

CISMA SuAsCo Spring Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2019

Coordinator Kristin O'Brien

- New Steering Committee members
 - Town of Maynard, NEWFS, MAS, Town of Wayland
- Steering Committee officers until end of 2019
 - Gerry DiBello as Treasurer
 - Kathy Sferra and Stacy Carter as Secretaries
 - Ryan Brown as Vice-Chair
 - Amber Carr as Chair
- Announcement of CISMA grant recipients Town of Wayland and SWEET
- TELE Workshop, will be advertised in next newsletter
- New Legislative and Policy subcommittee

Ron Chick – Aquatic Invasives Management (AIM) Subcommittee

- Aquatic subcommittee has been re-named to focus on all aquatic invasives, not just water chestnut
- Continuing to clear sections of Sudbury River by hand, including Saxonville Dam
- Challenging to secure funding for water chestnut management going forward

Stacy Carter – Early Detection and Control (EDC) Subcommittee

- Subcommittee wants to consider management around rare plants and provide more education and training opportunities for members
- Invasives Management Planning and Funding Workshop announced for April 11th 3-5:30PM at Great Meadows HQ, Weir Hill Rd. SVT will send out an email invite shortly.

Ryan Brown – Education Subcommittee

- Using Google Analytics to check and analyze web traffic, which is down slightly
- Please contact subcommittee if any updates to website are needed, especially contact info
- Interested in reaching out to members more and offering more resources

Delia Kaye – Legislative and Permitting Subcommittee

- Potential for general herbicide applicators license that would make it easier for land trusts and other organizations to control invasives
- Subcommittee is following draft legislation for a statewide invasives coordinator closely – Bill S.491 by Senator Jehlen, members are encouraged to contact their representatives in support of the bill
- Subcommittee will dissolve once these goals are met in state legislation

Gerry DiBello – Mile-A-Minute 8 Years Later

- Plant is still not entirely eradicated, and new sites have been found
- Efforts first began when residents spotted the unusual plant on walks
- Mile-A-Minute locations are almost entirely all old landscaping dump sites and construction material sites
- Control method is hand pulling in July before berries ripen. Roots are easy to pull
- Efforts are ongoing with a small volunteer group that accepts new members anytime

Hotze Wijnja – Glyphosate, Herbicide of Concern?

- Hotze Wijnja, PhD, MA Department of Agricultural Resources
- Past studies indicated that:
 - RoundUp/Glyphosate was a probably carcinogen and that it could be linked to widespread bee death
 - Glyphosate makes bees more vulnerable to bacterial infection
- Glyphosate is:
 - Non-selective, will impact any growing plant by inhibiting formation of several amino acids (key to growth)
 - A systemic herbicide that is eventually absorbed into roots
 - Made in many different formulations by many different companies
 - Used in agriculture, landscaping, forestry
- Glyphosate is not acutely toxic to mammals – low toxicity by skin, oral or inhaled exposure, but formulation toxicity will be different than glyphosate’s base toxicity
- Glyphosate has low acute toxicity for bees, and no effects were observed on colonies for foraging, but research is ongoing. Glyphosate accumulates less in pollen and nectar than other plant parts, so bees have lower exposure
 - A famous honeybee gut study that showed high bee death exposed them to unrealistically high concentrations with a low sample size of bees. Substantial uncertainty in findings, more research is needed
- Glyphosate has low toxicity to fish and amphibians, but formulated products can have higher toxicity
 - Surfactants in many glyphosate products can be especially toxic, but if product is used correctly, concentrations will be lower than acute toxicity levels in nearby water bodies
- All herbicides and pesticides go through regular review cycles. Glyphosate is currently in the final stage of a new review process
- IARC (under World Health Organization) 2015 – classified glyphosate as “probable human carcinogen” in same category as “eating red meat” and “irregular work schedule”
- WHO/FAO 2016 – not carcinogenic through food or water
 - EPA and Health Canada came to same conclusions
- Agricultural Health study in 2018 assessed those exposed to glyphosate products over ~20 years of work and found no link to lymphoid cancers
- Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) is following scientific and regulatory developments with glyphosate
 - Discussing at MA Pesticide Board meetings
 - Will update documents when EPA completes glyphosate registration review
 - Conducts monitoring studies of glyphosate and surfactants
- National Pesticide Information Center
 - A good resource for homeowners, has factsheets
 - Npic.orst.edu

Sarah Bursky

- Community Grant Funds are available from Wild & Scenic Rivers
- RiverFest planning is underway. RiverFest is June 22-23. Contact Sarah for event planning
- President signed into law an expansion of the Wild and Scenic Rivers, protecting nearly 620 miles of new Wild and Scenic Rivers in seven states, including the Farmington and Nashua Rivers.