

3rd KISMA Steering Committee meeting notes from 15August2012 meeting (3 Sept. 2012 version)

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

Agenda :

1. Introduction
2. Comments on notes from previous meeting (11 July 2012)
3. MOU update
4. Darcy's summary of Phragmites, Pulling Together & garlic mustard projects; Marquette invasive plant conference
5. Partner updates to annual work plan
6. Roles of steering committee, coordinator, and partners
7. September meeting for all KISMA partners
8. Miscellaneous items (logo design and display board)
9. Additional items?
10. Schedule next steering committee meeting

1. Introduction

Steering Committee members at meeting:

Karen Anderson (alternate, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community)
Shawn Hagan (The Forestland Group)
Sue Haralson (alternate: Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District, HKCD)
Bonnie Hay (Griatiot Lake Conservancy)
Janet Marr (Keweenaw Invasives Species Management Area)
Evelyn Ravindran (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community)
Ian Shackleford (US Forest Service, Ottawa National Forest); conference call

not present:

Danielle Miller (The Nature Conservancy)
Mark Klemp (Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District)
Mark Romanski (Isle Royale National Park)
Darcy Rutkowski (UP Resource Conservation & Development Council; UP RC&D Council)
Robert Strittmatter (Michigan DNR, Ft. Wilkins State Park)
Catherine Tarasoff
Dave Tormohlen (Plum Creek)

2. Comments on notes from previous (11 July 2012) meeting: No comments were made about notes from the previous meeting.

3. MOU: Ian said that the MOU is coming along but awaiting some attention by the Forest Service. See kisma.org for current version of the MOU.

4. Darcy's summary of Phragmites, Pulling Together & garlic mustard projects; Marquette invasive plant conference: Janet read the information that Darcy provided about the successful

GLRI grant (\$458,160) obtained by the UP RC&D Council for Invasive Phragmites Control in MI's Upper Peninsula. The Pulling Together Grant Proposal which would provide, among other things, funding for a KISMA two-person weed crew for 2013 and 2014 was submitted. Successful applicants will be notified in late November. In addition, Darcy included a Summary of RRIP-IT-UP: Eradicate Garlic Mustard in the UP of Michigan and details about the region-wide Invasive Plant Conference, Oct. 16, in Marquette. Several KISMA partners plan to attend including Darcy, Janet, Sue, Evelyn, Karen, and Shawn. Detailed information about the above items are included at the end of the meeting notes below.

5. Partner updates to annual work plan:

A. Purple loosestrife control at Lily Pond, Houghton Co, between Hancock & McLain State Park. This area is a staging ground for materials that are loaded onto Isle Royale boats and as Isle Royale is purple loosestrife-free it is very important to control purple loosestrife at this Army Corps site to help prevent it from reaching the island. After Lee VerBerkmoes (McLain State Park) obtained permission from the Army Corps in Duluth to cut and bag flowering/fruited heads, Caitlin Clarke (Isle Royale National Park) on August 9th worked with four volunteers from various KISMA groups to help in this effort: Kristine Bradof (IRKPA, Isle Royale Natl Park), Chuck Palosaari (KEWE, Keweenaw National Historical Park), Kristin Brusso (McLain State Park), and Jason Oyadomari (Finlandia University instructor). Their efforts resulted in 17 bags of purple loosestrife flowers/fruits being cut and collected on August 9. The bags were turned away at a local waste disposal company although there is MI legislation that allows invasive species to be disposed of in landfills, if certain conditions are met, so disposal should not have been an issue according to Michigan's Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994. The excerpt of Section 11521(1) of the act says: "Yard clippings shall be managed by 1 of the following means:""(i)Disposed of in a landfill or an incinerator, but only if the yard clippings are diseased or infested or are composed of invasive plants, such as garlic mustard, purple loosestrife, or spotted knapweed, that were collected through an eradication or control program, include no more than a de minimis amount of other yard clippings, and are inappropriate to compost." And here is the link so you can read it in context: <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2007-2008/publicact/pdf/2007-PA-0212.pdf> We discussed whether KISMA or the State should notify the local waste disposal companies about this law. Future purple loosestrife control efforts at Lily Pond beyond cutting and bagging flowering/fruited heads were discussed.

B. Spotted knapweed pulls McLain State Park (14 Aug 2012) and Sand Pte Campground (18 & 19 Aug): Pulls occurred at these two sites as planned. Additional volunteers would have been helpful.

C. Japanese barberry control in L'Anse: Ottawa National Forest weed crew helped KBIC in Japanese barberry control in the forest near KBIC's walleye ponds on 24 July and plan to do again on 22 August.

D. Keweenaw National Historical Park invasive plant activities: Steve DeLong emailed Janet the following: July 20 -31 G.E. Aviation volunteers removed woody vegetation among ruins at the Quincy Mine site to help re-establish historic views and expose historic resources; observed spotted knapweed to be prevalent; control efforts for invasives may occur in future (KISMA

offered to let people know about needs for volunteer pullers) July 31-August 1: Carmen Chapin with the National Park Service Exotic Plant Management Team helped inventory existing conditions on National Park Service owned property and discussed how to address findings.

