

Draft Meeting Notes

KISMA Meeting Notes

20 March 2012

Michigan Tech Lakeshore Center Community Room
600 E. Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, MI 49931

Agenda :

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. RRIP-IT-UP summary: 2010 & 2011
3. Review draft KISMA Memorandum of Understanding.
4. Develop work plan for 2012. What infestations would you like to see treated? What educational efforts do you recommend? Is anywhere in need of a survey? **KISMA will have a part-time person to help make this happen, so bring some ideas!**
5. Plans for spring 2012 garlic mustard work.

1. Welcome and introductions

19 people came to the meeting

Sue Haralson	Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District
Janet Marr	Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District
Ian Shackelford	US Forest Service, Ottawa National Forest
Liz Gerson	Interested person
Darcy Rutkowski	Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council
Marilyn Shy	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Dave Tormohlen	Plum Creek
Danielle Miller	The Nature Conservancy
Evelyn Ravindran	Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Natural Resources
Karen Andersen	Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Natural Resources
Robert Strittmatter	Michigan DNR: Fort Wilkins State Park
Lee VerBerkmoes	Michigan DNR: McLain State Park
Steve DeLong	Keweenaw National Historical Park
Evan McDonald	Keweenaw Land Trust
Pat Toczydlowski	Keweenaw Land Trust
Catherine Tarasoff	Michigan Technological University
Valerie Martin	Isle Royale National Park
Mark Romanski	Isle Royale National Park
Gina Nicholas	Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District

2. RRIP-IT-UP summary: 2010 & 2011

Janet Marr reviewed accomplishments of the RRIP-IT-UP in 2010 and 2011, for Houghton, Keweenaw, and Baraga Counties. See handouts. She also shared copies of several local newspaper articles on invasive species published in 2010 and 2011.

KISMA

People mentioned several articles published online on the Keweenaw Now blog:

5/11/11: [Volunteers needed to identify, pull invasive garlic mustard before it spreads](#)

7/29/11: [Volunteers needed to pull knapweed at McLain State Park July 30](#)

7/30/11: [Volunteers invited to pull invasive species at Bete Grise Preserve Aug. 1](#)

9/27/11: [Volunteers help rid local beaches of invasive knapweed](#)

3/18/12: [Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area to hold Planning Meeting March 20](#)

Articles on invasive plants also appeared in newsletters for Keweenaw Land Trust, [Gratiot Lake Conservancy](#), and the [Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition](#) (UPEC).

Evelyn Ravindran also discussed RRIP-IT-UP work in Baraga County.

Many invasive plants mapped in our three counties as part of RRIP-IT-UP can now be seen in online maps at the [MISIN website](#). The [Chippewa / East Mackinac Conservation District](#) is also working on an online map of invasive plants in the Upper Peninsula.

Before RRIP-IT-UP we knew of 3 garlic mustard sites, now we know of 14 sites. Most of the garlic mustard sites are in peoples' yards, and many homeowners are treating their own sites. The largest site is approximately 10 meters by 30 meters. Volunteers are working on plans to get all known sites treated this spring, but new sites are expected.

European swamp thistle (*Cirsium palustre*) is uncommon in Keweenaw, but fairly common in Baraga County.

Purple loosestrife remains uncommon. Biological control beetles are available from USFS.

Knapweed is common, but it's not everywhere. People suggested it would be good to identify vulnerable sites like Bete Grise beach that don't have it, or where it could be controlled.

National Park Service staff are treating cat tails, knapweed, and wild parsnip on Isle Royale. They have hosted Boy Scout projects removing weeds from the portals, including St. John's wort, common tansy, and exotic thistles. They have a seasonal employee that works on invasive plants. Keweenaw National Historic Park has a YCC crew that could work on removing invasive plants.

Janet recommends the [Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area website](#) for information on invasive plants and ideas on activities for a CWMA like KISMA.

Someone asked how different exotic plants make the list of species of concern. How did some plants come to be higher priority? Sue Haralson, Gina Nicholas, & Janet Marr met and talked about the different exotic plants in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties. They are species on other people's radar screens. MNFI, Michigan DNR, and MSU Extension recently published [A Field Guide to Invasive Plants in Michigan's Natural Communities](#). Also see [A Field Guide to Invasive Plants of the Midwest](#) by MIPN.

Someone asked about reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). Janet noted there appear to be both [native and non-native strains](#). We can't tell them apart.

KISMA

Ian asked about invasive plant work or needs in the State Parks. Rob Strittmatter said Fort Wilkins State Park is working with [Lindsay Ross](#) (DNR) on ongoing education and monitoring. Lee VerBerkmoes said they work with Janet Marr on spotted knapweed, including a new demonstration site.

