

## **4th KISMA Steering Committee meeting notes from 16 January 2013 meeting (13 March 2013 version)**

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

Agenda :

1. Introduction
2. Comments on notes from previous meeting (15 Aug 2012) & all partner meeting (20 Sept 2012)
3. MOU update (Ian)
4. Pulling Together & Phragmites grants (Darcy)
5. Assistance with KISMA projects
6. Eurasian water-milfoil update
7. Grant opportunities
8. Annual work plan for 2013
9. KISMA all partner meeting/event this spring
10. Update on logo design and KISMA display board
11. Additional items
12. Schedule next steering committee meeting

### **1. Introduction:**

Steering Committee members at meeting:

Karen Anderson (alternate, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community)  
Bonnie Hay (Gratiot Lake Conservancy); conference call  
Mark Klemp (Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District)  
Janet Marr (Keweenaw Invasives Species Management Area)  
Danielle Miller (The Nature Conservancy)  
Evelyn Ravindran (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community)  
Darcy Rutkowski (UP Resource Conservation & Development Council; UP RC&D Council)  
Robert Strittmatter (Michigan DNR, Ft. Wilkins State Park)  
Ian Shackleford (US Forest Service, Ottawa National Forest); conference call

visitors:

Nancy and Bill Leonard (representing Chassell Township)

not present:

Shawn Hagan (The Forestland Group)  
Sue Haralson (alternate: Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District, HKCD)  
Mark Romanski (Isle Royale National Park)  
Catherine Tarasoff (Michigan Technological University)  
Dave Tormohlen (Plum Creek)

**2. Comments on notes from previous (15 August 2012) meeting and all partner meeting (20 Sept 2012):** No comments were made about notes from the previous meeting.

**3. MOU update (Ian):** Ian said that the MOU has been put in the template required by the Forest Service. He has addressed comments from various partners and will work on comments recently submitted by Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. If the comments are not major, then the MOU will soon be ready for signing. If more major changes are done to the MOU, updated copies will be available to check over by all partners. See [kisma.org](http://kisma.org) for current version of the MOU. Thank you, Ian, for all your work of this.

**4. Pulling Together and Phragmites grants (Darcy):** Darcy handed out copies of a 1-page sheet where she had summarized three grants (Pulling Together grant entitled Sustainable Invasive Plant Collaboration in Michigan's UP; UP Garlic Mustard Eradication Project, and UP Non-native Phragmites control project). Thanks to Darcy and her hard work on preparing and followup with the Pulling Together grant. As a result, KISMA will have a two-person weed crew for 2013 and 2014! The mechanism for hiring the weed crew has still not been finalized. The UP RC&D Council would be interested in possibly contracting with one of the other KISMA partners to hire and manage this crew. Please contact Darcy if your organization might be interested in managing the crew. For more details on all three grants, please see the summary sheet at the end of these meeting notes.

**5. Assistance with KISMA projects:** The 2-person crew hired through the Pulling Together grant (see #4 above) will be a great asset to KISMA. We discussed the possibility of MI Tech students working as invasive species interns receiving credit for their work (as done at Northern MI University). There will likely be continuing support from the MTU Botany Club and Lighthouse Learners on invasive plant projects. Janet asked for suggestions from the steering committee to let her know if they knew of any other groups who might be interested in volunteering for KISMA projects.

#### **6. Eurasian water-milfoil update and 7. Grant opportunities**

These two sections (#6 & 7) are combined. Nancy and Bill Leonard, informally representing Chassell Township, attended the steering committee meeting to ask for any assistance KISMA might be able to provide in dealing with the very dense infestation of non-native invasive water-milfoil plants that they discovered at Pike Bay near Chassell (Figure 1) last summer (2012). Both Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and hybrid water-milfoil (between *M. spicatum* and the native Northern water-milfoil, *Myriophyllum sibiricum*) are present at Pike Bay. Specimens of both rooted EWM (Marr #3903) and the hybrid (Marr #3901) collected near Centennial Park on Pike Bay were verified by Tony Reznicek and are filed in the University of Michigan herbarium. In addition a specimen sent by Janet to Ryan Thum (Grand Valley State University) who does genetic testing determined a specimen from near Centennial Park to be the hybrid. The Leonards approached Chassell Township informing them of the presence of these invasive milfoils. The Township is very interested in gathering more information about the water-milfoil issue and developing a plan of action.

