

2nd KISMA Steering Committee meeting notes from 11July2012 meeting (17July2012 version)

Michigan Tech Lakeshore Center, Room 107
600 E. Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, MI 49931

Agenda :

1. Introduction
2. Comments on previous minutes/notes
3. Annual work plan
4. MOU
5. Pulling Together grant proposal; KISMA letter of support, etc.
6. Additional items?
5. Schedule next meeting

1. Introduction

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)

Sue Haralson (alternate: Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District, HKCD)

Karen Anderson (alternate, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community)

Darcy Rutkowski (UP Resource Conservation & Development Council; UP RC&D Council)

Ian Shackelford (US Forest Service, Ottawa National Forest); conference call

Catherine Tarasoff

Dave Tormohlen (Plum Creek); conference call

not present:

Mark Romanski (Isle Royale National Park)

Evelyn Ravindran (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community)

Danielle Miller (The Nature Conservancy)

Mark Klemp (Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District)

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

2. Comments on notes from previous (20 June 2012) meeting:

Ian had made previous suggestions that Janet had incorporated into notes. No comments were made at meeting.

3. Annual work plan:

Janet went over the annual work plan (6 July 2012 version) that had been sent to all steering committee members previous to the meeting. An updated version (17 July 2012) will be available at kisma.org

4. MOU:

Ian said that the MOU is being put together in the format that the USFS agreements office in Ironwood would prefer. See kisma.org for the draft MOU.

5. Pulling Together grant proposal; KISMA letter of support, etc.:

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 & five cooperative species management areas in the UP and NE Wisconsin. If funded (and there is no guarantee since these grants are getting more competitive all the time), there would be an educational campaign about garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed and KISMA would be provided with \$16,248, in part, to hire two seasonal field technicians for about 10 weeks in 2013 and 10 weeks in 2014. The way this money would be allocated for the 2 person weed crew is as follows:

2 people x 10 wks x 30 hrs/wk = 600 hrs x \$10/hr x 2 yrs = \$12,000

\$3360 to offset coordinator time to work with and schedule crew

\$888 to pay for travel which would cover 800 miles/yr at the IRS approved rate of 0.555

The UP RC&D Council could contract with the crew members to do this work - or if another partner was better suited to contract with the crew, that is also a possibility. They don't need to decide that right now. This is a federal grant and requires a 1:1 match of non-federal funds. KISMA would need to provide \$12,000 in match over the two-yr grant period (2013 and 2014). This match can come from any of the KISMA partners and local residents that are not paid with federal dollars. For instance - if the crew travelled to KBIC to pull knapweed with Evelyn and Karen, then the time of Evelyn and Karen working with them would count as match. If the coordinator had a public outreach event where residents were being educated (maybe at one of the state parks or something), then the time of all those people getting educated can also be counted as match. The approved match rate for adult volunteers is \$20.85/hr so we would need to come up with 575 total hrs to reach the \$12,000 or about 288 hours per year.

Janet wrote a draft letter on behalf of KISMA for support of this project that was reviewed by the steering committee. It will be included in the proposal package that is due to be submitted prior to July 23.

6. Additional items:

Janet noted that autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) was reported by Keren Tischler as occurring north of Hancock in at the Churning Rapids Trail system and vicinity. Darcy said there are lots of this species in Marquette Co and Ian said it's along an Ottawa NF pipeline. This is an early detection spp (not shown in Flora of MI for any UP county other than Ontonagon Co). Dana Richter reported poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) in 2-3 (4) locations on Quincy Hill.

Evelyn said that KBIC youth crew is interested in invasive plant work at Isle Royale; Mark R. emailed on 13 July & said that he doesn't think that they have work to support a crew this year but suggested getting together and planning something over the winter.

