

Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (CWIP) CISMA Meeting
June 27th, 2019
10:00am - 12:00pm
Golden Sands RC&D Office: Learning Landing
Stevens Point, WI

Attendees: Joshua Beneš (Golden Sands RC&D Council), Eric Olson (UW-Extension Lakes), Patrick Nehring (UW-Extension Waushara County), Bob Freckmann (UWSP - Herbarium, North Central Conservancy Trust), Shane Wucherpfennig (Wood County LCD), Janet Smith (North Central Conservancy Trust), Doug Miskowiak (UWSP - GIS), Paul Gunderson (Green Lake County LCD), Kason Morley (Adams County LWCD), Ed Hernandez (Waushara County LCD), Jodi Buchanan (Golden Sands RC&D Council)

Online Attendees: Reesa Evans (Central Wisconsin Nature Foundation)

Meeting began at: 10:04am

Welcome and introductions:

Those present introduced themselves both online and in-person. Beneš gave a short status update for CWIP:

- CWIP was awarded the DNR's WMA grant to startup a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) in central WI. Funds to coordinate this effort were awarded for the period between 2018 and 2020, and were focused on the formation of an active steering committee, work groups, promotional materials, and an official website.
- CWIP will be coordinating mainly terrestrial invasive species management efforts with counties, states, volunteers, interested parties, and landowners. In this way we can use our collective strength to tackle regional invasive species management.

Steering Committee Formation

- It is intended that the CISMA be run by a steering committee made up of 1 representative from each of the 7 counties and 4-8 at large members.

The currently designated members from each county are:

Kason Morley - Adams County
Paul Gunderson - Green Lake County
Dustin Ladd - Juneau County
Pat Kilbey - Marquette County
John Eron - Portage County
Ed Hernandez - Waushara County
Shane Wucherpfennig - Wood County

Currently interested At-Large Members are:

Eric Olson - UW Extension Lakes
Janet Smith - North Central Conservancy Trust

Reesa Evans - Central Wisconsin Nature Foundation

May join at a later date:

River Alliance of Wisconsin - Natalie Dutack

- Smaller workgroups will be formed through guidance of the steering committee. These workgroups will meet more frequently and will be focused on specific objectives.
- The meeting today is focused on finalizing formation of the steering committee and is intended as the last of the "start-up meetings." Once the steering committee, bylaws, and MOU are finalized, Steering Committee can begin meeting on an annual/bi-annual basis.

Updates from Joshua Benes, Current CWIP CISMA Coordinator:

USFS GLRI Grant Award and Project:

- The USFS GLRI Grant awarded CWIP \$40,000 over two years.
- This grant focuses on the Great Lake Basin side of our coverage area.
- The funds are to be used for:
 - Hiring a full-time coordinator for this project
 - Promoting the mapping and monitoring of invasive species
 - Developing an Early Detection Rapid Response (EDDR) effort focusing on eradicating prohibited or high priority restricted species before they spread.

Central Wisconsin Landowner Invasive Plant Field Day:

- Scheduled to be held on September 28th at Dick Hansen's property in Waushara County. It is \$20 to attend, but lunch will be provided. A registration link is on the IPAW website.
- Funds provided by invasive species grants from the DNR and Ruffed Grouse Society.
- The Field Day is in cooperation with landowner Dick Hanson and the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin (IPAW). It will promote the work he's been doing on his property as a demonstration site for invasive species management.
- It's an educational workshop focusing on invasive plant ID, mapping, and management.

PEDIP and creating a rapid response network for prohibited + frontier restricted species:

We applied for funds through DNR for monitoring and control of amur cork tree, japanese hops, poison hemlock, amur honeysuckle, japanese hedgeparsley, european marsh thistle, giant hogweed, wild chervil, chinese yam, chinese wisteria, Dalmation toadflax, perennial pepperweed.

Benes showed a map where these particular invasives are known and explained that the new CISMA Coordinator will head out in September and October to monitor all of the indicated sites and do some control work, if funding is provided. We intend to partner the GLRI grant with the PEDIP grant to keep each of their invasive species efforts aligned.

Overall, this project will focus on building a community capacity to detect invasives early, prevent spread through an informed citizenry, and head off new invasives through EDRR efforts.

WMA Grant:

Unfortunately the DNR did not grant full funding for the WMA grant. It would have included a mapping blitz for the non Great Lakes Basin counties, an inventory of property ownership along a high-priority section of the Wisconsin river, and the building of a stronger network of landowners and volunteers to help with increased mapping and monitoring of invasives in our region. Golden Sands will continue to look for funds to help support those efforts.

The DNR did provide partial funding, specifically for a workshop for high priority prohibited and frontier species for the area. This workshop would be scheduled for sometime in 2020. It is currently planned as a four part workshop that would take place with one breakfast, one lunch, and two afternoon sessions. This way, people could attend only the portion of the workshop that is most helpful to them. These 4 parts would be broken out in the following way:

- Part 1: Basic inventory of woodland invasive species targeted for woodland landowners.
- Part 2: Anne Pearce from IPAW/WIFDN would provide the background of the GLEDN app and a tutorial on how to use the app to map invasive species location.
- Part 3: More advanced session on ID of non-established high priority invasive species.
- Part 4: Session focused on rarely seen invasives and how to spot and report them.

This would be a full workshop that everyone is invited to, but created in a way to allow each person to attend only the sessions they specifically would find useful.

