

KISMA Steering Committee meeting notes

20 June 2012 (revised 6 July 2012)

Michigan Tech Lakeshore Center, Room 107

600 E. Lakeshore Drive

Houghton, MI 49931

Agenda :

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Review KISMA memorandum of understanding
3. Annual work plan review
4. Other discussion
5. Schedule next meeting

1. Welcome and introductions

Steering Committee members present at meeting (two by conference call):

Shawn Hagan (The Forestland Group)

Bonnie Hay (Gratiot Lake Conservancy)

Janet Marr (Keweenaw Invasives Species Management Area)

Mark Klemp (Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District)

Sue Haralson (alternate: Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District)

Danielle Miller (The Nature Conservancy)

Evelyn Ravindran (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community)

Karen Anderson (alternate, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community)

Mark Romanski (Isle Royale National Park); conference call

Darcy Rutkowski (UP Resource Conservation & Development Council)

Ian Shackelford (US Forest Service, Ottawa National Forest)

Robert Strittmatter (Michigan DNR, Ft. Wilkins State Park)

Catherine Tarasoff; conference call

Dave Tormohlen (Plum Creek)

2. Review KISMA memorandum of understanding (MOU)

Plum Creek and Gratiot Lake Conservancy were added as interested parties to p. 1 of the MOU.

At the previous KISMA meeting on 20 March, Ian led a discussion about the MOU. There were mainly two parts in the MOU that were put on hold until today's meeting to discuss further.

These were articles 3h, 3i, and 5 (now article 6 in the 21 June version). The older and the revised 21 June versions of these articles are below.

Older version 19 March 2012 Articles 3.h., 3.i. and article 5

Article 3.h.: Members will utilize **integrated pest management principles** to coordinate priorities and actions for preventing, eradicating, containing, and controlling non-native invasive species.

Integrated control measures may include prevention measures, education, awareness programs, mechanical methods, biological controls, plant competition, fire, and herbicides. Members will insure that management of invasive species will incorporate **effective and safe** control measures.

Article 3.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.

Article 5 (in part): Modifications within the scope of this MOU shall be made by the issuance of a unanimously approved modification priority to any changes being performed.

Revised version 21 June 2012 Article 3.h. and 3.i and article 6 (formerly article 5)

Article 3.h.: Members will utilize **integrated pest management principles** to coordinate priorities and actions for preventing, eradicating, containing, and controlling non-native invasive species. Integrated control measures may include prevention measures, education, awareness programs, and mechanical, biological, cultural, and chemical controls. Members will insure that management of invasive species will incorporate **effective and safe** control measures. Where applicable, any commercial pesticide applicators should be licensed and insured.

Article 3.i.: Review this MOU and make **revisions and updates as necessary** to meet the purpose of this agreement. Amendments or modifications shall become effective upon approval by a majority of Interested Parties.

ARTICLE 6 - MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION

Modifications within the scope of this MOU shall be made by the issuance of an approved written modification prior to any changes being performed.

Under Article 3, Fiscal Obligations, we added, "The Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District will be held harmless from any liability from cooperative invasive plant treatments undertaken by KISMA members.

NOTE: The MOU is still a working document; the most recent draft is on-line at kisma.org. The MOU draft will be updated periodically (as has already happened since the 20 June meeting) as the Forest Service agreements specialist, various partners, and partners' attorneys peruse this draft document and suggest changes. It's hoped that a final MOU will be ready for partners' signatures by the end of the 2012 summer. Ian said that the Ottawa NF invasive plant crew may be available to help with partner projects this summer. Contact Ian for more information.

3. Annual work plan review

Janet updated the draft Annual Operating Plan from 5 June 2012. A copy of this plan (version 22 June 2012) is at KISMA.org

Various steering committee members shared what invasive species their groups/agencies will be involved with this summer:

- Ian: Ian: Forest Service treated some honeysuckle along the West Branch Sturgeon River this month
- Ian: Forest Service is planning to treat roadside crown vetch (*Coronilla varia*) north of Kenton (southern Houghton Co)

- Ian: We have some available sites of Japanese barberry and glossy buckthorn in the Sturgeon River area (long hike in, need a shovel). Contact Ian if you'd like to volunteer. He will provide GPS coordinates, site details, and nice maps to anyone interested.
- Shawn: talked about a Japanese knotweed site near culvert on county road on Elm River Tower Lk Rd, N of Twin Lakes (Houghton Co); knotweed came in about 2 or 3 years ago; Ian asked Shawn to send details and Ottawa NF can probably help in control
- Ian: wild chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) mowed for 3 years along Forest HW 16; had paid Houghton Co. Rd Commission to mow earlier in season before fruiting; too costly to continue
- Evelyn: requested help at spotted knapweed pull (July 18, 19) at Sand Pte Campground, just N of Baraga; L'Anse school did not request help from Ottawa NF for Japanese barberry project; Ian & Ottawa NF can help Evelyn with J. barberry control needs
- Mark R.: pulling sessions planned for spotted knapweed at parking lot in Houghton's Isle Royale visitor center (will help prevent seeds from spreading to Isle Royale on peoples shoes when they head over on the Ranger III); boy scouts help with Isle Royale invasive species projects on first or last day of their visits to the Island; Tech person will be sending list of invasive projects soon (free ride offered on Ranger III in exchange for helping with invasive plant control on the Island)
- Rob: Ft. Wilkins State Park; putting up boat launch signs to educate about preventing spread of aquatic invasives; boy scouts coming back from Isle Royale will spend a day on a volunteer service project at the Park (maybe can educate them to look for certain invasive plants along trails); KISMA has opportunity to do an educational program sometime at Ft. Wilkins (McLain State Park person earlier in week suggested the same thing for their park)

4. Other items

Darcy is working on a Pulling Together grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation that will expand collaboration around invasive species education and management among conservation districts, tribes & 5 cooperative species management areas in the UP and NE Wisc. If funded, this project, among other things, will conduct an educational campaign about garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed plus would provide KISMA with two seasonal field technicians for about 10 weeks in 2013 and 10 weeks in 2014. Darcy has been talking with the Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District about this proposal and whether the District would be interested in becoming the fiscal agent should the grant be funded.

Shawn pointed that a road crew workshop would be very helpful. This topic was also discussed at the 20 March 2012 KISMA meeting (please see 20 March 2012 meeting notes at kisma.org) and will be a good project for future discussions.

5. Schedule next meeting

The next KISMA steering committee meeting will be on Wed., 11 July 2012, from 1:00 - 3:30 pm in Houghton at the Michigan Tech Lakeshore Center, 600 E. Lakeshore Drive.