

SuAsCo CISMA Fall Membership Meeting Notes

Tuesday November 14th, 2017

2pm – 4pm

680 Hudson Rd, Sudbury, MA 01776

In Attendance

Amber Carr – Mass Audubon

Ryan Brown – Mass Audubon

Delia Kaye – Concord Natural Resources

Ron Riggert – APT / ARNWR

Betty Wright – APT

Rebecca Longrall – Bolton Con. Com.

Karen Pelto – Mass Dep.

Paige Dolci – SVT

Karen Riggert – APT / ARNWR

Liz Dichiora – Berlin Con. Com.

Louise Janda – Berlin Con. Com.

Fred Sechler – New England Wild Flower Society

Scott Lewis – Littleton Conservation Trust

Stacey Carter – Town of Lincoln

Rick Findlay – Littleton Conservation Trust

M. John Dwyer – Maynard Con. Com.

Laura Mattie – SVT

Kathy Sferra – Stow Con. Com.

Eileen McGourty – USFWS

Kourtne Bowley – USFWS

Linda Hansen – Wayland Con. Com

Tom Largy – Wayland Surface Water Committee

Russ Cohen

Announcements

- Ryan Brown is the new SuAsCo CISMA Coordinator
 - Taking over from Amber Carr. Please direct any questions or concerns to him going forward
- Libby Herland retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
 - Her position on the steering committee is now being filled by Eileen McGourty
- Elizabeth Farnsworth of the New England Wildflower Society passed away suddenly on October 27th, 2017
- Small Grant Recipients
 - Grant of \$2,500 to fund the following projects
 - Sudbury Weed Education and Eradication Team (SWEET), received full funding of \$1,107.50 for Monarch/ pollinator habitat creation and black swallow-wort control efforts in Sudbury
 - Town of Bolton Conservation Commission, received full funding of \$514.06 for initiating annual invasive removal volunteer days in within Fyfeshire Conservation Area
 - Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT), received partial funding of \$878.44 for invasive removal and management around the Gowings Swamp in Concord
- Steering Committee Election
 - Four seats available on the Steering Committee starting January 1st 2018
 - Seats expiring
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service, Eileen McGourty

SuAsCo CISMA Fall Membership Meeting Notes

- Town of Westford, Ron Gemma
- Sudbury Valley Trustees, Laura Mattei
- Concord Natural Resources Commission, Delia Kaye
- Steering Committee consists of 12 CISMA members that serve for three years, from January 1st 2018 – December 31st 2020
- All interested parties looking to be placed on the ballot or have questions regarding the Steering Committee should contact Ryan Brown at rbrown@massaudubon.org
- Voting will take place during the month of December
- Current Donations
 - As of the meeting, we have received \$7, 850 with more hopefully on the way
- Ecological Landscape Alliance
 - Webinar: Invasive Plant Control Without Chemicals
 - December 12th 4pm to 5pm
- Ron Riggert, Friends of the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge and Assabet Pulling Together, Presentation
 - 36 Weekly Work Sessions
 - One to two truckloads per session
 - 1, 000+ work hours
 - Core groups of six volunteers
 - Worked with New England Aquarium Live Blue Ambassadors and Minute Man Tech
 - Removal techniques
 - Pull (mechanical and manual)
 - Dig
 - Cut
 - Vinegar spray of herbaceous invasive plants (no longer an option)
 - Cut and cover (using black trash bags to cover cut section of plant to stagnate photosynthetic portion of plant, killing it eventually)
 - Added pollinators
 - List of invasive plants removed
 - Garlic mustard
 - Japanese honeysuckle
 - Multiflora rose
 - Celandine
 - Bushy rock-cress
 - Japanese barberry
 - Coltsfoot
 - Wineberry
 - Oriental bittersweet
 - Cypress spurge
 - Sheep sorrel
 - Autumn olive
 - Japanese knotweed
 - Wild parsnip
 - Tree-of-heaven
 - Narrowleaf bittercress
 - Black swallow-wort
 - Grey willow
 - Spotted knapweed
 - Purple loosestrife
 - Star of Bethlehem
 - Japanese stiltgrass
 - Glossy buckthorn
 - Japanese hops

SuAsCo CISMA Fall Membership Meeting Notes

- Pilewort
- Black/honey locust
- Paige Dolci, Sudbury Valley Trustees' Land Stewardship Coordinator with TerraCorps, EDDMaps Presentation
 - What is EDDMapS?
 - UGA Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health
 - Real time tracking of invasive species
 - data displayed on local and national distribution maps
 - State, counties, points, list
 - library of invasive species identification and management educational resources
 - Why is it useful?
 - only invasive species mapping system approved by the state of Massachusetts
 - important for all invasive species data to be in one location
 - track a species as it moves into an area, EDRR (early detection and rapid response)
 - Data accessible through GIS
 - Invasive species management plans for CISMA and MA as a whole
 - How is it used?
 - create a free account
 - submit reports using website or mobile app
 - Mobile App: "Outsmart Invasive Species"
 - Get involved
 - early detection and continual monitoring key to reducing threat of invasive species
 - Help researchers cover more ground by looking for invasive species whenever you are outside
 - EDDMaps Training: Real-Time Tracking of Invasive Species
 - December 2nd 2pm to 4pm
 - SVT's Wolbach Farm
 - 18 Wolbach Road Sudbury, MA
 - Classroom and in the field training on website and app