Benes asked for feedback:

Morley asked: How do we build up a citizen base to gain that interest?

Benes responded: One of the CISMA workgroups would focus on recruiting volunteers, citizens and landowners for workshops and other objectives. We are hoping the County Cons would lend their help in developing email and mailing lists so the Committee can get information out. It will require a coordinated effort and a pooling of established contacts. For example: RC&D has contact lists of woodland cooperatives that we could contribute.

There was a general discussion about ways to get the word out, like radio and facebook blasts. Benes reported that there would be funding built into the budget to do communication activities.

Multiple county representatives emphasized the need for a high quantity of promotion that started as soon as possible, especially before major workshops. There was a consensus that it was impossible to over-promote and that promotion needed to start far ahead of time.

Morley asked: Can we run two parts of the workshop simultaneously - such as the one for advanced identification and the one for basic identification? There is a concern that four hours might be a hard sell.

Benes responded that the workshops would all be coordinated by Kelly, so it would be difficult for her to run two sessions simultaneously.

Hernandez agreed that might be hard to get people there for four hours. He also suggested 30-40 minute sessions instead of 1 hour sessions, to keep people engaged.

Benes addressed the concerns by emphasizing that Kelly would be focused on making sessions more interactive, and that a free lunch would be provided. All the offered suggestions and length of the sessions will be considered during the more advanced planning stages for the workshop.

Evans wondered if people could be broken out by county, so that the invasive species IDs could be focused on invasives likely to be near where the participants lived.

Benes responded that unfortunately the grant couldn't fund such a targeted effort. Morley spoke up and said that if targeted workshops like that were requested, it was possible that the county land and water conservation departments could do such workshops out of their offices. Benes says that any workshops like those could be heavily promoted at the grant funded workshop.

Review of Bylaws and MOU's

The proposed Bylaws and MOU were sent out via email. These Bylaws and MOU are very similar to other groups, so CISMAs seem to be working together to construct a functional governing system. Benes thanked Evans, Olson, Nehring for help in writing bylaws and MOU.

The bylaws state that a full-time coordinator will be hired as part of the grant to help guide the steering committee. The steering committee will be made up of 7 county representatives and 4-7 at-large members representing different member organizations. The county representatives will be appointed by the county, this way if a county conservationist cannot attend the meetings themselves, they can have the flexibility to appoint someone else from their county that is involved in invasive species to speak on their behalf and provide them with updates. There would be a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a representative from Golden Sands - appointed by the Golden Sands Council in July.

Workgroups would be appointed by the committee and would focusing on specified objectives.

Benes asked for any feedback or questions.

Evans pointed out that the by-laws didn't have any provisions in the case of a dissolution.

Benes made a note to add such a provision to the bylaws.

The assembled group voiced concerns about voting officially on bylaws without official MOU in place. Benes suggested that a basic consensus vote from committee members present would allow a framework to be in place as a foundation for the steering committee. This framework could be amended (as per bylaws) by steering committee once the committee formally meets.

The assembled committee members agreed to a consensus vote on the bylaws as a place for the steering committee to start from, pending official MOU's.

Consensus vote on implementing bylaws and MOU's with the added part about dissolution.

Benes asked: *Should the current At-Large interest groups be allowed a seat on the steering committee, or should membership as an At Large seat holder be granted by the steering committee once it is formed?*

County representatives discussed the question, and formed a consensus agreement that all listed At-Large groups be granted a seat on the steering committee as of today including Eric Olson (UW Extension), Janet Smith (NCCT), and Reesa Evans (Central Wisconsin Nature Foundation). Future at-large steering committee members would be granted via the steering committee and CISMA bylaws.

Benes will be sending out an update on the MOU and Bylaws and will start finalizing the list of partners for the official MOU.

Discussion about Work Groups that are Forming:

Benes reported that once the new coordinator has been hired they will be tasked with further formation and coordination of the work groups. He then provided the following updates.

Right-of-Way & Roadside Invasives Management

UW-Extension and Forward Control are having a roadside workshop on July 23rd in Portage County from 9am to 3pm. The workshop is free but you need to register ahead of time. Committee members are encouraged to help disseminate this information to their constituents.

FERC Licencing and Dam Operations

Olson, Hamerla and Benes had a teleconference with DNR about FERC licensing and dam operation along the WI river. More information about this will be provided at the next Steering Committee Meeting.

Updates on Partners on Invasive Species Projects:

The North Central Conservancy Trust put on a Heterobasidion Root Disease (HRD) workshop - a fungus that affects Pinus species and damages their roots. It's not well-established in the region. An article is available from DNR and in the NCCT Newsletter.

Morley reported that Adams County has sent in an early detection grant to the state DNR focused on Phragmites removal. They will be looking at options for removal once they get the grant and hopes GSRC&D will help them.

Gunderson reported that Green Lake got a new commissioner. The new commissioner is on board with working on invasive species, and Green Lake feels optimistic about the county's support on future invasive species mitigation.

Date for next Steering Committee Meeting:

Benes asked the committee whether they would like one more meeting in the fall or to just begin official steering committee meetings on a spring rotation.

The committee came to consensus agreement that a meeting in the fall should be held in order to solidify all the steering committee and MOU details.

The next committee meeting will be November 7th from 10am to noon.

Meeting Adjourned at: 11:30 am