

SUASCO CISMA
Steering Committee Meeting
Great Meadows NWR, Sudbury
May 11, 2010

Members Present: Amber Carr (USFWS), Matt Burne (WWP), John Dwyer (Maynard), Lee Steppacher (NPS), Jeff Collins (Mass Audubon), Laura Mattei (SVT), Bill Brumback (NEWFS), Libby Herland (FWS), Eileen McGourty (FWS), Lynn Knight (Carlisle), Russ Hopping (TTOR), Freddie Gillespie (Southborough)

Approval of Minutes: March meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Announcements:

1. Libby announced that a group of Chinese biologists and refuge managers would be coming to the U.S. and visiting Great Meadows this summer. The theme of the trip is watersheds and working beyond your boundaries. Libby hopes to discuss with them some invasive species issues including water chestnut control, mapping and information about CISMA. She would also like to take them on a pontoon boat trip with talk about partnerships, Walden Pond, Minute Man National Historical Park etc.
2. Amber announced results of the recent election (voting done via Survey Monkey on the internet). Lincoln, Maynard, Walden Woods Project and NPS all were elected to new terms starting June 1. There were 2 non profits vying for one seat, and SOLF will not continue on the Steering Committee this year. Of 28 eligible, there were 18 votes.

Officers and chairs of subcommittees will continue this year. Next year these positions will be voted on after the election for the Steering Committee members.

Pulling Together Initiative:

Jeff led this discussion.

I. Due date for new proposals is June 30. Jeff has received a few ideas

1. Continue mapping of Desert Area, including removal and control.
2. Continue ED project with NEWFS
3. Initiate a mapping project with Mass Audubon.
4. Watershed wide water chestnut project
5. Project that focuses on kids.

It is ok for projects to overlap (the existing grant continues for 18 months) but a new proposal should be different from what is already being done. Bill suggested that a new proposal should build on what we have already done. Jeff said that the grant guidance discusses early detection, early successional habitats. Strongest proposals will focus on NFWF 'Keystone Priorities'.

It would be possible to either focus on one of these ideas, or to write a proposal with each of these as a subpart. Our current grant had 2 subparts, funding the coordinator and the ED project.

Minutes prepared by Lee Steppacher and edited by Amber Carr

There was more discussion of furthering the ED work. Eileen talked about creating a mechanism for the public to report new species. Something similar to the reporting that is done statewide about roadkill. IPANE also has a way to report sites with invasive species but it is not focused specifically on ED species. Bill will check into the data being generated at IPANE – he is not sure it is being kept up to date.

As we consider projects for funding we should follow what is outlined in the Management Plan. First ED species, then control the more established species in priority areas. Mapping should be combined with control.

Laura suggested that the Steering Committee should take some time to determine the projects they want to pursue. Then when the grant opportunities arise, we will be ready.

Jeff asked that each project proponent write up their idea and send to him. He will evaluate and consider how any might be combined. He will present this to the Admin Committee at their next meeting before putting together an application. Jeff has determined that the Nyanza Natural Resource Damage funds will probably be able to be used as a match.

II. Current NFWF Grant

Jeff said that the current grant includes funds to purchase 2 Magellan GPS units. Cost vary according to whether software is included or not (\$900-\$1400). Jeff got a nonprofit discount at www.stakemill.com. He bought 8 (some for a Mass Audubon project). The 2 Cisma units will be available on loan to members. FWS has 5 units, and one is available for loan as well.

Annual Priority Actions

Eileen asked everyone to review the APAs.

Laura suggested that an addition be made to have Cisma maintain a list of projects that we want to fund. Each committee should work on this and submit ideas to the Admin Committee for compilation. Then when grants become available we will be prepared, and can connect specific projects to grant requirements.

Additional control projects should be added as a part of an Accomplishments Report. Other projects in addition to the ones that were funded by the RSC should be included. Control Subcommittee should make a list of projects to be included in Report

Education and Outreach Committee should develop a process for project oversight.

Matt suggested that there needed to be an effort to reach out beyond the Steering Committee and Subcommittees. The Admin Committee has been considering 2 events each year. These would be events for the public and Cisma members, would be offered around the watershed and would have speakers.

The Cisma flyer needs to be updated to include examples of projects and other accomplishments. This flyer should be put on our various websites, especially until the Cisma website is completed. Ideas for the flyer should be sent to Matt.

A motion was made by Laura to accept the Annual Priority Actions with the edits described above. Seconded by John. All in favor.

Invasive Species Management Plan

There was some discussion of the priority areas map. While the entire Sudbury River is a priority, Freddie asked whether Hopkinton State Park, which is adjacent to the River and constitutes 1400 acres of protected land, should be included. We should confer with the State about this and also encourage the State to be more involved in CISMA. . None of Southborough is included as a priority area. It is not clear whether this is because there is no data available for Southborough. New Biomaps will be published this summer. Data should be included in CISMA Priorities Map. The Management Plan should have a sentence added to Exhibit E –As new data becomes available, the map will be updated.

The Management Plan was approved with these changes included (Lee, Matt).

Subcommittees' Scopes of Responsibilities

Steering Committee reviewed draft of these Scopes of responsibilities. Things to add include:

- ☐ Each Subcommittee should develop annual actions and possible projects for grant applications
- ☐ Admin - responsible for coordination and compiling annual priorities
- ☐ Control – Identify who is chair. Develop criteria for identifying priority areas CHECK. IN Goal 4, alright for language to overlap with Education and Outreach.
- ☐ Education and Outreach – Will coordinate with all committees. Instead of a newsletter, Committee should work on a calendar.
- ☐ ED/RR – List 2 events. Omit the other numbers CHECK

The Scopes of Responsibilities was accepted as amended (Freddie, Laura).

Position Description for Coordinator

Suggestions for changes to the PD include:

- ☐ Remove the names
- ☐ State that funding is grant dependent
- ☐ Include an introductory paragraph that explains the position.

The Admin Committee will make these changes and present it to the Steering Committee for approval at the next meeting.

Updates

Bill reported for Ted on the ED project (see handout). There are over 75 volunteers signed up for trainings, hoping to get 150. Need more in Hopkinton, Westborough, Bolton, Berlin. Suggestions were made to contact Tower Hill Botanical Gardens as well as newspapers, concoms.

Laura reported that the Beetle Project was progressing. The Loosestrife is growing, beetles that were purchased are due to arrive on May 20. Towns of Lincoln and Sudbury, SVT, Fay School and Marlborough High School are all growing beetles.

Next meeting is July 6th 1 pm.