

## **5th KISMA Steering Committee meeting notes from 13 March 2013 meeting (30 April 2013 version)**

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

### Agenda :

1. Introductions
2. Pulling Together grant and KISMA work crew update (Darcy)
3. Eurasian water-milfoil update: introduction; Pike Bay (Joe Youngman); Keweenaw Waterway
4. Inland lakes
5. Comments on notes from previous meeting (16 January 2013)
6. MOU update (Ian)
7. Grant opportunity
8. Annual work plan
9. KISMA all partner meeting/event this spring (Baraga, June 7)
10. Additional items?
11. Schedule next steering committee meeting

### **1. Introduction:**

Steering Committee members at meeting:

Karen Anderson (alternate, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, KBIC)

Shawn Hagan (The Forestland Group)

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

Bonnie Hay (Gratiot Lake Conservancy); conference call

Bruce Maki (Plum Creek, alternate for Dave Tormohlen)

Janet Marr (Keweenaw Invasives Species Management Area)

Dana Richter (Michigan Technological University)

Mark Romanski (Isle Royale National Park); conference call

Darcy Rutkowski (UP Resource Conservation & Development Council); conference call

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

Steering Committee members not present:

Mark Klemp (Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District)

Danielle Miller (The Nature Conservancy)

Evelyn Ravindran (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community)

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

Dave Tormohlen (Plum Creek)

Visitors:

Bill Artiwich (Many Waters LLC)

Robert Curtis (KBIC)

Barb Gajewski (Many Waters LLC)

Amy Marcarelli (Michigan Technological University, Dept Biological Sciences)

Bruce Petersen (Portage Twp supervisor)

Anton Pintar (Houghton Co. Commissioner)

Joe Youngman (representing Chassell Twp)

## **2. Pulling Together grant and KISMA work crew update (Darcy)**

Last fall Darcy was successful in obtaining a Pulling Together grant with part of the funds going towards hiring a KISMA work crew for 2013 and 2014 (see 16 January 2013 meeting notes for more information about this grant). At the 13 March meeting Darcy shared a list of deliverables for the KISMA contractor who will have a \$4500 contract with the UP RC&D Council from May 1 - September 1, 2013. This list of deliverables is at the end of these meeting notes.

## **3. Eurasian water-milfoil update: introduction; Pike Bay (Joe Youngman); Keweenaw Waterway**

Discovery of Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) in the Keweenaw Waterway was discussed at the 16 January 2013 KISMA steering committee meeting (see 16 January meeting notes). Joe Youngman (representing Chassell Twp) talked about the EWM infestation in Pike Bay near Chassell and the plans for 2013: MTU professor Nancy Auer and her students plan to take flow measurements. Joe polled nearly all of the 105 landowners who had property along Pike Bay and the majority supported a special assessment district where taxes based on # of ft of lake footage would be used in EWM management. Chassell Twp will discuss and vote on this assessment at a future meeting. Joe stated that mapping of the EWM beds would take place in 2013.

Amy Marcarelli described a MTU pre-proposal in progress based on past EWM mapping and management in the U.P.'s Les Cheneaux Island in Lake Huron. If the proposal is funded, remote sensing would be used on the Keweenaw Waterway to help map EWM. In addition, a "web-based information clearinghouse" that contains links to credible and relevant resources for managing EWM in the Great Lakes region would be created so groups like Chassell Twp that are facing an EWM challenge have a place to immediately turn to for EWM information and do not need to "reinvent the wheel." KISMA would help get the word out about this web-based informational tool.

History of EWM infestation at Prickett Lake was discussed by Ian and others. The infestation was discovered in 1998. The Upper Peninsula Power Company monitors the infestation. Although common some years, the milfoil isn't interfering with recreation and no management is being done.

Ian volunteered to bring the portable Ottawa National Forest boat wash cleaning system up to the Keweenaw this summer. Various venues were discussed (Bridgefest, Longest Day of the Year, Lac La Belle fishing tournament, Chassell tournament).

