

2021 Annual Priority Actions

Early Detection and Control (EDC)

- Create an invasive management plan template that can be used for project submission to the SUASCO Cisma small grants
- Conduct spring management training workshop on April 15 from 2 -4 pm, and provide follow-up support
- Conduct an early detection invasive plant species on-line training, with emphasis on invasive plant species that may be increasing in the SUASCO watershed.
- Conduct two management and invasive plant species ID walks, perhaps stemming from the spring workshop and early detection on-line training
- Make recommendations to update SUASCO Cisma website with EDC meeting discussion and action items and include ecological info on invasive plants that are new or perhaps increasing in the SUASCO watershed.

Aquatic Invasive Management (AIM)

- **Objective 1:** Establish a watershed-wide water chestnut task force. The AIM Subcommittee serves in this role. Recruit interested members from other watershed towns--ongoing.
- **Objective 2:** Establish watershed-wide monitoring and reporting. Work with DCR to develop a simple database/ spreadsheet for the watershed, use this information to communicate with affected municipalities. In 2021, OARS (with Cisma small grant) will survey and report on the current extent of water chestnut in Assabet and Concord mainstem rivers.
- Recruit volunteers in each town to do basic (presence/absence) of water chestnut in ponds, lakes, and small streams July through August. Ask conservation agents to report areas being worked on and to suggest active volunteers.
- **Objective 3:** Outreach and local participation. Facilitate communication with towns and stakeholder groups. Organize meetings that focus on securing support for town-based monitoring, encourage direct assistance with transport and disposal of harvested plant materials, and discuss consistent permitting of control efforts. In 2022, AIM and OARS will continue to help coordinate efforts among municipalities. OARS may again hold a volunteer pull in Concord with Concord Land Conservation Trust, perhaps within the Weed Warrior Framework.
- **Objective 4:** Consistent wetlands permitting of control efforts. Work with the LAPS Subcommittee and DCR to push for efficient and effective watershed-wide permitting, as needed.
- **Objective 5:** Prevent and control new infestations. Information should be shared within and between municipalities to identify new infestations. DCR is now actively managing the reservoir 1&2 of the Sudbury River in Framingham. Framingham aims to assess the management of other aquatic invasives that may replace water chestnut, plus increase

purple loosestrife management which may provide useful lessons for the rest of the watershed.

- **Objective 6:** Contribute to research on effective controls. Efforts to reach Dr. Bernd Blosser at Cornell have not been successful. In 2022, AIM and OARS will keep track of reports on the effectiveness and impacts of herbicide-based control efforts.
- **Objective 7:** Support ongoing water chestnut control efforts. Funds to manage water chestnut are sought from affected municipalities annually. In 2021, OARS will In 2022 OARS will work through CISMA's Weed Warriors program to train volunteers to do watershed-wide water chestnut management previously done with OARS' Rapid Response Team summer employees. . Share information, support reactivation of Hop Brook Protection Association efforts. Continued advocacy for Invasive Species Management legislation in the state legislature. The AMIS bi-annual meetings will continue to facilitate sharing of experience, information and advice among municipalities and non-profits working on aquatic invasives management.

Education and Outreach

- Keep website populated with events, CISMA content, case studies, partner projects, grant opportunities, etc
- Review and update website information
- Update invasive species specimen photographs on website
- Host speaker series, training event, etc

Legislation and Policy (LAP)

- Continue to develop and file a general Notice of Intent to permit landowners to conduct small-scale terrestrial invasive species control projects
- Continue to investigate a streamlined process for Towns and Land Trust staff to obtain a pesticide applicator's license
- Continue to follow and support state Coordinator legislation drafted by Senator Pat Jehlen

Administrative Duties of the Steering Committee

- Generate annual report for 2021 by January 31
- Refine metrics of evaluating the accomplishments of the CISMA
 - Require subcommittees to track number of events, attendees, acres treated/controlled?, volunteer events/trainings, volunteer hours (from partners and Weed Warriors), new CISMA members, repeat event tracking
- Schedule and coordinate twice annual meetings open to all members and the public
- Administer the small grant program
- Pursue additional funding through grants
- Coordinate the CISMA election