

CISMA Steering Minutes 9/10/19

Attendees:

John Dwyer (Town of Maynard)
Amber Carr (MAS)
Linh Phu (USFWS)
Kristin O'Brien (SVT)
Delia Kaye (Town of Concord)
Kathy Sferra (Town of Stow)
Ryan Brown (Town of Wayland)
Laura Mattei (SVT)
Matt Morris (SVT)
Gerry DiBello (Westford Conservation Trust)

July Minutes

- The July minutes were approved with the minor edits discussed.

Announcements

- Amber Carr has transitioned from Mass Audubon to the Framingham Conservation Commission, where she will serve the remainder of her term as Chair. Mass Audubon has not indicated who will represent the organization.
- SVT would like to distribute "Improving Wildlife Habitat in Your Backyard" Brochure with the new CISMA rack card. The Steering Committee does not oppose the two being distributed together.
- A small stack of Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker signs were discovered in Amber's transition to Framingham. Kristin O'Brien has them now at the SVT office and will include their availability in the newsletter.
- The public comment period for the Japanese knotweed biocontrol has been extended, though they did not give an explanation.
- There is a new possible moth biocontrol for black swallow wort.
- The EDC Subcommittee will be hosting a walk on Sunday Sept. 15th in Framingham as an in the field follow up to their spring workshop on developing a management plan. Bud and Ron will walk a section of the rail trail explaining the project and how they developed the plan based on what was in the field.

The MCA Native Pollinator Task Force

- The task force is aiming to convert 30,000 acres of land in the SuAsCo watershed to native pollinator friendly plants. Each town participating town will have a pollinator garden in a high profile location and for target landowner education. They will develop materials and host 2

presentations: one in the fall to be inspirational and another in the spring focusing more on the “how-to’s”. Then there will be a garden tour in spring and summer.

The Great Outdoors Fund Application

- Kristin, Sarah Bursky (NPS), and Alison Field-Juma (OARS) have been working on this application to acquire funding for a 2-person rapid response team to pull water chestnut, generating a citizen science mapping app for water chestnut, for the CISMA coordinator to help create a general permit to streamline the aquatic invasives management permitting process, and host 2 volunteer water chestnut pulls. Kristin will speak with the DEP circuit riders to determine if the permit would be plausible and if it is, can it be completed in the amount of time set aside.

CISMA Small Grants 2019-2020

- The upcoming small grants will be announced at the fall meeting.
- The deadline for applications will be Dec. 31st.
- Applications will be reviewed and voted on at the January Steering Committee meeting and announced at the Spring meeting.

Watershed Wide Aquatics Management Plan

- Linh asked what is the goal/big picture of aquatic invasives management in the watershed? Are others doing restoration or other treatments to suppress milfoil or other invasives after pulling water chestnut? Kristin will reach out to AIMS and Jim and Tom from DCR Lakes and Ponds to see if others are doing restoration and possibly start a watershed-wide approach.

Aquatics Subcommittee Update

- They have not met yet but will be soon to discuss what was accomplished this summer.

EDC Subcommittee Update

- They have scheduled the walk for this Sunday.
- They will be hosting another how to develop a management plan workshop next spring.
- Bud Sechler will be drafting a report stating that there are not enough instances where rare plants are threaten by invasives for the project to continue.
- Kristin has asked participants of the spring management plan workshop to fill out a short questionnaire about their planning progress.
- Considering bringing back the vine discussions where members can discuss projects/issue they are working on.

Education Subcommittee Update

- Working on how to distribute the rack card (conferences, fall meeting etc.)
- Spreading the word about MIPAGs top priority species under review.

- Host another EDDMaps training.

Admin Subcommittee Update

- Keeping an eye out for grant opportunities and general housekeeping with Amber's transition to Framingham.

Legislation and Policy Subcommittee Update

- They have not met for several months in part to no movement from DEP on the general permit for terrestrial wetland invasive plant management. They will be meeting soon.

Fall Meeting Agenda

- Announce RFP for CISMA Small Grants- \$4,921
- Announce there will be 4 seats available on the Steering Committee for next year.
 - Terms expiring in Dec. for NPS, Lincoln ConCom, Stow ConCom, and Framingham ConCom.
 - Kristin will send out an email separate from the newsletter to announce the openings
- Possibly include 1 hour for a vine discussion where members can share what they are working on.
- The transition of the coordinator to SVT will be reviewed at the January SC meeting.
- Presentation on grazing (or mowing if we cannot find a speaker)
 - Kristin will reach out to Sandy Vorce, Mass Audubon to see if she would be willing to speak at the meeting
 - Freddie Gillespie might be an option to speak about field management/mowing
- Update on Invasive Species bill