

SUASCO CISMA
Steering Committee Meeting
Great Meadows NWR, Sudbury
September 13, 2011

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), Jeff Collins (Mass Audubon), Laura Mattei (Sudbury Valley Trustees), Delia Kaye (Concord Natural Resources), Barbara Volkle (Friends of Assabet NWR). Guest: Katherine Garcia (MA DCR District Manager)

Introductions

Katherine Garcia from MA Department of Conservation and recreation was present. She is a District Manager covering the Great Brook District and Metrowest, both of which overlap with parts of our watershed. CISMA has been trying to get representation from DCR, and was very pleased to welcome Katherine. Everyone introduced themselves.

Subcommittee Reports:

Education and Outreach:

John reported for the Education and Outreach Subcommittee which has been working to get the website ready to 'go public'. John walked the Committee through the website, highlighting those places that need information in order to complete the site. He urged members to supply the necessary information.

- Calendar needs to be populated with events. Everyone agreed that the calendar should include CISMA events as well as member events. Presently, members should give information to Amber for any event, and she will put it on the calendar.
- Report Invasives is connected to the mapping work that Jeff and Mass Audubon are working on (we need the maps to identify where the reports are located). Jeff reported that the mapping has been done at Drumlin, so much of the format and protocol is worked out. Now he needs to expand this into the watershed.
- Volunteering will be similar to the Contact tab. At this time, this goes through Amber. In future there are a few options including a link to a town website for volunteer activities in that town and/or a link to the CISMA calendar for activities.
- Contact information for Steering Committee members will be made available on the site. Amber will contact members to ask whether phone and email can be put on the site.
- Invasives bucket has some good information but does not have photos yet. Eventually the site will be connected to Flickr which will manage the pictures. There is always a need for good photos, both of species, and of control activities. Members are encouraged to send these in. Anna has an intern taking photos of some species, and the RSC provided some funds to take photos. It will take a bit of time to fill out this section.

- Take Action section needs to be filled. There is presently no information under the subheadings.
- Projects section also is empty. Write-ups on projects are needed.

In general, the site needs images, more detail on past and present projects, maps and links to other sites. John asked subcommittees to look at the website and provide needed information. The hope is to have the site 'go public' in November, so the information is needed as soon as possible.

Barbara asked for input from the group on what priorities of the Education Subcommittee should be after the website is up and active. Possible ideas are packets from conservation commissions, speaker series, poster of Sour 16, producing more of the SWEET poster for high schools. Feedback from members would be helpful for the committee to develop APAs for the coming year.

Early Detection and Control

Amber reported on activities of the Control Subcommittee including the second Round Table Meeting to discuss what is working and what is not in regards to control activities. Six people attended and had a good discussion. The Committee hopes to host these meetings every quarter.

There have been many opportunities for training this spring and summer:

- Aquatic plant ID
- Highway roadside training
- Training in association with the early detection project by Ted Elliman.

A field trip to see Kudzo will be scheduled.

The Committee has created fact sheets on Sour 16 species which are on the website. These were created from editing existing fact sheets.

A FWS intern has developed video clips on certain species. Once they are on YouTube, they can be embedded in the website.

Amber reported that 42 aquatic hitchhiker signs were produced and we now need to prioritize where they should be posted. Amber has emailed conservation commissions in towns throughout the watershed to get feedback and 35 locations have been identified. These are primarily at boat access sites. The goal is to get these posted before winter.

Administration

Jeff gave a short Treasurer's Report. The NFWF grant ends on September 30th. The project has been successful and all requirements have been met. Final report is now being written.

The preproposal submitted to NFWF during the summer has been accepted and Jeff is working with others to submit a full proposal by October 14th. This proposal focuses on restoration of early successional habitat in 4 locations: Bear Garden Hill (owned by WWP), Foss Farm (Town

of Carlisle), Great Meadows NWR – adjacent to Foss Farm (FWS), Sudbury Desert (SVT and others)

Lynn has been in discussions with REI to learn more about their grants program. Proposals of between \$5-10K will be considered. They need a local REI rep to endorse them and then decisions are made nationally. Proposals are due by February. The local REI rep will be invited to our November meeting, to get to know CISMA. Grants focus on ‘on the ground’ activities involving volunteers.

Libby reported that we have heard nothing more about the Nyanza Environmental Damages funds. The draft plan will be distributed for reaction and then finalized so it will be some time before money is distributed. There is still optimism that funds will help to control purple loosestrife and water chestnut.

Planning for November Meeting

The meeting will be held on November 8th at a location to be determined. Some ideas are the New England Forestry Foundation, Concord Town Offices (not if it is election day), Mass Audubon or some site in the southern part of the watershed.

There will not be a guest speaker for this meeting. Focus of the meeting will be on reporting accomplishments of last year APA (annual priority actions) and soliciting input for the coming year. There may be a facilitated session focused on a specific question, such as “what do you need help with?” Projects to report on include development of website, Audubon’s mapping project, EDRR project, Southborough’s project, Matt’s photography work.

This is the time that new members are elected to the Steering Committee. FWS, Carlisle, SVT and Concord are all up for re-election. Amber will send out an email to the full membership to solicit interest from others. New members will serve a 3 year term. Jeff noted that we want to find a balance between continuity and bringing on new people. Laura said that we might want to consider the skill sets we want around the table and encourage certain people to consider joining. Amber said that Anna is now at the Rural Land Foundation (in Lincoln) so it is unclear whether the Town will keep its seat. She will follow up on this. After the Steering Committee is selected, election of officers will occur in January.

Minutes

Minutes of July 5th meeting should add Matt to attendees. Barbara Moves, Jeff seconds approval of minutes as amended. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3 pm.