3. KISMA MOU

Ian went through the draft KISMA [Memorandum of Understanding](#). Ian also noted the US Forest Service and Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District have signed a “Participating Agreement” establishing HKCD as the fiscal manager for KISMA. We are working on a “Supplemental Project Agreement” whereby the Forest Service would provide \$19,000 of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding for HKCD to fund a KISMA Coordinator. That should be ready soon.

Would any other groups like to join? Are there any other groups we still need to invite? We should check with Baraga State Park (Dan Dowdy) and Twin Lakes State Park (Rich Pirhonen). Keep sending information to the Baraga Conservation District [added Chairman Robert Larson to the email list].

Article 2: Legislative Authority. **Should we add a reference to State rules, showing the DNR has the authority to enter into agreements like this?**

Article 3: Statement of Work. This is where the MOU specifies what members will do. We had a discussion about the item on Integrated Pest Management. The Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District asked that mention of pesticides be removed from the Participating Agreement they signed with the US Forest Service. Ian will contact them to work on this more. Danielle Miller suggested a committee could help get through questions like these.

Someone asked if Integrated Pest Management is the currently accepted methods for managing invasive species. Catherine Tarasoff said there is something new called EBIPM: Ecologically Based Invasive Plant Management. You don’t just look at the weed and think, “What’s the best way to get rid of it?” You look at the whole ecosystem. What is wrong that prevented the desirable species from being there? Try not to be so reactionary. It requires more time, looking at the many factors involved. More information can be found at www.ebipm.org.

Someone asked when we want the MOU finished. Ian hoped we could finish it this summer. Perhaps the new KISMA Coordinator could help.

We discussed item i: *Review this MOU and make revisions and updates as necessary to meet the purpose of this agreement. Amendments shall become effective upon approval by all Interested Parties.* Should we change that to “a majority of Interested Parties” like the Eastern UP CWMA, or leave it as “all parties” like the Central UP CWMA? Some people thought if we need approval from all parties it could slow us down if we need to revise the MOU. Other people thought the “all parties” just reflected the fact that it refers to all the parties that would sign a modification. If someone didn’t like a modification then they wouldn’t sign it. We decided to refer this to a committee: Ian Shackelford, Danielle Miller, Janet Marr, Sue Haralson, Gina Nicholas, Tom Baker (Keweenaw NHP), and Robert Strittmatter.

4 & 5: 2012 work plan

We talked about plans for 2012.

KISMA

As mentioned earlier, the US Forest Service and Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District are working on a "Supplemental Project Agreement." Through this agreement, the HKCD would receive \$19,000 of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funds. HKCD would agree to the following:

- *Retain coordinator for the KISMA in 2012 and 2013. Duties will include communicating with KISMA members, planning KISMA meetings, conducting public education on invasive species in Houghton, Keweenaw, and Baraga Counties, writing news releases about KISMA and invasive species, recruiting and supervising KISMA volunteers, and providing botanical expertise on the management of invasive plants. KISMA Coordinator will follow the KISMA annual operating plans to be developed cooperatively with all KISMA members and agreed upon by the HKCD.*
- *Act as fiscal agent for GLRI grant funds as detailed in the attached financial plan.*
- *Work with KISMA Coordinator to provide an interim report by October 1, 2012, a final report by October 1, 2013, and additional reports, as requested by the FS.*
- *Direct KISMA Coordinator to treat 20 acres of invasive plant infestations: 10 acres in 2012 and 10 acres in 2013. Acres will count if the KISMA Coordinator or KISMA volunteers under their supervision participated in the work.*

Where should KISMA work to treat the minimum 10 acres? What educational efforts should we do?

Someone suggested working with the County Road Commissions. Is the Houghton Keweenaw Road Commission spreading knapweed? More so than Baraga County? Could road maintenance be modified to reduce the spread of exotic plants? Someone said the sand used for roadwork from an old stamp sand site, which could be infested with weeds. MTU did a weed inventory of stamp sand sites. Ideally, the surface should be scraped away, and use the lower material with fewer weed seeds. Could mowing be timed better to reduce spreading weed seeds? Could gravel be washed or screened to remove weed seeds? Some people said no, roads need a mixture of material sizes. People agreed outreach to Road Commissions would be good. Janet Marr asked for people that could help her on this topic.

Keweenaw Land Trust is planning more work with the Girl Scouts, removing spotted knapweed from the [Marsin Preserve](#). Other KISMA members could help.

Someone suggested our 2012 work plan and website specify work days, like the CUPCWMA does.

Someone asked about weed prevention by Isle Royale National Park. Ranger III dock in Houghton has a boot brush station.

