

## CISMA Steering Committee - Jan 12, 2016 – Minutes

Present: Amber Carr (MAS), Jeff Collins (MAS), Stacy Carter (MAS), Dave McKinnon (Town of Lincoln), Delia Kaye (Town of Concord), Amanda Weise (NEWFS), Jessica Furbeck (OARS), M. John Dwyer (Town of Maynard), Libby Herland (USFWS), Laura Mattei (SVT), Karin Paquin (Town of Marlborough)

### Announcements:

- Upcoming Speaker Series presentation reminder: [Taking on Invasives with Dan Jaffe](#) on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 7p.m.
- Emerald Ash Borer discovered in Worcester County, newest infestation discovered in state. First discovered in western Mass then Essex County, then Arnold Arboretum, now Worcester County. Pest should be on everyone's radar, state is trying to use wasps to study distribution. Looking for more coordinators for the program if any are interested.
- Berlin Conservation Commission filled out application to become CISMA members. Responsible for administrating wetland protection act, protecting water supply and environment. Believe that being part of CISMA will benefit them, have been involved in invasive plant membership in the past. Berlin within watershed, closest to Assabet. SVT does a lot of land protection in the area. **Steering committee voted them in, Berlin now part of CISMA.**

### Officer elections:

- Mass Audubon, NEWFS and OARS have been re-elected for steering committee terms starting Jan 2016. Fourth seat - 11 organizations got one vote, Natural Heritage got 2.
- Marlborough Conservation Commission has expressed interest in steering committee seat
- All those voted for and Marlborough will be contacted to gauge interest, and a second vote will be called later with candidates

### Officer positions:

- Town of Lincoln, Concord, MAS, Maynard, SVT, National Parks Service (no representative), USFWS, Westford, OARS, NEWFS, Stow are on steering committee this year.
- Jeff Collins (MAS) willing to be treasurer, confirmed**
- Libby Herland (USFWS) would consider being vice-chair, confirmed**
- Laura Mattei (SVT) offers herself as chair, confirmed**, argues that fewer meetings at more important points in the agenda for this year might be more helpful than regularly scheduled meetings. Will be considered – possibly quarterly meetings instead of six for the admin committee.
- Possibility for secretary position** - steering committee members could rotate as scribes, confirmed for now.
- Jeff Collins (MAS) offers idea of ~\$1,000 grant for organizations willing to serve as officers, perhaps RSC would support

### Wet Meadow Proposals

-Total amount of funds available approved by trustees last year are \$44,359, additional funds of  $\approx$ \$10,000 available from unused Heard Pond. All funds must be used before the end of 2016 because Tier I ends this year. Funds unused will go back to original funding pot for Tier II, no guarantee they will return to CISMA.

-Project proposals by NEWFS, CLCT, USFWS, SVT total \$43,275.

-Note that USFWS grant ranks their sites by priority. Highest priority is 15-acre field at Wolbach, total restoration - \$26,350 requested from CISMA.

-Clarification on NEWFS project – site has gas pipeline underground, right-of-way is maintained by mowing. \$10,000 cost of invasives control questioned, a lot of cut-paint and brushing has been factored in, invasives very dense on site. NEWFS requests \$5,000 towards their \$25,000 project.

-Clarification on CLCT – Jeff walked site with them, good meadow, very modest fund request of \$1,400. Dave McKinnon says that the late invasives-control mowing (after Oct 15) proposed not good for turtle migration, Delia Kaye says that mowing SHOULD be done after because females are done laying eggs. Something for CLCT to think about.

-Clarification on SVT project - \$10,525 – will all funds and materials be received in time to complete all of this for 2016? Laura Mattei will let CISMA know if town of Sudbury delays too much.

-Clarification on USFWS – could the extra \$10,000, if approved by trustees, be used for a next lower priority? Project at Rice's close to \$10,000. No need to focus on loosestrife removal projects if beetles are being released. Could either fund Rice's or two smaller projects, or NEWFS could be given slightly more for funding their own project.

**-Jeff Collins (MAS) proposes CLCT, NEWFS, SVT receive requested funds, and that Amber and USFWS coordinate how to use the leftover funds. If there are leftover funds, more email communication among the steering committee members. Steering committee votes – NEWFS 7, CLCT 8, USFWS 7, SVT 7, with each member proposing a project recusing themselves from that project vote. Jeff's proposal is agreed to.**

-If extra \$10,000 is approved by trustees, Libby suggests the steering committee reconvene and the funds are offered again to the CISMA members for extra projects.

**-Any additional funds approved by trustees will be used for Rice's field by USFWS**

### RSC Small Grants Program

-One application from SVT for \$2,000. Laura Mattei summarizes: Year 3 work at Elliot Concord River Preserve, Carlisle, MA. Britton's violet (rare plant *Viola brittonia*) conservation site, needs further buckthorn treatment which would be principal use of funds. Site was discovered 3 years ago, area is 20ft squared, Britton's violet population numbers 270 individuals.

-Total project cost is \$3,230, request is only for \$2,000.

-USFWS and others say that since \$4,000 is available in Small Grants Program, CISMA could give the full amount of \$3,230 to SVT, or leftover funds could be announced for further RFPs.

**-Motion to support full funding of \$3,230 for SVT's project – 6 CISMA votes yay, NEWFS/SVT recuse themselves from vote for involvement with project.**

**Motion passed.**

Spring Meeting

-Ideas for guest speaker/s

- Jeff Collins says maybe speakers for other invasive organisms (insects, etc)
- Future of invasives management in rivers (whose responsibility is it, where does money come from, other approaches to managing aquatic invasives)
- Improvement of butterfly meadows, how to actually make it work, dynamics of meadow
- Combo of Mass Butterfly Club and NRCS overview of habitat management practices (ones that might be reimbursable)
- Ted Elliman just finished his book (re-write of Newcombs), could highlight specific species
- Reed canary-grass management?
- List of potential speakers will be compiled by steering committee members

5-Star Grant Proposal

- Request for funds for water chestnut crew to bridge gap between Tier I and Tier II funding.
- Due early February, Amber will finish and submit
- MAS, NEWFS, Hop Brook, Town of Concord, Town of Lincoln, USFWS will be included in proposal.

(West Suburban Conservation Council mentioned – think about in future combining with the CISMA – ways to move the CISMA forward)