Janet talked about the purple loosestrife control project at Lily Pond near M203 (partners: McLain SP, Army Corps, Isle Royale NP). We need to map extent of population, at minimum cut off flowering stalks this year, and plan for control efforts in 2013. The best time to survey is in flower (which is soon.) Lee V (McLain) says ACOE needs permit for cutting flower stalks

off. Using beetles was discussed. Ian suggested trying to eradicate plants (if sites are small enough) and not just suppress them.

Darcy and Janet will be attending the Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species Conference in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, Aug 20-22. Interested in finding out more and maybe attending also? Website at: <http://www.tipsconf.ca/>

Sue reported that a large amount of Japanese knotweed (high priority KISMA invasive species) was dug up and piled up during recent water-line installation work near Osprey Rd (Tamarack City).; She will write to Steve Karpiak (Osceola Twp supervisor) with the concern that this project will result in spread of this invasive species. Japanese knotweed is now legally prohibited in Michigan according to the publication available at http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10370_59996---,00.html. "It is illegal to possess or introduce this species without a permit from the MI Dept of Agriculture, and Rural Development except to have it identified or in conjunction with control efforts." Darcy suggested contacting Sue Tangora (MI DNR) who is preparing a press release describing this recent law that makes planting or moving Japanese knotweed illegal and to ask for her advice on this matter. Janet will do this.

Darcy talked about the knotweed (Japanese or giant?) at the Ford Forestry Center and suggested that it could become a demonstration site. Catherine said that she would contact Andy Burton for information about this infestation.

Producing a 3-fold display board about KISMA/invasive species sounded like a good thing to have for volunteers to display at various venues (fairs, markets, etc.) Janet asked that anyone interested in helping design this board to let her know.

Sue said one method to get the word out about KISMA events is via TV 6's Pin point forecast. She will do this for two spotted knapweed sessions (McLain SP on July 14: Sand Pte on July 18 & 19). It was suggested that an interview by Dick Storm on 90.7 (Eagle Rock) that would air on a Sunday morning could also be useful.

Sue, Bonnie, and others suggested more visibility at control sessions (orange traffic cones, yellow caution tape, brochures, etc.) to educate neighbors and passersby.

Janet asked that members think about ideas for a KISMA logo, send to her or bring to the next meeting.

Two Michigan Technological University professors, Alex Mayer and Robert Pastel, met with Sue and Janet recently about various smartphone applications (apps) including an invasive species one that they were planning on developing. Janet and Darcy provided information to them about apps that had been or currently being developed that they might want to check into.

Catherine suggested determining what the role of the KISMA steering committee is and role of KISMA members in general. She also suggested looking into creation of a KISMA strategic management plan. Catherine suggested sending out periodic emails to non-steering committee

members of KISMA to keep them in the loop via minutes/notes from recent steering committee meetings (June 20 & July 11), ask for any volunteer needs, report new invasive plant infestations, etc. Janet will send an email out shortly to this effect to the partners listed on the first page of the draft MOU (6/21/2012). These are: Baraga Conservation District, Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association, Keweenaw Land Trust, Keweenaw National Historical Park, MI DNR (Forest Management Division, Craig Lake State Park, McLain State Park), Michigan Nature Association, Michigan Technological University?, and Natural Resource Conservation Service.

It was suggested that a general KISMA meeting should be held fairly soon. Darcy mentioned that another UP CWMA holds a general meeting each fall and spring.

Sue passed out RRIP-IT-UP Volunteer Match Forms and asked that all KISMA partners to please keep track of any volunteer hours and mileage for KISMA-related projects including attending KISMA meetings. This information will count as match for various grants.

Janet suggested all KISMA members who haven't had a chance to do so might want to take a look at:

- the CWMA Cookbook: A Recipe for Success. It gives details about many aspects of developing a cooperative weed management area (CWMA) like KISMA. It's available at: <http://mipn.org/cwmacookbook2011.pdf>
- KISMA.ORG website that Ian has established through the Ottawa National Forest with past meeting minutes/notes, draft MOU, etc.

6. Schedule next meeting

Janet will send out some possible meeting dates for the next meeting to members.