Someone recommended outreach with user groups that may spread invasive species: boaters, bicycles, hikers, motor vehicles. KISMA can provide educational materials for things like this.

We could work on knotweed patches at the [Ford Forestry Center](#) and [Pilgrim River](#) property. Someone reported a Japanese knotweed at Copper Harbor, perhaps the only site in Keweenaw County.

[Swedtown Recreation Area](#) (near Calumet) has a glossy buckthorn problem. 3500 acres? Dense near Chalet. Mapping would be good. Someone recommended the Carleton College [Buckthorn Menace art project](#) by Jim Proctor. Janet asked about using [weed wrenches](#). Ian said the Ottawa NF has two wrenches available.

KISMA

We should talk to the [Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative](#). Perhaps we could cooperate with them, The [Chassell School](#) may help with invasive control at Pilgrim River.

Fort Wilkins State Park has regular summer programs. They would welcome an invasive species presentation.

Continue publicity & outreach like RRIP IT UP. Distribute flyers. Staff a booth at County fairs and farmers markets.

There are annual mountain bike events in the Keweenaw:

- [Portage Health Keweenaw Chain Drive Festival](#)
- [Great Deer Chase](#) (Swedetown trails)
- [Copper Harbor Fat Tire Festival](#) ([Copper Harbor Trails Club](#))

Perhaps we could do some outreach and education to help prevent weeds being introduced or spread by bicycles. ([Click here for a photo of a bicycle cleaning station.](#))

The North Country Trail passes through Houghton & Baraga Counties. Most of our section is covered by the [Peter Wolfe Chapter](#). Perhaps they would like to join KISMA or work with us. The NCT at the east side of Baraga County is under the [North Country Trail Hikers](#) chapter.

Perhaps, a billboard campaign of some kind would be helpful.

Ian asked about garlic mustard. The worst site is the street car site near Laurium. We need permission from landowner. Good spot for a work day. Presentations on garlic mustard are planned for...

- May 9 (Portage Lake District Library)
- May 16 (Calumet Public School Library)
- Field trip to Laurium garlic mustard site (date/time to be announced)

Ian asked if there are any purple loosestrife sites in the KISMA area that need work. At our 3/28/11 meeting Dana Richter suggested a purple loosestrife site (Lily Pond, Army Corps land, on Portage Canal near M203 and McLain State Park). Someone suggested a purple loosestrife site near Chassell. It has had biocontrol work by GLIFWC in the past. Someone reported purple loosestrife in ditches along highways between Marquette and Houghton.

Dr. Dana Richter (Michigan Tech) emailed in a suggestion that a patch of poison hemlock in Houghton: "along Campus Drive about a half mile from the turn off Hwy 41. Campus Drive is the road to the High School and the Hospital. I have seen populations on both sides of the road."

Ian asked if there are there any other sites in Baraga County that need work? Some of our 10 acres should come from there.

Is there a good handout for landowners on why they should care? Yes, MIPN's "[Why Should I Care About Invasive Plants?](#)". But we would need to print it ourselves. [Darcy described another example from the Soo Tribe.](#) KISMA website could have a section on information for landowners.

KISMA

Someone asked about Phragmites (common reed grass, *Phragmites australis*). Both the native and non-native strains of Phragmites (hard to tell apart) are known from a couple locations in the KISMA area. The non-native strain is very invasive.

Disposing of pulled plants can be a problem sometimes. There are rules about putting plants in the garbage¹. Invasive plants are exempt if you can communicate that to the garbage company. Avoid disposing of invasive plants in compost areas. Garbage companies can be educated & take invasive plants with garbage. Which invasive plants can be composted? Is burning pulled invasive plants okay? Woody brush without fruits or seeds is safe for disposal in compost areas or burning. Pulled garlic mustard is not safe for compost. Even if you pull it before seed set, the soil among the roots probably contains seed. Sending it to a landfill is probably safest. Last year Liz & others checked City compost sites, and found garlic mustard near Laurium. Janet Marr is going to speak with the Laurium Village Council tonight. Maybe signs at City compost would be helpful. Perhaps we could try to get an article in the newspaper mentioning invasives in the garbage.

Evelyn said KBIC is concentrating their efforts at Sand Point Park. **She mentioned a boot brush station for Sand Point Park.** They also treat Japanese barberry. Last year KBIC and the US Forest Service helped spray Japanese barberry at the L'Anse School Forest.

Someone suggested brief meeting in the morning this summer, followed by a work day.

People were interested in visiting the KBIC greenhouse. Maybe offer a public tour along with a public work day treating nearby invasive plants. KISMA members would like to learn more about planting natives and restoration. What happens after people remove the invasive plants? McClain State Park is planning to plant native species including beach grasses and other native species. Remember the [HKCD tree sale](#) as a source for restoration. Beach grass is available too. They have a great price on hemlock this year.