Elsewhere in the Keweenaw Waterway, rooted EWM was collected from Dollar Bay (Marr #3927) and both rooted EWM (Marr #3914) and probable hybrid (Marr #3911) near the boat launch at Lake Linden on Torch Lake. EWM and/or hybrid may possibly be in Torch Bay (? on Figure 1). Native, non-invasive water-milfoils also occur in the Keweenaw Waterway.

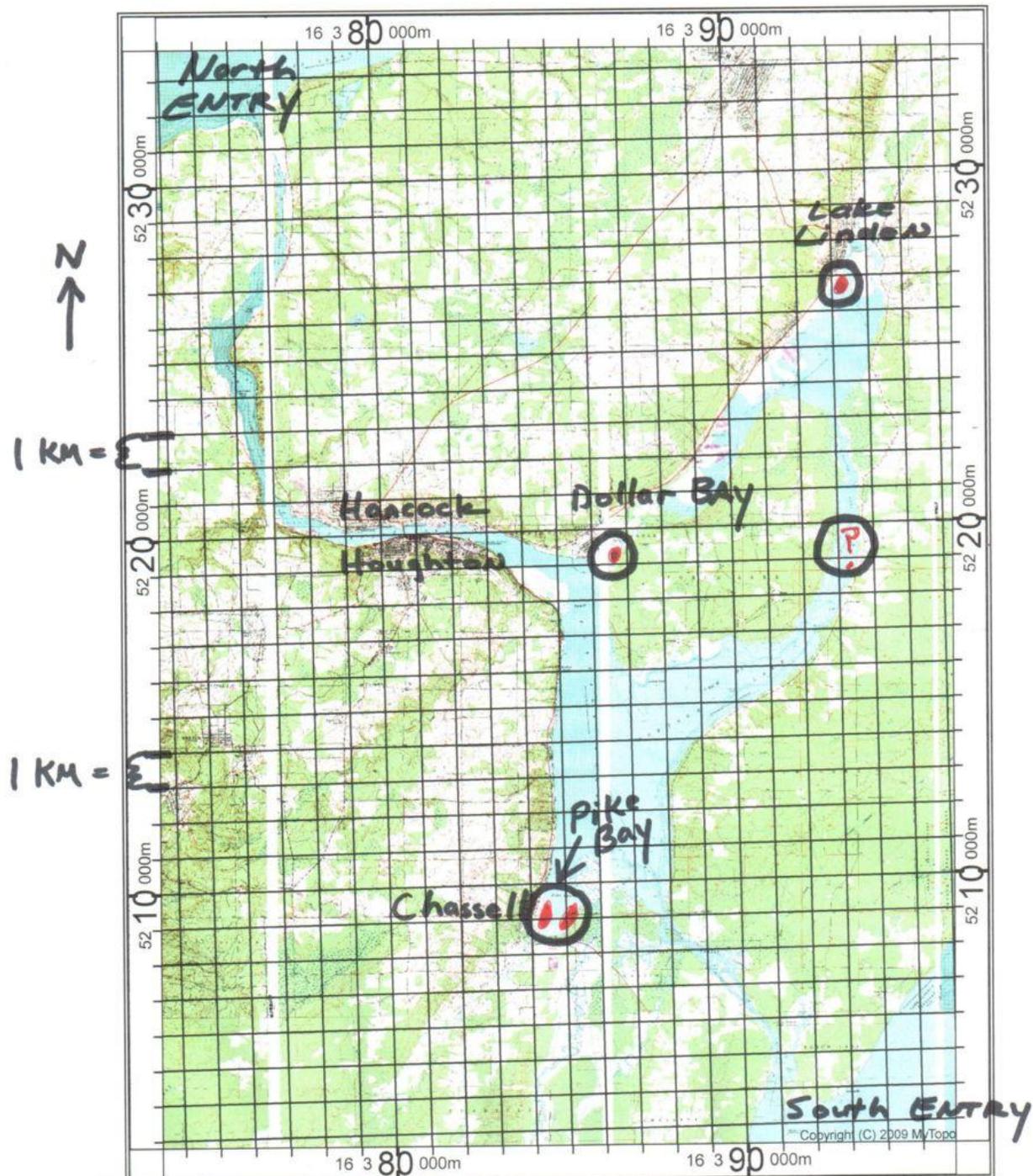


Figure 1.

