

**Meeting to Discuss a Cooperative Weed Management Area  
for Houghton, Keweenaw and Baraga Counties  
Michigan Tech Lakeshore Center Community Room. March 14, 2011.  
MEETING NOTES**

Agenda

1:00 pm	Introductions/Review agenda	Marilyn Shy
1:30 pm	Overview of known invasive plants in our area	Janet Marr
2:00 pm	RRIP-IT-UP in our three counties	Darcy Rutkowski
2:15 pm	What is a Cooperative Weed Management Area?	Ian Shackleford
2:30 pm	What can we do with GLRI funds?	Ian Shackleford
3:00 pm	Group Discussion, Q&A (Name? 2011 activities?)	All
3:30 pm	Next Steps	
	1) Form subcommittees (MOU? Steering Committee? Fund Distribution?)	
	2) List of those who want to be a member of the CWMA	
	3) Set next meeting date, time and location	
4:00 pm	Adjourn	

**1. Introductions**

27 people came to the meeting.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Jason Oyadomari, As. Professor, Science	Finlandia University
Dave Fehringer, As. Regional Director of Forest Operations	Forestland Group
Anton Pintar, Commissioner	Houghton County Board of Commissioners
Sue Haralson, Administrator	Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District
Janet Marr	Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District
Mark Klemp	Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District
Gina Nicholas	Houghton-Keweenaw Conservation District
Liz Gerson	Interested resident
Kristine Bradoff	Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association
Phyllis Green	Isle Royale National Park
Valerie Martin	Isle Royale NP
Evelyn Ravindran	Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Natural Resources
Karen Andersen	Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Natural Resources
Steve Delong, Landscape Architect	Keweenaw National Historical Park
Donald Mankee	Michigan DNR, Forest Management Division
Doug Barry, Park Supervisor	Michigan DNR: Craig Lake State Park
Robert Strittmatter, Park Supervisor	Michigan DNR: Fort Wilkins Historic State Park
Lee VerBerkmoes, Park Supervisor	Michigan DNR: McLain State Park
Dr. Catherine Tarasoff	Michigan Technological University
Dr. Dana Richter	Michigan Technological University
Mike Schira, County Extension Director	MSU Extension - Houghton/Keweenaw Counties
Mark Romanski (Wildlife Biologist)	National Park Service, Isle Royale National Park
Danielle Miller	The Nature Conservancy
Marilyn Shy	UPRC&D Council
Darcy Rutkowski	UPRC&D Council
Susan Trull, Botanist	US Forest Service (Ottawa NF)
Ian Shackleford, Botanist	US Forest Service (Ottawa NF)

## 2. Overview of known invasive plants in our area. Janet Marr.

Janet has been funded by the UP RRIP-IT-UP program to map invasive plants in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties. She also queried herbarium records and Forest Service records for previously documented sites. She gave a slide show showing what appear to be the invasive plants of greatest concern in these two counties. She covered...

Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea stoebe (Centaurea maculosa)</i>
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Giant knotweed	<i>Polygonum sachalinense</i>
Japanese knotweed	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum (Fallopia japonica)</i>
Glossy buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus (Rhamnus frangula)</i>
Common buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Eurasian phragmites	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Eurasian water-milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>
European swamp thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>
Wild parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>
Leafy spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>
Japanese barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>

Janet's draft distribution maps are available online [here](#).

