

## **SuAsCo CISMA Steering Committee Meeting July 6, 2010**

**In attendance:** Barbara Volkle, Ted Elliman, Matt Burn, John Dwyer, Amber Carr, Eileen McGourty, Sally Watters, Muffy Curtis

**Minutes** - No comments or changes needed for the May 11, 2010 meeting minutes.

### **Announcements**

- ALB – Found in Boston, will try and add it to the EDRR project list
- Logo – Matt will send logo in jpeg form to Amber for posting to group
- Chinese Biologists – the trip has been pushed back until next year
- Mile-a-minute – MA Wildlife has reported it in Greenfield, Irving, Littleton, Boston, Bridgewater, and Middleborough. Ted will confirm the Littleton sighting is actually Mile-a-minute and possibly schedule a field trip.
- Mapping units – USFWS will purchase two mobile mapper units for CISMA use
- Job description document – No changes needed but unable to vote on document as quorum for meeting not met. This will be brought up again at the next steering committee meeting.

### **PTI grant**

Jeff sent in a proposal which asked for \$52,000 with a \$104,000 match. Amber will forward the proposal to the steering committee. The proposal was for: control in the Desert Area, finish mapping Desert Area, outreach materials for the watershed

### **Ed/Outreach Update**

#### *Website*

RFP went out to 8 companies, 4 proposals received. Bartlett Interactive had the best proposal. They showed concern for project, right price range, local, willing to negotiate needs, short turn around (5-7 weeks), seamless database (Drupal), includes training and debugging of website. They developed web site for OAR. Bartlett has templates to work with so the site will not be customized but there are enough template choices to provide a good diversity. Oar had a positive experience with the company. The education and outreach subcommittee still has a few questions they need answered by the company. Once those questions have been answered they would like to move forward quickly with an electronic vote from the steering committee to use this company for our website design. Examples of websites will be sent out and the proposals will be posted to the Google group. Please send ideas on what is needed for our website to John Dwyer so that they can be incorporated in the design process.

Take pictures whenever possible for CISMA related activities... will need them for website content.

Focus on PR for any events CISMA sponsored – Middlesex news is good for publicity

### **EDRR update**

Four training sessions were held (Bedford, Bolton, Sudbury, Southboro). Discussions for the indoor portion of the training focused on CISMA, invasives, ED species, documentation based on IPANE. The afternoon was spent outside working on basic GPS skills, species ID and data sheets. A training manual, the MA Invasive Guide and the NEWFS Invader magazine were handed out to all the volunteers. 105 volunteers including 3 NEWFS interns participated and experience levels ranged widely. People were organized by towns. Some towns are underrepresented so volunteer are being assigned to them (Westborough, Boxborough, Clinton, Billerica). Topo maps were sent out with sites

identified on it to the volunteers. No ED species have been documented so far. End of season wrap up is being planned. Photos from the training will be filed and made available.

Call for high quality Rorippa Amphibia photos- the only ones we have are fuzzy/ low quality- known sightings in western MA.

Two field trip sessions are being planned to see Stiltgrass in Sherborn, Mile-a-minute in the Blue Hills, Kudzu in Needham/Newton. If Mile-a-minute is in Littleton we should visit that site.

NEWFS volunteers are looking for the 30+ rare species in our watershed and documenting threats posed from invasive species. Invasive species within 200-250 feet of the rare plants are considered a threat and will be documented using IPANE classification.

Mile-a-minute weevil release in the Blue Hills this Thurs. Ted will get more information.

### **Purple Loosestrife Project**

Things moving along but had problems with the beetles eating the loosestrife plants too quickly. Beetle release will be the 3rd week in July.

### **Calendar**

Disconnect between recruitment of new members to CISMA with the fall meeting and the terms for the steering committee which begin in the late spring. The administrative subcommittee will discuss and rework the calendar to try and have terms begin in January.

### **Annual Meeting**

Nov. 9th 3-5 pm at the new visitor center at Assabet River NWR. Expect ~50 people. The purpose of the meeting is to recruit new members, discuss the past years accomplishments and to talk about what is happening in the upcoming year. Short reports on what happened over the summer including the EDRR project and the purple loosestrife project will be given, we hope to have a keynote speaker and to solicit ideas for the following years Annual Priority Actions. Potential speakers are Les Merhoff (IPANE) and Peter Del Tredici (Arnold Arboretum). Ted will ask Peter if he would be interested. If you have ideas on potential speakers please let Amber Carr know.

Tasks for the annual meeting

- Compile a list of attendees meeting...
- Create name tags
- Handouts (final ISMP, APA's, MOU, blurbs from speakers)
- Food (Cider, fruit, cake, cookies, invasive edibles)
- Press coverage (press release by NEWFS)
- Save the data reminder will be sent out by Amber and will be sent to Cynthia Boettner to be put in the Invasive Plant Newsbrief.
- Invite folks involved with the CWMA in western MA

Volunteers for the event - Barbara V will help with recruitment

### **Partner Recruitment**

Who should we be recruiting into CISMA? Landscapers, nurseries, garden clubs, statewide coalitions, Tower Hill, etc.? Barbara has already talked with the Womens Club and the Westborough Land Trust.

MA Conservation Commission would be a good vehicle to get the word out to conservation commissions. It would be beneficial to have a table at the annual MAC meeting or to give a talk at their annual conference in Feb/March. There is a meeting on Sept. 13 to determine the presenters for their meeting, would need to put in a proposal soon.

Amber has been emailing info out regularly to the interested parties list including the meeting minutes. Amber will check the list to see if all the towns are included.

Reach out to students... many students have community service hours. Lincoln-Sudbury RHS is looking for specific projects for community service.

We do not have a definition of what a member is and this may warrant further discussions to determine who we are trying to target for the CISMA.

### **Google Group**

People are still having trouble with the Google group, specifically the document posting. Amber will look into posting things on the USFWS site. We may be able to accommodate an email list on the new website as opposed to Google group in the future.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, Sept. 14 - 1 pm- 3 pm, Great Meadows NWR HQ