

**SUASCO CISMA**  
**Steering Committee Meeting**  
Great Meadows NWR, Sudbury  
**July 10, 2012**

**Members Present:** Amber Carr (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service), Lee Steppacher (National Park Service/ River Stewardship Council), Libby Herland (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Laura Mattei (Sudbury Valley Trustees), Ron Gemma ( Westford Conservation Trust), Matt Burne (Walden Woods Project), M. John Dwyer ( Maynard Conservation Commission), Jeff Collins ( Mass Audubon), Lynn Knight ( Carlisle Land Foundation), Barbara Volkle ( Friends of Assabet River NWR), Russ Cohen (MA Dept of Ecological Restoration), Katrina Scheiner ( SCA Fellow), Alison Field- Juma (OARS), Dave McKinnon (Town of Lincoln)

**Guests:** Jill Miller (Natick Garden Club), Dick Miller (Lake Cochituate Advisory Group)

**Minutes of May 15, 2012**

Change spelling of Ron's name to 'Gemma'. With this change the minutes were approved.

**Upcoming Events/Need for Volunteers**

1. Invasive Plant workshop at Fruitlands Museum in Harvard on Saturday, July 14. There is a charge associated with this workshop.
2. Trainings
  - a. Aquatic Weed Watchers Training, at Assabet NWR on July 11 and August 14.
  - b. Ron Gemma will lead trip to see Mile a Minute Weed in Westford on July 14.
  - c. Water Chestnut pull at Ice House Pond in Acton on July 28.
  - d. Ted and Amber will host a workshop on identification of early detection species at Garden in the Woods on August 4.
  - e. Concord NRC will host a session at the Old Calf Pasture to see Glossy Buckthorn control and protection of Britton's Violet. August 28 at 10 AM.

Let Amber know if you have events that need volunteers. If you give her a few weeks to a month of lead time, she will post a save the date, and then follow up with more information.

Libby suggested getting more volunteers to help with Garlic Mustard pulls. This plant is easy to identify and easy to remove. Lincoln hosted a G.M. pull on the last weekend in April which was very successful. Perhaps this is something we could do on Earth Day. Education and Outreach Committee could help with pictures etc. Russ suggested that the Essex Greenway newsletter had a good article on G.M. that we could probably use. There was a short discussion about how to raise awareness of private landowners.

**SCA Report/ Water Chestnut Pullathon**

Katrina reported on the Water Chestnut Pullathon that she organized over Riverfest weekend, targeted at involving youth. There were 3 locations for pulls – Ice House Pond in Acton, Carding Mill Pond in Sudbury and River Road in Wayland. There were 30 participants, mostly youth. Free gifts and ice cream were given out.

Katrina has also been working on raising *Galerucella* Beetles and writing a protocol for others to follow in the future. She raised between 17K and 30K beetles, from an initial collection of 400 beetles. These were distributed to SVT, Marlboro, Lincoln and Sudbury. Members suggested that the protocol should contain time estimates. Libby hoped to have high schools take over this project, with the protocol, but the growing season is when school is out. This could possibly be an Eagle Scout project, or part of the NEWFS Certificate Program.

## **Define Membership**

The Admin Committee discussed the issue of new membership and pondered the questions of when the organization should grow and if it could become too big. Although they did not want to enforce any requirements, they do recommend an application form for new members which suggests that the new member attend a Steering Committee meeting and a subcommittee meeting in the first year of membership. The reason is that they want to ensure that new members understand what CISMA is and hope that new members will become active on committees. There is a sense that the organization needs new blood and a sharing of responsibility.

This discussion was initiated because of a request from the Natick Garden club to join CISMA. While the garden club is a nonprofit, their request suggested that perhaps landscapers or other for-profit organizations might want to join. Would that create some sort of imbalance that we do not want? Libby suggested that organizations do not have to be registered nonprofits to join, but for-profit organizations should not be eligible for funding.

Members asked Jill why the Garden Club wanted to be a member. Jill explained that her group is interested in the environment, and wants to find ways to be more involved in helping to control invasives. By serving on the CISMA she can get a better sense of how the organization works. She also suggested that garden clubs can help to reach private landowners.

Laura said that she did not support the requirement that an organization needed to come to a steering committee or subcommittee meeting. She felt that if we were inclusive and had open membership to those interested, that we were spreading our message. There will always be those that are more involved, but also those that only attend our full membership meeting. They will still have the opportunity to learn and that serves our overall goals.

Suggestions for changes to the application form include:

1. Edit the application form to 'strongly encourage' attendance at meetings so the new member can introduce themselves to other members and vice versa.
2. Insert check boxes to identify themselves as town, state, federal, land trust, other
3. Ask 'how do you expect to be involved as a member'.

The Admin Subcommittee will make these changes and bring back to the Steering Committee. Laura moved, Lee seconded the approval of the application for membership from the Natick Garden Club. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Full Membership Meetings**

The fall meeting will be held on November 13<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 pm. Location is not yet determined. Any suggestions would be welcome. It will include project presentations, round robin from all present and discussion of annual priority actions (APAs).

The spring meeting will have a guest speaker and will focus on Early Detection Database maps. This is a national effort and MA will likely adopt and use these maps. UMASS is working on this effort. CISMA plans to use EDD maps on their website and hopes to be able to give a demonstration at this meeting.

### **Water Shamrock**

Water Shamrock is found in Heard Pond, and elsewhere in Sudbury. It is not a new infestation, but there is an effort to increase awareness. How should this be done? Should this be on the Early Detection/Rapid Response list? It spreads through rhizomes, so it is difficult to hand pull.

### **OARS Water Chestnut Mapping Project**

Alison said that OARS is mapping Water Chestnut in the Assabet River as a basis to strategically plan how to remove them. They are using mobile mappers and setting up grids to determine percentage of cover. They are then organizing a number of volunteer pulling events in July. There have been 8 volunteers working on the project. The mapping effort may be a prototype for the work that will be asked of the CISMA as part of the Nyanza Natural Resource Damages plan.

### **RSC Grant Update**

Decisions for small grants were announced at the last Steering Committee meeting. Funds have been distributed to 3 of the 5 projects – funds are being held until they are needed by others.

### **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant Update**

Jeff reported that \$70K was awarded to the project and it is to be completed in 18 months. We have requested 80%, \$56K to support efforts at sites in Carlisle (Carlisle Conservation Foundation, USFWS), Sudbury, Wayland and Marlborough (SVT, USFWS), Concord (Walden Woods Project). Some funds are also being used to support Amber's efforts to coordinate the project.

Amber is working with Chuck Walla, a student in the NEWFS Certificate Program to document the project with photos. Katrina will be designing signs to be placed at the sites explaining the projects and impacts of invasive species more generally.

Lynn reported that the Carlisle Conservation Commission has contributed an additional \$10K (that can be used as match) to do additional plant removal at the site. Jeff suggested that we should check with other towns to see if there are any other match opportunities.

### **Nyanza Update**

Libby reported that the Nyanza Restoration Plan is to receive final approval in the next few weeks. The Admin Committee should consider how CISMA will manage the money and the projects that will come under their purview.

## **Project Templates**

Lynn suggested that we might want to create a ‘wish list’ of potential projects for funding, so that if an opportunity arises, we will have already put some thought into possible projects. She volunteered to create a simple template that can be used to highlight the most important information about a potential project. This will be presented at a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3 pm.