Visitors Bruce Petersen, Barb Gajewski, and Bill Artwich all have had experience with EWM issues. Barb and Bill (Many Waters LLC), who have worked for the Ottawa National Forest and the Watersmeet Lakeguards on EWM management, offered valuable advice about underwater camera use, mapping suggestions to Joe for Pike Bay, and other facets of EWM control, etc.

Ian suggested partners help look for more Eurasian watermilfoil in Portage Lake and the Keweenaw Waterway this summer.

**4. Inland lakes:** The HKCD is writing a MI DEQ water quality grant proposal to survey the 40 highest priority lakes in the three counties covered by KISMA for occurrences of EWM and seven other aquatic invasive species. This proposal will be submitted 22 March and decisions will be made as to which proposals are funded by 1 August 2013.

**5. Comments on notes from previous meeting (16 January 2013):** Ian made some corrections (16 January meeting notes are at [kisma.org](http://kisma.org)).

**6. MOU update (Ian):** Ian said that 5 or 6 partners had signed and returned the MOU.

**7. Grant opportunity:** Janet approached American Transmission Company about providing a grant for tools that would be available to KISMA partners in their invasive species work.

**8. Annual work plan:** Janet is working on this and will incorporate the KISMA's work crew member's work plan into the annual plan.

**9. KISMA all partner meeting/event this spring (Baraga, June 7):** The date is set for the KISMA all partner meeting/event hosted by KBIC this spring. It is Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> and details will be sent to partners closer to the date. We'll meet in Baraga for a morning meeting followed by lunch outside and a visit to the Sand Point restoration site.

**10. Additional items?:** Darcy suggested incorporation of the KISMA weed crew contractor's tasks into the annual work plan.

**11. Schedule next steering committee meeting:** The next KISMA steering committee meeting will be May 8 (Wednesday) from 12:30 - 2:30.

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**Darcy provided this list of project deliverables for the KISMA contractor at the 13 March 2013 KISMA meeting. Note: it has since been revised somewhat.**

**Project Deliverables for KISMA Contractor:** Many of the activities detailed in this contract will be conducted on lands owned or managed by one or more of the Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area (KISMA) partner organizations and will require that the contractor coordinate his/her work schedule to complete the task during the time period when the invasive plant being mapped or treated is in the most desirable phenological condition for completing that task. The contractor will be required to coordinate many of the following deliverables with the KISMA Coordinator and/or representatives of the partner organization.

- a) Successfully complete the training modules for garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed, spotted knapweed, wild parsnip, Japanese barberry, purple loosestrife, phragmites, curly pondweed, glossy buckthorn, and Eurasian water milfoil on the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network website ([www.misin.msu.edu/training](http://www.misin.msu.edu/training)).
- b) Familiarize yourself with the RRIP-IT-UP invasive plant mapping protocols and utilize those protocols and the RRIP-IT-UP field data collection form (attached) for all survey and mapping tasks contained in this contract.

