

CISMA SuAsCo

## Fall Meeting November 12, 2019

Amber Carr

- Thank you to US Fish & Wildlife Service for hosting the fall meeting at Great Meadows NWR
- Steering Committee Elections
  - Five seats are available: Town of Lincoln, City of Framingham, Town of Stow, NPS, Massachusetts Audubon Society
  - Contact Kristin by early December if your organization is interested in serving on the committee

Kristin O'Brien

- Current legislation
  - Senator Jehlen's bill to establish a statewide Invasives Coordinator and statewide approach to invasives management is still in the works. Statewide invasives funding could become available as well
  - Several bills pertaining to the use of glyphosate are being developed – either to update the list of pesticides allowed in certain areas, or to ban glyphosate use altogether
- Request for Proposals – around \$5,000 available for CISMA members wanting to do invasives control

Aiko Pinkoski, SWEET

- CISMA 2019 small grant fund was used to clear bittersweet at the high school pollinator garden, replant native milkweed and remove black swallowwort along the Sudbury River

Ryan Brown, Town of Wayland

- CISMA 2019 funds were used to clear part of Cow Common and plant native shrubs. Deer browse was an issue

## Subcommittee Updates

Administration Subcommittee, Ryan Brown

- Will be generating an annual report of accomplishments for SVT
- Schedule and coordinated 2 full-membership meetings
- Administered small grants

Education and Outreach Subcommittee, Ryan Brown

- Established a Google Analytics page
- Recovered lost website content from the transfer

- Created a CISMA rack card

#### Early Detection and Control, Stacy Carter

- Hosted an invasives management plan workshop in spring
- Members led an invasives identification and restoration project earlier this fall
- Will not be pursuing invasives control around rare plant sites as state does not consider it a priority

#### Aquatic Invasives, Alison Field-Juma

- Subcommittee meets in spring and fall to coordinate water chestnut efforts throughout watershed
- Still working on watershed-wide monitoring of aquatic invasives
- Several towns paid OARS to pull water chestnut on Sudbury River this summer
- Will not be pursuing drone mapping, but will instead push for citizen science to engage public in helping track water chestnut

#### Legislative and Policy, Delia Kaye

- Continuing to follow Senator Jehlen's statewide coordinator bill
- Still working on finding an easier path for homeowners to control invasives on their property with a general notice-of-intent form

#### Glyphosate Discussion

- Should CISMA consider taking a stand on the potential banning of glyphosate?
- Glyphosate is used by many land trusts and organizations to fight invasives
- Consider making education/outreach efforts about proper use of glyphosate, maybe Early Detection and Control and Education/outreach subcommittee joint effort
- Several CISMA Steering Committee members volunteered to work on a letter to oppose the ban of glyphosate

#### Goats for Invasives Control

- Delia Kaye, Heywood Meadow in Concord, MA
  - Used 6 goats for three weeks to control bittersweet, buckthorn, etc
  - Costs were around \$100/goat/week, \$1800 total
  - Goats ate native herbaceous species in significant amounts
  - Delia would not consider using goats again for invasives control
- Lynh Phu shared her experience in Maryland with goats
  - 5 wetlands; 37 acres
  - Breed of goat does matter
  - Knocked back multiflora rose in 2 years
  - Considered successful

- Sandy Vorce, Massachusetts Audubon, Habitat Sanctuary
  - 13 Acres of meadows; Goal is biodiversity
  - Goats have been full-time at the Sanctuary for 3 years
  - Herd of 8 = \$ 4,000 year – very easy to raise money for the goats
  - Although Habitat has many volunteers, volunteers can not work on multiflora rose and poison ivy. Use weekly wildlife observations and plants citizen science
  - Uses in-house goats to clear meadows of buckthorn, bittersweet, multiflora rose. Goats do not completely eradicate multiflora rose, need to go back and remove the root masses
  - Goats are moved regularly to lessen impact on native plants, at least every 2 weeks. They will eat mostly invasives. Keep them away from blueberry until end of season. Not totally mown or completely devoid of invasives Especially useful in rocky areas that are hard to mow with machinery.
  - Some manual removal of main woody trunks is necessary after goats move through
  - Use meadow seed mixes in conjunction with goats – hooves will push seeds into soil. Day before goats leave, throw down seed mix. Some self-seeding happens as well.
  
- Ruminant specialist in Massachusetts is Kate Parson, UMass Amherst – can provide grazing prescriptions based on soils and goals.

#### Metrowest Conservation Alliance

- MCA has a working group to promote native pollinators, with goal of 30,000 healthy pollinator habitat acres in watershed
- Professor Robert Gegear will present research on good pollinator plants and habitat Sunday November 17 from 2-4PM at the Southborough Senior Center