Known locations of the non-native invasive Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and the invasive hybrid between *M. spicatum* and the native northern water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*) in Houghton County's Keweenaw Waterway as of 21 January 2013. Other EWM locations in the KISMA tri-county region are at Prickett Lake in southern Houghton County. In Baraga County EWM is known from a pond at Sand Point, just north of Baraga. Neither EWM nor its hybrid is currently known from Keweenaw County (which includes Isle Royale National Park).

NOTE: There is at least one native water-milfoil species in the Keweenaw Waterway.

SIGNS: Chassell Township will be erecting two signs furnished by Ian: "Help prevent the spread of invasives species" (Figure 2) and "Exotic Species Alert" (Figure 3). Stickers for various aquatic invasive species (Figure 4), also available from Ian, can be added to the top of the "Exotic Species Alert" sign (Figure 3). Ian also provided Rob Strittmatter with two of the larger signs (Figure 2) that Rob will have frames built for and will put up near Ft. Wilkins and at Gratiot Lake. Ian will bring several more of these signs (framed) up to the KISMA all-partner meeting in Baraga (June 7) for Rob to put up at other area lakes. If you are interested in signs for a particular lake, contact Ian to see about sign availability. Figure 5 ("Help stop aquatic hitchhikers!") is a sign that Rob Strittmatter brought to the meeting that he will have posted at some area lakes. Rob pointed out that this sign informs boaters and others that it's against the law to transport aquatic species, etc. on public roads, launch a watercraft or trailer in the water with aquatic species, etc. attached, and more. For a list of prohibited and restricted species in Michigan, please see:

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Prohibited\\_and\\_restricted\\_species\\_list\\_388941\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Prohibited_and_restricted_species_list_388941_7.pdf)

What to do about EWM and the hybrid in the Keweenaw Waterway is one question that was discussed at the meeting while the other was the need to survey selected inland lakes for EWM (and possibly other invasive aquatic species). If an invasive is found early on, then it is a lot more likely to be able to be eradicated or kept from spreading (=early detected/rapid response). Here are the number of lakes in KISMA's three county area according to :

<http://www.lakeplace.com/lakefinder/mi>

Houghton Co (89 lakes; 2 to 19,970 acres)

Baraga Co (114 lakes; 4 to 4260 acres)

Keweenaw Co (74 lakes; includes ISRO; 9 to 4500 acres)

Total # of lakes: 277 lakes

Janet will be checking into various grants to see if the EWM issue on the Keweenaw Waterway or invasive survey of inland lakes might be suitable projects for that funding source. Three of these potential funding sources are:

- Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program (application deadline: 29 March 2013); info at: [http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3313\\_3677\\_3696-11198--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3313_3677_3696-11198--,00.html)
- MI DEQ water quality monitoring grants (application deadline: not posted yet): info for last year's grant at: <http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135--275754--,00.html>
- KBIC's 2% funds: KBIC accepts 2% requests, in the form of a letter, for governmental services to local communities (distribution of funds are required to be made through a local unit of government, letters or other supporting documentation from the governing body of local unit of government need to be included with letter of request). Requests, along with government pass-through letters, must be received prior to the March 31<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. Evelyn said she would find out what sorts of projects have been funded in the past and funding amounts.

Ian suggested that at minimum areas around every boat launch in the Keweenaw Waterway could be checked for EWM this summer. Signage needs could be assessed then as well. Ideas for volunteers were discussed to look elsewhere in the Waterway. Evelyn said that KBIC would probably be able to furnish a jon boat and pilot and/or canoes to help in this effort in August if need be.

Figure 2

**HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES**

**Before launching and before leaving:**

- ✓ **INSPECT** boats, trailers, and equipment.
- ✓ **REMOVE** all aquatic plants, animals, and mud.
- ✓ **DRAIN** water from boat, motor, live well, and equipment.
- ✓ **NEVER MOVE** plants or live animals from one water-body to another.
- ✓ **DO NOT** release worms or unused bait.