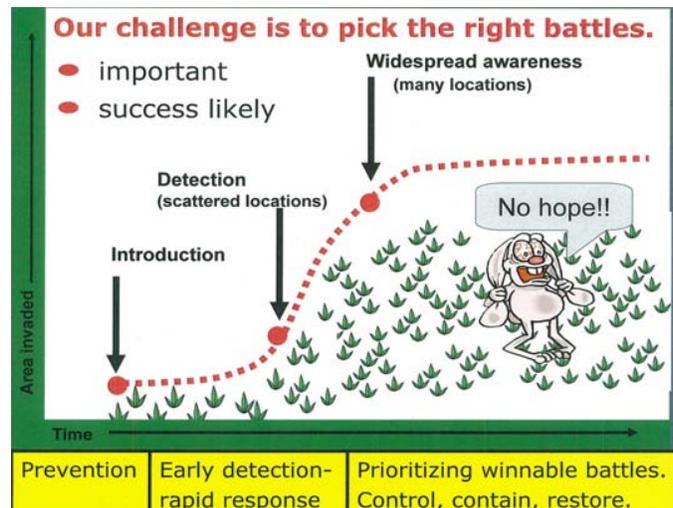
## 3. RRIP-IT-UP in our three counties. Darcy Rutkowski

Darcy discussed the RRIP-IT-UP program. Each Conservation District has received \$6,000 for invasive plant work. Each Conservation District is expected to establish and train a local Rapid Response Team, inventory and control a minimum of 20 acres of invasive plants, and enter distribution data for invasive plant species into the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network ([MISIN](#)) mapping system.

Janet Marr passed around a sign-up sheet to be notified about upcoming invasive plant identification workshops. Email Janet at [jkmarr\[at\]mtu.edu](mailto:jkmarr[at]mtu.edu) if you want to be added to her list.

For more information visit the RRIP-IT-UP website:  
<http://www.uprcd.org/uprcd3157921.asp>

Marilyn Shy shared this graph, emphasizing the need to pick your battles when fighting invasive species. Focus work on something that isn't already widespread.



#### 4. What is a Cooperative Weed Management Area? Ian Shackelford.

Ian Shackelford gave a slide show discussing Cooperative Weed Management Areas. He particularly recommended the "[CWMA Cookbook: A Recipe for Success](#)" available online at the Midwest Invasive Plant Network web site ([www.mipn.org](http://www.mipn.org)). Ian showed a recent example of a CWMA [Memorandum of Understanding](#) from the Eastern UP CWMA. Ian showed accomplishments of the nearby Western UP Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area.

The CWMA Cookbook suggests 14 steps for starting a CWMA:

1. Choose an initial leader or champion
2. Establish geographic boundaries [[Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga Counties](#)]
3. Identify potential partners and begin building support [[Today's meeting, 3/14/2011](#)]
4. Determine common goals [[Discussion today, see below.](#)]
5. Choose a CWMA fiscal manager
6. Hold a public meeting, and invite all partners [[Today's meeting, 3/14/2011](#)]
7. Establish a Steering Committee
8. Select a chairperson and a vice-chairperson
9. Develop a "Memorandum of Understanding" or a formal "Agreement"
10. Develop a strategic plan
11. Develop an annual operating plan
12. Add committees as needed
13. Implement plans
14. Celebrate success and get media attention.

Ian's slide show is available online [here](#).

There were concerns whether an agreement can be completed quickly; one attendee had experience with a scenic byways project where the agreement took over four years to complete. The EUP folks noted that it took less than one year to setup their CWMA.

#### 5. What can we do with GLRI funds? Ian Shackelford.

At one time the Ottawa National Forest hoped to receive 2011 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding to help start this proposed invasive group. The [Central UP CWMA](#) and [Eastern UP CWMA](#) both received GLRI funding from the Hiawatha National Forest in 2010. However, Congress still hasn't passed a FY2011 budget, so we don't know if we will receive any GLRI support. The Ottawa National Forest can offer \$9,000 of other funds, from our current budget. This money must be obligated by the end of the fiscal year (September 30, 2011).

What should we do this year? How should we use \$9,000? Ideas from the audience.

