

Coastal Watershed Invasive Plant Partnership Meeting 15-Feb-08

Attendees

Doug Bechtel, TNC
Cathy Coletti, NH Coastal Program
Mary Currier, Rockingham County Conservation District
Doug Cygan, NH Department of Agriculture
Chris Ganotis Chair, North Hampton Conservation Commission
Kevin Lucey, NH Coastal Program
Brooke Smart, NRCS
Florence Petersen, USDA Forest Service
Rachel Stevens, Great Bay NERR
Graham Taylor, USFWS

1. NHCWIPP Partnership Agreement

Edits

The US Forest Service and NH Department of Agriculture joined as signatories to the partnership agreement.

Steering committee membership is to be comprised of signatories to the agreement. Other organizations can join as sustaining partners at any time, but signatories are the steering committee who complete the annual plan of work. Sustaining partners can work on subcommittees and projects that are relevant to them. Additional signatories can be added every 5 years when the current agreement ends and a new one is drafted.

Several small language changes to the agreement made by the Commissioner of DES were discussed. The conflict of interest statement was modified. It was agreed the liability statement needs legal clarification. **Action:** *Kevin will review the liability statement with the Commissioner of DES.*

A decision was made to call the geographic area we're working in "NH Coastal Watershed Invasive Plant Management Area".

It was also agreed to avoid the term "weed" throughout the document, and instead use the term "invasive plant".

Media and Outreach

A signing ceremony for the agreement was suggested. Cathy Coletti with the NHCP is willing to take the lead. Target to have the ceremony the week of 19 May. Location options; Great Bay Discovery Center, Seacoast Science Center, or Creek Farm in Portsmouth. **Action:** *Cathy will draft a media advisory to invite the press and start developing an outreach strategy. Each member group of NHCWIPP needs to identify a press contact and pass that information to Cathy (559-0024, Catherine.coletti@des.nh.gov). Each person should check with their organizations' signatories to see if they have an interest in a signing ceremony.*

2. Update on Action Items

Technical GIS and database subcommittee

Don Richards from NRCS will join the subcommittee. **Action:** *Subcommittee will meet to discuss data consolidation and identification of target ecological areas of importance.*

Priority Species List subcommittee

The IPANE coordinator has been contacted and suggested developing a list of invasive plant species that are already established in our management area and an early detection list. The subcommittee is consolidating pre-existing lists and from these will develop a coastally relevant list. **Action:** *Review a proposed NHCWIPP invasive plant list at next meeting.*

Funding

The NFWS Pulling Together Initiative proposal has been submitted. It requests \$50,000 to hire a coordinator for NHCWIPP to be housed at Rockingham CCD. Match obligations for this grant have been met. **Action:** *Alternative funding sources will be explored by Rockingham CCD and Coastal Program.*

3. Obligations of the NHCWIPP Partnership Agreement

Management Plan

An important outcome of the management plan is to identify which invasive plant control projects are a priority to take place within the management area. It was suggested the management plan should include a communications plan so that a comprehensive list of invasive plant control projects that are taking place within the NHCWIPP management area can be developed. The focus of the next NHCWIPP meeting should be to identify shared goals for the partnership and incorporate them into the management plan outline. **Actions:** *Develop a subcommittee to coordinate the management plan. Brooke and Tracy will draft a management plan table of contents to be presented for review at our next meeting. Kevin will forward a history of past goals discussions, including Beth's Jan 26th email to the group. Doug B will draft a set of proposed goals with Kevin to initiate discussion at the next meeting.*

2008 Annual Operations Plan

Action: *Kevin will put together a one pager outline operations plan for 2008.*

CWIPP Subcommittees

Two informal subcommittees currently exist; the Technical GIS and database subcommittee and the Priority Species List subcommittee. **Action:** *Form a management plan subcommittee and identify membership.*

4. Other

Kevin has been attending the NH ME MA invasives species coastal working group meetings run by Parker River Refuge. Its focus is perennial pepperweed early detection. The USFWS plans to hire a fulltime invasive species coordinator to work in this region.

The question of how to engage NGOs in this initiative is extensive and should be developed as strategy in the management plan.

Doug C is working with the NH Division of Pesticides to modify their rules so that invasive plant species identified by the NH committee can be treated effectively. **Action:** *Contact Doug if anyone has experienced limitations to invasive control due to pesticide board rules.*

A National Cooperative Weeds Management Area conference is taking place in Reno 15-17 April. Ideally a member of NHCWIPP should attend.

Next Meeting: 9 a.m. 06 March, Portsmouth DES.