**Look Out for these Harmful Species**

**Inspect everything!**  
It is illegal to launch with aquatic plants attached to boat or trailer (307 Public Act 47 of 2006)

**Questions? Contact the**  
Ottawa National Forest at 906-933-1330

Figure 3

**Exotic Species Alert**  
These Waters Contain The Following Aquatic Nuisance Species:

Help prevent the spread of these non-native plants and animals to other lakes and streams:

- ✓ **Inspect** all parts of your boat, trailer and other equipment.
- ✓ **Remove** all mud, debris, plants, and animals.
- ✓ **Drain** all water including bilge, live well, etc. before leaving water access area.
- ✓ **Wash** your boat and trailer at home. Flush water through cooling system, live wells, other areas that hold water. Preferably, dry boat and equipment for 5 days in a sunny location before use in new body of water.

Michigan laws prohibit possessing or introducing restricted aquatic nuisance species such as Eurasian watermilfoil (PA 451 Part 413).

Remember... Clean boats - Clean waters

**Fish Hook Water Flea**  
Adult life size: up to 3/8 inch long. Transparent.

**Spiny Water Flea**  
Masses of water fleas

**Eurasian Watermilfoil -**  
12-21 pairs of leaflets

**Zebra Mussels -**  
Adult life size: 1/4 to 1 inch

**Ruffe -**  
Adult life size: 3 to 5 inches

**Rusty Crayfish -**  
Adult size: 6 inches long, including claws. Rust colored spots on sides.

**Purple Loosestrife -**  
3 - 7 feet tall with a spike of purple flowers.

Figure 4

**HELP STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**

To avoid spreading aquatic invasive species

**BEFORE launching ... BEFORE leaving:**

- Remove aquatic plants and aquatic animals
- Drain lake or river water away from landing
- Dispose of unwanted live bait in the trash

**It's the Law... Do not:**

- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species on public roads
- Launch a watercraft or place a trailer in the water if it has aquatic plants, zebra mussels or other prohibited species attached
- Transport water from infested waters

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Figure 5

Various other topics discussed concerning Eurasian water-milfoil and aquatic invasives in general were:

- It would be a good idea to have boat wash stations set up at some area lakes. (Ian said that the Ottawa National Forest had a boat wash that they could send up for educational purposes at a fishing or other event this summer.) Ian said prices range from \$8000 to \$20,000 for boat washers. Apparently hand cleaning has sometimes been found to be as effective as pressure boat washing.
- Both Rob and Ian said that Watersmeet Lakeguards at <http://www.isccw.org/> have been very active in EWM control in Watersmeet Twp. Ian has worked with this group for seven years.
- The Ottawa National Forest has been working with Eurasian watermilfoil infestations since 2002. In 2010 they received Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding and purchased four trailered pressure washers for washing boats to help educate boaters and prevent the lake-to-lake spread of aquatic invasive species. Snorkelers have pulled plants at small infestations and at larger infestations the native water-milfoil weevil for biocontrol and herbicides have been used, but have found the two latter methods are not as effective as hoped for. There are some success stories at other lakes (e.g., Duck and Crooked Lakes in the Sylvania Tract). In Duck Lake herbicide treatments and an ongoing seasonal hand pulling/diving program are used. For more info see: [http://www.friendsofsylvania.org/Lake\\_Survey.pdf](http://www.friendsofsylvania.org/Lake_Survey.pdf)

**8. Annual work plan for 2013:** This is the early stages of development. Evelyn said that KBIC is still interested in working at McLain and Isle Royale on invasive removal projects this summer. Janet will email partners involved in these and other projects about planning schedules and logistics this winter in preparation for summer work.

**9. KISMA all partner meeting/event this spring:** Tentative plans have been made to have the all partner meeting/event in Baraga County this spring and sponsored by KBIC. This would most likely start with a meeting in the morning followed by lunch and then a tour of the KBIC Natural Resources Department greenhouse and a visit/work event at Sand Point, a remediation site now replanted with native plants, many of which were started at the greenhouse. For more info about Sand Point, see: <http://northcountrywebsitedesign.com/KBIC-NRD/native-plants-sand-point.html> When KISMA is involved with invasive plant efforts, it's important to plan for site restoration after the invasive plants are removed with efforts such as planting with native species, continued removal of invasives, etc. An afternoon with KBIC will help show both successes and challenges resulting from their restoration efforts using native species.