Strategic Planning / Group Discussion

- Four discussion topics
 - member training and knowledge sharing
 - volunteer engagement and moral boosting
 - early detection and how to prioritize our work
 - internal sustainability
- Three guiding questions
 - Craft a goal (goals) at a high level around what CISMA should accomplish, what would success look like in five years?
 - What have we been doing already that we should keep doing to accomplish this goal?

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- What are we not doing that we should be, or should be doing differently?
- Member Training and knowledge sharing (meetings, web, workshops)
 - Critical component / purpose of CISMA
 - News letter (1 dot)
 - more input from CISMA members (4 dots)
 - virtual vine
 - Grant recipients (RSC + NFWF) Reports (1 dot)
 - Update website (10 dots)
 - Bring back Google Groups / Docs (1 dot)
 - Bring back roundtable discussions (5 dots)
 - Create more informal knowledge sharing opportunities (6 dots)
 - Do more knowledge banking – update annually (5 dots)
 - Projects
 - Contracts
 - Expertise
 - Tool availability
 - Facebook?
 - Google Forms, surveys, excel
 - Keep doing
 - Spring / Fall MTGS (4 dots)
 - Vine
 - Newsletter
- Volunteer engagement and morale boosting
 - Main volunteer contact/ coordinator for CISMA (2 dots)
 - High school engagement and competition (3 dots)
 - Having options for volunteers, keeping them engaged by providing alternative/ different volunteer opportunities throughout the CISMA (2 dots)
 - Planting edibles to encourage volunteer engagement and interest, edible landscape (4 dots)
 - Using Stewardship Network of New England more often, provide link on website (7 dots)
 - From pulling to planting, keeping volunteers engaged and interested with the full cycle of invasive management (6 dots)
 - Turning visitors into volunteers, providing identification of volunteer needs on property (2 dots)
 - Showing the success of removing invasive species, provide photos, testimonials, videos, social media, etc (15 dots)
 - Follow through and follow up with volunteers to keep them engaged (5 dots)
 - Centralized calendar listing volunteer opportunities
- Internal sustainability (fundraising, equipment, committees, and governance)
 - Goals

SuAsCo CISMA Fall Membership Meeting Notes

- Funding base, member donations, 1 to 2 continuing sources (federal via NFWF) (1 dot)
- Leadership, Steering Committee succession, (1 dot)
- Focused work, loosestrife, water chestnut without losing people (1 dot)
- Infrastructure to do this, website, coordinator, systems/data (2 dots)
- Partnering with land trusts, habitat management grants (7 dots)
- Keep doing
 - Having a new coordinator (1 dot)
 - Recognition of local work + facilitating sharing of knowledge (3 dots)
 - Small grants, keep them broad (2 dots)
 - Offer value to members , support and collaboration (9dots)
- Do differently:
 - More engagement of members
 - More communication with decision makers/ leadership about “our” work (1 dot)
 - Website accessibility, “What we do for your town” pull down menu, “how do I get involved”, add Ryan (4 dots)
 - Are people using the website? Are they being divided there? (5 dots)
 - Using summer intern to drive social medial / website, photos of before and after (6 dots)
 - Keep building email list
 - Public donor campaign, build endowment for small grants (2 dots)
- Early detection and how to prioritize work (picking battles)
 - Early detection is the top priority (4 dots)
 - Small infestations (very common) of invasive species (1 dot)
 - Prioritize areas of greater ecological significance “important places”, location of rare plants, wetlands, good representative forests (15 dots)
 - How to affects native wildlife, how bad is it potentially, tier of bad species (6 dots)
 - Targeting managed areas to avoid spread (5 dots)
 - Buffer around natural areas, constantly patrolling around edges
 - Help on recognizing invasive species, species and or locations where invasives can’t be effectively managed, controlled, or eradicated (8 dots)
 - Knowledge of ED species, keeping volunteers educated (3 dots)
 - Regional mapping is helpful (1 dot)
 - Staying connected to MIPAG + NEWFS, EDDMapS to know what and where, offer sheets and photos on website (4 dots)
 - Videos of invasive plants (3 dots)
 - Start monitoring important natural areas using EDDMapS technology
 - Map of important natural areas in the SuAsCo for priority of mapping, monitoring, and control