Conclusion

Darcy said there will be a 2012 UP invasive plant meeting this fall. Could a KISMA member help?

When will KISMA meet again? We should select a steering committee and have a fall meeting. When the KISMA Coordinator begins we can plan more. Would video conference be an option? The Northwoods CWMA & Eastern UP CWMA have steering committees that meet more often (every other month so so). All members meet less often.

What's next...

- Form steering committee soon.
- Work on MOU more.
- FS & HKCD continue working on Supplemental Project Agreement for a KISMA Coordinator.
- Invite proposals for 2012 program of work.

¹ The Michigan Legislature is currently considering bills to allow compost to go into landfills with gas collection systems. [Port Huron Times Herald 3/22/2012](#).

RRIP-IT-UP summary for 2010 & 2011 (Keweenaw, Houghton, and Baraga Cos)
for Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area (KISMA) meeting, 20 March 2012

RRIP-IT-UP: grant-funded UP-wide project carried out by the UP RC&D Council with numerous partners for two years (2010, 2011). Included establishing Rapid Response teams; invasive plant workshops; locating, mapping, and treating high priority invasive plant species

RRIP-IT-UP in Houghton, Keweenaw, and Baraga Counties

Invasive plant training:

- invasive plant field trip (Houghton to Calumet)
- information table at UPEC Celebrate the U.P. event, Hancock
- mapping invasive plants workshop, Baraga State Park
- Lions Club invasive species talk, Calumet
- invasive plant presentation and workshop, Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative, Houghton

Publicity/outreach: newspaper and on-line articles, newsletters, posted fliers, fairs, TV, greenhouse tours, kids' fishing derby, word-of-mouth

New populations of higher priority invasives located and reported to HK Conserv. District

Locations mapped at:

- Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN) at www.misin.msu.edu
- Eastern Upper Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area (EUPCWMA) at www.chipmackconservation.org/weedmap.asp

Invasive plant removal efforts:

- garlic mustard: 3 locations known in Houghton Co. before RRIP-IT-UP efforts; now 14 sites known (see MISIN map to right); now new UP-wide garlic mustard eradication project for 2012-2013! One goal is to find individuals or partner groups who will take responsibility for long-term control efforts for each site.

Laurium--5	Houghton--4
Calumet--1	Hubbell--1
Quincy Twp--1	Chassell--1
Hancock--1	
- wild parsnip: Cliff Drive Rd., Keweenaw Co.
- marsh thistle: Bete Grise Preserve (Keweenaw Co), Baraga Co. locations
- purple loosestrife: Baraga Co.
- Japanese barberry: L'Anse Area School property and nearby tribal property (Baraga Co.)
- spotted knapweed: Bete Grise Preserve, McLain State Pk (Houghton Co.), Sand Pt. (Baraga Co.), etc.
- additional efforts by residents and organizations (through RRIP-IT-UP or otherwise): knotweed (giant or Japanese) at Houghton Co. fairground, near S. Portage Entry, near Calumet (all Houghton Co.)
- other efforts (Isle Royale Natl. Pk., Ottawa Natl. Forest, state parks, etc.)



RRIP-IT-UP goals continue with KISMA:

- invasive plant species training (why be concerned, ID, control methods, etc.)
- locate, map, treat, and monitor invasive plant sites
- volunteer recruitment, etc.

Green Invaders of Baraga, Houghton, and Keweenaw Counties; compiled by Janet Marr, 20 March 2012

Common name	Scientific name	Where mapped MISIN or EUPCWMA*	Counties where known B=Baraga County H=Houghton County K=Keweenaw County
Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea stoebe (Centaurea maculosa)</i>	x	BHK
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	MISIN	H
Giant knotweed	<i>Polygonum sachalinense</i>	EUPCWMA	BHK
Japanese knotweed	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum (Fallopia japonica)</i>	MISIN	BHK
Glossy buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus (Rhamnus frangula)</i>	MISIN	BH
Common buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	MISIN	BHK
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	EUPCWMA	BHK
Eurasian phragmites	<i>Phragmites australis</i> (non-native strain)	MISIN	H (native strain in BHK)
Eurasian water-milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	MISIN	BH
European swamp thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	EUPCWMA	BHK
Wild parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	EUPCWMA	BHK
Leafy spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	EUPCWMA	H
Japanese barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	MISIN	BH

*MISIN = Midwest Invasive Species Information Network; www.misin.msu.edu

EUPCWMA = Eastern Upper Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area; www.chipmackconservation.org/weedmap.asp