**10. Update on logo design and KISMA display board:** Janet received quotes from two local businesses to tweak the KISMA logo that Shawn had worked up plus provide us with pdf and other files for using the logo on letterhead, brochures, display boards, etc. One quote was for \$100 and the other for \$325-\$500. Janet gave the go ahead to the company with the former quote. Janet asked for contributions of photographs of invasive species or invasive species-related activities to use on the large display board contributed to KISMA by Ian & the Forest

Service that Janet will be working on this winter for use at various educational venues around the area. If anyone would like to help with this project, please let her know.

**11. Additional items:** Janet is working on clarifying the issue of disposal of bags of invasive plants with Waste Management. The Lighthouse Learners printed out 100 copies of their spotted knapweed brochure that will be available to visitors at McLain State Park starting this summer.

**12. Schedule next steering committee meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for March 13 (Wednesday), Houghton, Michigan Tech Lakeshore Center (Room 107), 1:00-3:00 p.m.,

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**Darcy distributed this summary sheet about three successful grants at the 16 January 2013 meeting.**

**Sustainable Invasive Plant Collaboration in Michigan's UP**

Total Grant Funds: \$51,466

Total Non-federal Match Required: \$51,466

KISMA Funding: \$16,240

KISMA Match Pledge: \$12,000

**Project Abstract:** This project will improve the capacity and long-term sustainability of all five Cooperative Weed Management Areas in the Upper Peninsula (UP) of Michigan and northeastern Wisconsin and build on the accomplishments of the RRIP-IT-UP (**R**apid **R**esponse **I**nvasive **P**lant **I**ntervention **T**eam for the **UP**) project which was just completed. These five CWMA's will collaborate to form the Upper Peninsula Invasives Council (UPIC) and will all employ standardized mapping protocols, and see increased networking opportunities through continuation of an annual conference and a quarterly electronic newsletter. This collaboration will increase the effectiveness of the limited resources available for dealing with invasive species in this region. The two CWMA's which are associated with the Ottawa National Forest will increase their visibility through an education and outreach campaign about garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed. Their capacity to deal with invasive species will be increased by employing a coordinator in the Western Peninsula Invasives Council (WePIC) and by employing a seasonal weed crew in the Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area (KISMA). Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) will be controlled on a minimum of 20 acres throughout the six counties that comprise these two CWMA's.

**Long-term conservation outcomes that relate to KISMA:**

**1) Increased visibility, sustainability, and collaboration of all five CWMA's in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan**

Formation of UPIC

Develop UPIC webpage

Promote use of standardized mapping protocols

Develop some common messaging

Continue the UP-wide conference for two more years

Coordinate quarterly electronic newsletter

**2) Increased organizational capacity of two CWMA's associated with the Ottawa National Forest**

Funds to support a part-time WePIC Coordinator (\$14,000 + some travel reimbursement)

Funds to support a two-person KISMA weed crew

\$3,360 for KISMA Coordinator to supervise/train crew

\$12,000 for two-person crew (2 yrs x 2 techs x 10 wks/yr x 30 hrs/wk x \$10/hr)

\$880.00 (1600 miles x .55/mi)

Funds to contract with EUPCWMA map coordinator to train KISMA, WePIC & WRISC standard mapping protocols (do you think this would be valuable???)

**3) UP residents and CWMA partners becoming educated about the best management practices for controlling the prohibited species Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)**

Conduct a workshop in the KISMA area (and one in the WePIC area) to educate residents about J Knotweed

Develop press releases/educational materials about J knotweed (in conjunction with WePIC and UPIC)

**4) Control of garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) on a minimum of 20 acres in the western six counties of the Upper Peninsula**

Continue the garlic mustard mapping, public education and control activities that have been started under our UP Garlic Mustard Project for 2 more years 2013 and 2014

**Other UP RC&D Projects relevant to KISMA**

**UP Garlic Mustard Eradication Project:** HKCD to conduct 1 more season of garlic mustard control in the KISMA area. Already received \$1000 and will receive another \$1000 during 2013. Match requirement has already been met.

**UP Non-native Phragmites Control Project:** Will fund the mapping of all non-native phrag in the UP and conduct herbicide treatments on a minimum of 400 acres. Only two locations of phrag known at this time in the KISMA area – so not much of this funding will be used in the KISMA area (lucky you!)