- Hire an administrator. As a temporary employee or contractor. The person would work on MOU, coordinate strategy, organize volunteers, do publicity. This is what the Central UP CWMA and Eastern UP CWMA did with their 2010 GLRI money.
- Training for DNR staff & community.
- Eradicate a particular site. Coast Guard (Army Corp?) Station by Lily Pond?
- Treat a bad *Phragmites* site along snowmobile trail near Duncan (Toivola area). Is it in MISIN?
- Treat a purple loosestrife in Sturgeon River Sloughs, DNR, near Chassell. Not sure how much is there.
- Treat a buckthorn site in Baraga County, near Covington Junction (Highways 41 and 28).

- Treat the garlic mustard sites.
- Have a workshop on a particular topic (buckthorn? knotweed? ), explain how to control it most effectively. Vern Stephens of DNR was suggested as an expert who might provide this type of workshop.
- Purchase equipment: gloves, loppers, bags...
- Disposal fees for bags of garlic mustard or other weeds.
- Inspect perimeter of old dumps, snow dumps, cemeteries, high quality natural areas, look for new invaders
- Create a strategic plan? Framework for prioritizing work?
- Some possible partners/cooperators need help in how to inventory their lands, what BMPS to employ etc. Outreach needed.
- Provide biocontrol insects

We will organize a "survey monkey" to solicit additional ideas and see which ones potential members like best. We'll pick some at our next meeting.

[Take the survey now! <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JM2TK7V>]

The Houghton-Keweenaw Conservation District said they could provide some fiscal services, but would need money for the time. They also offered that there is office space the CD could provide.

Experience with the eastern UP group suggests that longer range projects could feed into a 5-year plan, rather than trying to tackle them in the first year. There are questions on how we should prioritize what work to do in the first year. The group favored a work day with picnic afterward, to generate enthusiasm and momentum for the fledgling CWMA.

## 6. Group Discussion & Next Steps

Ian asked for ideas on what to name our group. That led to a discussion on whether or not we want to focus on just plants (as in a Cooperative **Weed** Management Area) or might like to also consider invasive animals or pests such as emerald ash borer and zebra mussel.

Suggested names:

- Keweenaw Area CWMA
- Keweenaw CWMA
- Copper Country CWMA
- Northern UP CWMA
- BHK CWMA (Baraga-Houghton-Keweenaw)
- Way Up North CWMA
- Superior CWMA

We are not required to have "CWMA" in our name. Other ideas include *Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area, Weed Management Area, Invasive Species Team, Invasive Species Cooperative, Invasive Council, Invasive Coalition, and Invasive Partnership*. There did seem to be consensus that we wouldn't do anything with invasive animals this year. We'll set up a [Survey Monkey](#) for this question too.

We passed the sign-up sheet around and asked people to put a star by their name if they might like to sign a MOU and develop this new CWMA or whatever. **Fourteen organizations indicated interest!**

- Forestland Group
- Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District
- Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association
- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Natural Resources
- Keweenaw National Historical Park

- Michigan DNR: Craig Lake State Park
- Michigan DNR: Fort Wilkins Historic State Park
- Michigan DNR: McLain State Park
- Michigan Technological University
- MSU Extension - Houghton/Keweenaw Counties
- National Park Service, Isle Royale National Park
- The Nature Conservancy
- UPRC&D Council
- US Forest Service (Ottawa NF)

If any groups in the three counties would like to join, but are not listed here, please contact Ian Shackleford at 906-932-1330 x331 or [ishackleford@fs.fed.us](mailto:ishackleford@fs.fed.us).

There was discussion on how to select a steering committee. What authority would they have for decision making? We decided to postpone that discussion until our next meeting.

Until our next meeting we will...

- Solicit ideas for 2011 work plan and for the mission of the group ...
- Consider whether we should focus on just plants or plants and animals...
- Solicit names for our group...

Finally, we discussed when to meet again. We'll do a Doodle survey (<http://www.doodle.com/rfxw6ei7d43q5xfh>) for one date between March 28-30 or April 4-8. Assume a 3 hour meeting, probably in this same room. The [Survey Monkey](#) results will feed into next meeting.