- *Danielle Miller and Chris Cantway, The Nature Conservancy, ddmiller@tnc.org*
Chris mentioned that he heard a rumor of garlic mustard on the Lac La Belle canal to Bete Gris. There is also a possibility of garlic mustard at Keystone Bay in Keweenaw County. If anyone has more information please share!
- *Sue Haralson, HKCD volunteer, sue_haralson@yahoo.com*
Sue helps out with many HKCD events including weed pulls on HKCD properties. Reported that last year she helped pull invasive thistles at the Bete Gris Preserve.
- *Robb Oldt, Molpus, roldt@molpus.com*
Reported that there is buckthorn, knapweed and knotweed (others?) on Molpus lands. He’s interested in coordinating efforts with anyone interested in buckthorn management. Also noted that Molpus has Sustainable Forestry Initiative certification, which requires public outreach.
- *Jeff Joseph, Plum Creek, Jeffrey.Joseph@plumcreek.com*
Reported that Plum Creek owns 380,000 acres in Baraga, Houghton, Ontonagon, and Marquette counties. The biggest need for Plum Creek is education for their foresters, particularly identification of invasive species. Plum Creek does require washing of equipment between sites. Do logging operations do this? There was some discussion on logging practices and how logging may spread invasive species.
- *Brad Carlson, DNR, carlsonb@michigan.gov*
Also reported that education of foresters and others working in the woods is the biggest challenge in dealing with invasive species management.

Following the updates there was a brief demonstration by Darcy Rutkowski on the use of ‘buckthorn baggies’ as a treatment method of buckthorn or honeysuckle. Both Darcy and Ian have baggies available. Contact either person for more information.