



9/25/2017

Re: Request for Support for the SuAsCo Cisma

Dear Cisma member,

The Sudbury Assabet Concord Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (SuAsCo Cisma), is a collaborative of 46 organizations within the SuAsCo watershed working together to manage invasive species across jurisdictional boundaries. Since our formation in 2009, we have secured over \$1.1 M in grant funding and were able to execute numerous projects including: establishing a website for information sharing, hosting educational programs for the community, funding a small grants program for over 5 years, controlling water chestnut along the Sudbury River, rearing and releasing *Galerucella* beetles as a biocontrol for purple loosestrife, restoring early successional habitat at 9 locations in the watershed, as well as hosting 2 full membership meetings each year for information sharing. To learn more about our projects check out our website here: <http://cisma-suasco.org/>

Due to our success over the years, the SuAsCo Cisma is considered one of the leading invasive plant collaborations in Massachusetts and New England. Unfortunately our major funding sources have ended so we are looking into other ways to fund the coordination of the SuAsCo Cisma. To continue this great work, we are aiming to raise \$10,000 annually to support the coordinator position and basic functions instead of having to rely on uncertain grant funding. Some exciting developments for 2017- 2018 include the formation of the water chestnut subcommittee, updating our 5 year strategic plan, continued support of our website and newsletter, coordination of our small grants program, and responding to grant opportunities to support control projects and education.

This year we are asking our member organizations to contribute towards the base funding. We suggest a donation of \$100 from non-profit organizations with annual revenues less than \$400,000, \$250 from non-profit organizations with annual revenues more than \$400,000 and \$250 from municipal governments or federal agencies. These donation will support Cisma's invasive plant coordination and management throughout the SuAsCo watershed for the 2018 fiscal year. We would appreciate your also considering including this donation in your 2019 Budget. To make your contribution please contact the Coordinator at acarr@massaudubon.org or 1-781-259-2198.

The SuAsCo Cisma greatly appreciates your support of our invasive management work. We hope that you will consider making a contribution to support and continue the momentum we have sustained over the years towards invasive management within our watershed.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about this request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A.J.", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the signature.

Alison Field-Juma
Chair, SuAsCo Cisma

Accomplishments:

On our website you can find all off our previous newsletters to see even more great work we have accomplished over the years since we established in 2009: <http://cisma-suasco.org/news/newsletter>

2010

Formed watershed wide ED/RR program, supported the growth of grassroots organization S.W.E.E.T, started development of website, and reared 36,500 *Galerucella* beetles

2011

Trained 139 volunteers in identifying 11 ED species, launched website, restored early successional habitat at 6 sites in watershed, presentations about Deer Management and Asian Longhorned Beetle, hosted 2 Roundtable discussions, hosted 2 Aquatic ID Trainings, hosted Bay State Roads Training, and posted Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker signs at boat launches

2012

Coordinated a \$4,900 small grants program which funded early detection trainings, CISMA speaker series, CISMA website development, and Mile a Minute control, continued early successional habitat restoration, started Nyanza restoration work including purple loosestrife mapping along the Sudbury River, Reared 33,000 *Galerucella* beetles, mapped water chestnut within entire watershed and controlled water chestnut along the Sudbury River

2013

Coordinated a \$5,000 small grants program which funded Mile a Minute control, invasive management in Maynard, support for S.W.E.E.T., and the CISMA speaker series and continued Nyanza restoration work which included mapping the watershed for water chestnut, identifying beetle release sites along the Sudbury River and rearing 37,500 *Galerucella* beetles

2014

Coordinated a \$4,500 small grants program which funded invasive management in Concord, Westford, and Southborough, continued the CISMA speaker series, and supported the CISMA website. Nyanza restoration work continued which included mapping the watershed for water chestnut as well as rearing over 400,000 *Galerucella* beetles

2015

Continued Nyanza restoration work which included rearing around 400,000 beetles, conducted 2 plant ID walks, coordinated \$2,000 in early detection which funded management of Mile a Minute, Japanese stiltgrass, and Japanese knotweed

2016

Coordinated a \$4,500 small grants program which funded invasive management in Wayland and Southborough and finished Nyanza restoration work which included mapping water chestnut throughout the watershed and monitoring released *Galerucella* beetle sites

2017

Raised \$2,500 for our small grants program. Released a *Water Chestnut Management Guidance & Five-Year Management Plan for the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord River Watershed* and established a Water Chestnut Subcommittee.