

SUASCO CISMA  
Steering Committee Meeting  
Great Meadows NWR, Sudbury  
September 10, 2013

**Members Present:** Amber Carr (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service), John Dwyer (Maynard Conservation Commission), Lee Steppacher (National Park Service/ River Stewardship Council), Libby Herland (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Laura Mattei (Sudbury Valley Trustees), Sue Flint (OARS), Matt Burne (Walden Woods Project), Lynn Knight (Carlisle), Alison Field-Juma (OARS), Amanda Weise (NEWFS), Ron Genna (Westford)

**Minutes**

Members reviewed the July 13 minutes. Some typos were corrected. Libby moved to accept minutes. John seconded. Passed unanimously.

**Announcements**

The next meeting of the EDRR subcommittee will be at 10 Am on 9/27. Anna is stepping down from chairing this committee and Amanda has agreed to take over leading it.

The next speaker in the CISMA Speaker Series is scheduled for October 17 at Thoreau Institute. Jennifer Forman–Orth will speak about the Asian Longhorned Beetle and other forest threats. There will be wine and cheese at 7 pm and the talk will begin at 7:30.

Amber has a copy of the “Lurking in the Trees” video, produced by US Forest Service. Perhaps this should be put on local cable TV.

MACC will hold their annual conference on Nov 16 at Clark University. Invasive plant management will be the theme of the conference.

**Subcommittee Updates**

**Administration**

The subcommittee has been focused on putting together the membership survey and then reviewing the results (to be discussed later in the meeting). Members have also been planning for the fall meeting. Regarding the NFWF grant, an extension has been requested in order to allow time for a prescribed burn on the SVT property. The subcommittee would like to encourage members to consider their future needs in the fall so that these can possibly be part of a grant application in the spring.

## **Education and Outreach**

The E&O Subcommittee has been focused on the continuation of the speaker series. They will also purchase a PA system to be used at these events. Modifications to the website have also been made. There is a continued discussion about how EDDMapS will be used by CISMA members and how it will be presented on the website.

## **Control/ Early Detection**

The subcommittee is going through a change in leadership. Anna is stepping down and Amanda will be assuming the chair position. Members will relook at their priorities for work and will consider how EDDMapS can serve CISMA members.

Alison asked a question about the Water Chestnut coordination group which is separate from the Control Subcommittee and was established before the CISMA. Amber said that she was working on a new MOU to address the use of the new harvester equipment which is being purchased with Nyanza funds.

## **Nyanza Update**

Mass Audubon has completed the Purple Loosestrife mapping and will begin doing fall monitoring. Beetles were released in July, before mapping was complete, in areas where they had been released in the past. Next year the mapping will help inform where the beetles will be released. Cornell is spearheading the monitoring protocols which CISMA is following.

There were some questions about the survival rate of the beetles especially in the floodplains after a sustained flood. It depends on timing and at what stage the beetles are in their life cycle as to whether they will survive. To date it appears that the beetles have done well and begun to establish themselves.

There was a question about whether eradicating Purple Loosestrife would diminish the food supply for bees. Amber is investigating this. It appears that food is not the reason that the bee population is crashing. Scientists are considering plants with high nectar and pollen to be used to restore areas that are now dominated by Purple Loosestrife.

OARS led the work on Water Chestnut mapping. They took samples of plants in Fairhaven Bay and Sudbury River to determine if they contained chromium and mercury. This was required by Nyanza and will help determine how the plants can be composted.

Sue made a presentation of the results of the mapping project. Two interns in kayaks paddled much of the river except in a few areas that were too shallow and then observation was made

from the bank. While much of the mapping confirmed what we knew, and identified areas where pulling activity already takes place, there were a few surprises.

- On the Assabet, the first plants are seen in Hudson. Not much in Ben Smith Dam. Some in Powdermill Impoundment. Good around confluence of Assabet and Sudbury rivers.
- Concord River, infestation in Concord Impoundments. Mainstem OK to Billerica. Mill pond above dam has extensive infestation. Area is very shallow, between 1.5 feet to 6 inches. Downstream of dam to Centennial Island has plants all along river's edge.
- Sudbury river has plants in Ashland. Lower section of Framingham reservoir has infestation. MWRA has hired a contractor to do some removal. Above the Saxonville Dam in Framingham is a large infestation. Heard Pond is doing pretty well, Stearns Mill Pond has a large infestation as do Carding and Grist Mill Ponds. From Rt 27 to Fairhaven Bay is also infested.

OARS is reaching out to Framingham Conservation Commission to discuss the infestation above the Saxonville Dam. A hand-pulling event could raise public awareness. Framingham is not yet a member of CISMA, though they have been invited numerous times.

Should there be a separate Water Chestnut meeting with the current partners and others to discuss new infestations, new members to partnership and use of the new harvester. FWS offered to set up a meeting of all those interested.

The Fall CISMA meeting will be held November 12 at 3 pm at Assabet NWR. It will include presentation of projects by CISMA members, discussion of Annual Priority Actions and the Vine – an exchange of ideas.

### **CISMA Survey Results**

Lynn handed out a summary of the results of the Survey Monkey survey. There were 21 responses, which is 50% of membership. This is a good response rate. In general people are satisfied with the work that CISMA is doing. A couple of the major findings are:

- We need to encourage members to think about funding needs early , especially if we want to include them in any larger grant opportunities
- We need to increase awareness of the website and all that it offers
- High priority for future CISMA activities are
  - o 1) working with conservation commissions on permitting issues related to invasive species management. Response: Laura will contact MACC to coordinate addressing this issue at their annual conference.
  - o 2) developing a calendar that will outline the life cycle of certain species with the correct time to undertake management activities. Response: This may be a project that a NEWFS certificate program candidate could work on. E&O Subcommittee could turn it into something to put on our website. Libby will follow up with NEWFS.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.