6. Roles of KISMA steering committee, coordinator, and partners: At the 11 July meeting Catherine asked what the charges of the KISMA steering committee, coordinator, and partners are. Here is the steering committee charge based on the CWMA Cookbook: A Recipe for Success which can be accessed by clicking on link at kisma.org:

The KISMA steering committee provides direction and assists the coordinator in various tasks such as organizing members, establishing priorities, developing annual operating and strategic management plans, identifying opportunities, and generally furthering the common goals of KISMA.

Duties of the coordinator (taken mostly from Participating Agreement Supplemental Project Agreement to Master Participating Agreement between HKCD and Ottawa NF) are to:

- Communicate with KISMA members
- Organize and coordinate efforts
- Plan KISMA meetings
- Conduct public education on invasive species in Houghton, Keweenaw, and Baraga Cos.
- Write news releases about KISMA and invasive species
- Recruit and supervise KISMA volunteers
- Provide botanical expertise on the management of invasives plants
- Follow the KISMA annual operating plans to be developed cooperatively with all KISMA members and agreed upon by the HKCD
- Document progress and reports on goals accomplished by partners
- Chair the KISMA steering committee

Refer to the MOU at kisma.org for what the partners agree to do as KISMA members.

7. September meeting for all KISMA partners: Various ideas and dates were discussed for an all-KISMA partner meeting in September. Janet will send out a list to the steering committee for ideas of people/groups to consider inviting that are not on the list already.

8. Miscellaneous items (logo design and display board): Logo design ideas were asked for. Ian furnished a tri-fold display board for KISMA to use for events that Janet and others will work on designing and completing this winter.

Additional items:

A. Japanese knotweed: A new Michigan law pertaining to Japanese knotweed has recently come into effect (info at: <http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/> Click on Japanese knotweed in righthand column). It states that: "Japanese knotweed is legally prohibited in Michigan. It is illegal to possess or introduce this species without a permit from the Michigan Department of Agriculture, and Rural Development except to have it identified or in conjunction with control efforts." Currently Sue Tangora (DNR Wildlife Division Program Coordinator – Invasive Species and Private Lands) is working on a news brief about this new legislation that she will share with

KISMA and other area CWMAs to tweak to their areas and publish in local media. Part of Darcy's Pulling Together grant if it is successful will provide funding for very much needed Japanese knotweed education.

Evelyn asked whether purple loosestrife may be legally grown on your own property and Janet said she'd find out about that.

B. 2013 invasive plant control by KBIC youth at McLain State Park and Isle Royale:

Evelyn said that KBIC has conservation and summer youth crews (5 & 57 kids, respectively, in 2012) that may be available to help in invasive plant (including spotted knapweed) control efforts next summer at McLain and Isle Royale. Isle Royale will provide free transportation on the Ranger and McLain will provide free cabins (if arrangements made far enough in advance). Evelyn, Mark R., and Janet will talk over plans this winter for next summer's activities.

B. Education about invasive species: Ideas were discussed for future invasive species education geared toward targeted audiences such as foresters, loggers, and Trout Unlimited and events such as Earth Day (April), Lake Superior Day (July), and Adopt-a-Beach (Sept). If you have an idea for a target audience/event and/or are willing to help out, please let Janet know. Interest was shown at an earlier KISMA meeting on 20 March 2012 for invasive plant education for right-of-way managers and road crews.

9. Schedule next steering committee meeting: October 10 (Wednesday), Houghton, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

***Invasive Phragmites Control in Michigan's Upper Peninsula**

\$458,160 in GLRI funding to control 400 acres in the UP during 2013 and 2014 (match requirement \$269,038)

Project Abstract

The UP RC&D Council will work with partners to restore or enhance 400 acres of coastal shoreline and wetlands in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan within the next 2 years by controlling invasive phragmites (*Phragmites australis*), thereby minimizing a serious threat to native coastal wetlands and improving habitat for vulnerable species. We will establish sustainable, long-term control by reducing known populations and coordinating efforts across jurisdictions and land ownerships to maximize benefits and efficiency. We will continue EDRR efforts to discover, verify, and treat newly-reported invasive phragmites found in interior wetlands, private lands adjacent to MDOT ROW infestations, and any potential sites identified on the Lake Superior shoreline. We will take full advantage of this EDRR network by training partners and contractors to identify 20 additional high-threat invasive species that have the potential to occur in UP Great Lakes coastal zone. Partners will conduct early detection and map any of these species discovered on the 400 acres to be restored. We will collaborate with project leaders from the other largescale phragmites control projects in the upper Great Lakes to exchange ideas and develop cooperative strategies for long-term control in the region. Training partners to detect, monitor and treat invasive phragmites will increase local capacity to assume responsibility for control efforts after this project is completed.