- c) Visit 11 of the known garlic mustard infestations in Houghton and Keweenaw counties (see attached garlic mustard spreadsheet) and map the garlic mustard infestation for those 3 sites for which the GPS coordinates are not known. Hand-pull all second year garlic mustard plants, and first year rosettes when feasible at all these sites. Several of the sites must be re-visited multiple times (as detailed in the spreadsheet) to re-survey for and hand-pull any remaining garlic mustard plants. Hand-pulling must be conducted prior to fruit maturation and seed dispersal. Provide information about garlic mustard to landowners and neighbors of these 11 sites when appropriate. Post garlic mustard flyers in the neighborhood when appropriate. The KISMA Coordinator will accompany the contractor to all 11 sites during the initial visit.
- d) Visit the 8 sites on the attached Japanese knotweed spreadsheet where this species has been reported in order to verify if these reports are accurate. If Japanese or Giant knotweed is verified at these sites, map the infestation using the standard RRIP-IT-UP protocols. Provide information about Japanese knotweed to property owners and neighbors and post Japanese Knotweed informational flyers when appropriate.
- e) Work with the KISMA Coordinator to visit the eleven boat launches on the Keweenaw Waterway and 8 additional public boat launches on inland lakes in the 3 county KISMA area to survey for Eurasian water milfoil (and hybrids), curly pondweed, purple loosestrife and non-native phragmites. Survey areas at and near the boat launches that can be safely surveyed while wearing hip boots or waders, record GPS locations, size of the infestation (as much as can be determined) and notes about the habitat, and collect samples for verification purposes. Provide information about EWM to property owners and neighbors, and post informational flyers when appropriate.
- f) Work with partners at the Keweenaw National Historical Park to survey six locations on lands managed by them for garlic mustard and Japanese and Giant Knotweed. Five of the sites to be surveyed are located in or near Calumet (Park Headquarters, the Calumet Visitor Center, the Keweenaw History Center, the Italian Hall site, and Warehouse #1. The final site is the Quincy Mine Office site which is approximately 3 acres.
- g) Assist partners at the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community to hand-pull spotted knapweed at Sand Point during their annual spotted knapweed event there.
- h) Assist Michigan Nature Association partners in hand-pulling spotted knapweed at their Redwyn Dune Sanctuary (approximately 1 acre of sparse to moderate density) near Great Sand Bay.
- i) Assist partners at McLain State Park in hand-pulling spotted knapweed from the sensitive dune area where they established an invasive plant demonstration site (<1 acre). Work with the KISMA Coordinator to survey the shoreline of Bear Lake which is part of the park for non-native phragmites and purple loosestrife.
- j) Assist partners at Isle Royale National Park in clipping the flower heads of purple loosestrife at Lily Pond (along the shoreline of the Portage Canal near McLain State Park) prior to seed maturation.
- k) Assist the Houghton/Keweenaw Conservation District in hand-pulling spotted knapweed at their annual invasive plant removal event at their Bete Gris Preserve.
- l) Assist the KISMA Coordinator in mapping the wild parsnip in the Central Location (and neighboring property if permission can be obtained by the KISMA Coordinator). Also survey and

map for wild parsnip along the road and utility ROW along the “Cross-Cut” Road between US 41 and Eagle Harbor, and the dirt road between US-41 (past Central) to the “Cross-Cut” Road.

- m) Assist the KISMA Coordinator to dig up four remote sites of Japanese barberry near the Sturgeon River, below Prickett Reservoir which are on USFS land. Accessing the sites will require an approximately 9 mile round trip hike. Bag the barberry and carry the bags out of the backcountry for proper disposal (or just the parts with fruits? What do you recommend Ian?). Stop to map glossy buckthorn and exotic honeysuckle while en-route to and from the barberry sites.
- n) Document at least 25 previously-unmapped Japanese or Giant knotweed infestations (using the RRIP-IT-UP mapping protocols and forms) in the MDOT ROW between Houghton and Chassell, and/or along the multi-use trail which parallels the road in that area. Provide these location data to the KISMA Coordinator. When appropriate, supply information about Japanese knotweed to the property owners or neighbors and post informational flyers in those areas.
- o) Provide the UP RC&D Council with a minimum of 10 photos documenting invasive species activities.
- p) Report on your progress of completing each of the tasks in this contract to the KISMA Coordinator on a monthly basis (June 1, 2013, July 1, 2013, and August 1, 2013). When all contract deliverables have been completed (no later than September 1, 2013), submit a final report detailing your accomplishments regarding these invasive plant survey and control efforts. Also, on this same monthly schedule, submit a completed Volunteer Match Tracking Form which details the names of KISMA partners and other volunteers who have assisted you with any of the contract tasks (see Match Form attached).