Timetable:

Oct. 2012 –Jan. 2013: Hire Project Coordinator; convene steering team; develop QAPP and NEPA documentation

Jan. – Aug. 2013: Ground-truth mapped infestations; establish pre-treatment monitoring plots; educate residents in each county, obtain county-wide permits, secure landowner permission; train conservation district personnel

September 2013: Complete pre-treatment monitoring surveys according to monitoring protocol identified in QAPP; conduct herbicide treatment on all coastal and inland infestations with landowner permission

Oct. 2013-Mar. 2014: Remove biomass from prioritized treatment sites

Mar.-Aug. 2014: Evaluate treatment success with post-treatment monitoring according to QAPP protocol; educate additional landowners and obtain permission; verify new infestation reports; train private landowners about treatment protocols they can use to treat their own (reduced) infestations in the coming years; evaluate regeneration of native species in treated areas

September 2014: Conduct herbicide treatment on infestations

Nov. – Dec. 2014: Remove biomass from prioritized treatment sites; plan for partners' continuing control efforts

Project Steering Team:

Phyllis Higman, Sr. Cons. Scientist, Cons. Ed. Section Leader and Invasive Plant Specialist, MI Natural Features Inventory

Matt Preisser, Lake Coordinator for Lake Michigan and Lake Superior, MDEQ, Office of the Great Lakes

Sue Tangora, Wildlife Biologist, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division

Chris Cantway, Upper Peninsula Land Steward for the Nature Conservancy in Michigan

Teri Grout, Executive Director, Alger Conservation District

Jennifer Muladore, Invasive Species Manager, Huron Pines

Heidi Springborn, Phragmites Project Coordinator, Wisconsin DNR

Todd Insley, Eastern UP CWMA Coordinator

Rory Mattson, Delta Conservation District Executive Director

Budget Items of Interest: Certified Pesticide Applicators **\$240,000**, Certified Mowing/Biomass Removal Contractors **\$90,000**, Contractors for Surveying/Mapping **\$15,000**

The Pulling Together Grant Proposal which would provide funding for a KISMA two-person weed crew for 2013 and 2014 was submitted. Successful applicants will be notified in late November.

Summary of RRIP-IT-UP: Eradicate Garlic Mustard in the UP of Michigan

- \$150,000 in GLRI funding to control GM in the UP during 2012 and 2013 (match requirement also \$150,000)
- Total pounds pulled = 37,950 or 1265 garbage bags!
- Total acres sprayed = 40 (25 in Gogebic Co, 15 in Mackinac Co)
- Total acres pulled
 - Gogebic Co. – multiple sites, 25 acres treated, ? pounds pulled in private residences
 - Houghton/Keweenaw Cos. 26 sites, 3 acres treated, 210 pounds
 - Dickinson Co. - 4 sites, 1 acre treated, 690 pounds
 - Marquette Co. - multiple sites, 64 acres treated, 20,865 pounds

Alger Co. – multiple contiguous sites, 112 acres treated, 13,620 pounds
Mackinac/Luce Cos. – multiple sites, 40 acres treated, 2,565 pounds
Tiny infestations in Delta, Ontonagon, Iron, Chippewa Cos, None found to date in Menominee, Baraga or Schoolcraft Cos.

Ten garlic mustard bootbrush stations will be installed in the UP and/or northeastern WI – applications are due 8/24/12

Save The Date:

Region-wide Invasive Plant Conference-October 16, 2012 in Marquette

Topics Areas and Confirmed Speakers:

- II. **Inspirational beginning (Look how far we've come)** Jan Schultz, USFS
 - III. Tracks: 4 talks, 45 mins each
 - A. **Education & Outreach**
 - 1. Sooper Yooper author talking about teaching children about invasives Mark Newman, Author
 - 2. Recruiting volunteers Jason Frenzel, Huron Arbor Cluster Coordinator (invited)
 - B. **Technology**
 - 1. new MIPN control database Mark Renz or Brendon Panke, UWI Ext
 - 2. MISIN iPhone app and website Amos Ziegler, MISIN
 - IV. **Lunch/poster session**
 - V. Tracks: two talks, 45 mins each and one 90 mins panel
 - A. **ID and control**
 - 1. Potential Species: Phragmites, leafy spurge and wild parsnip Vern Stehphens, MDNR
 - 2. Potential Species: Eurasian Watermilfoil Ann Hruska, Dickinson CD
 - B. Invasive Plant Management Partnership Panel: Sharing of experiences and resources - list presenter bullets points and then Q&A
 - 1. Grand Traverse Regional Invasive Species Network Robin Christensen, Coordinator
 - 2. Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area Matt Bushman, USFS (invited)
 - 3. Wild Rivers Invasive Species Cooperative Melissa Simpson, USFS
 - 4. Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation and Development Council Darcy Rutkowski, Ex Dir
 - 5. CWMA panels Ontario - potential
 - 6. Q&A
- VI. Emerging species, where do we go from here final talk Phyllis Higman, MNFI

There will also be a poster session and lunch will be included.