

NH Coastal Watershed Invasive Plant Partnership Meeting – May 1st, 2008

Location: United States Forest Service (Durham)- 9-11:30

Attendees

Peter Wellenberger, NHFG
Cathy Coletti, NH Coastal Program
Rachel Stevens, GBNERR
Frank Mitchell, UNH Cooperative Extension
Doug Bechtel, TNC
Kevin Lucey, NH Coastal Program
Christine Perron, NHDOT
Brooke Smart, NRCS
Steve Eisenhaure, UNH
Doug Cygan, NH Dept. Ag.

1. New Partners

New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development will join the Partnership as a Signatory. Bryan Comeau (Forest and Lands) will be the Key Contact for NHDRED. Don Kent (NHNHB) and Brian Wahrburton (State Parks) will be on the contacts list for CWIPP meetings and events

2. Signing Ceremony

The signing ceremony is scheduled for May 20 (10:00 – 12:00) at the Great Bay Discovery Center.

Tentative Agenda:

10-10:30: Meet and Greet: Snacks provided by GBNERR and Drinks provided by RCCD

10:30-10:40: Ted

- acknowledges GBNERR for hosting;
- Tell the story of how this partnership came together,
- how it's based on the cooperative weed management areas;
- what are the elements that set it apart from other collaborations
- introduces all of the Signatories and the DES Commissioner as well as present the

10:40-10:45: DES Commissioner

- the importance of this day and the partnership as being first of its kind?
- The importance of the coastal watershed?

10:40- 10:50: Doug Cygan

- Define urgency
- Describe the threat/problem;
- Identify specific problem areas in the Coastal Watershed;
- Approach of how CWIPP will fight the threat
- Possible Powerpoint

10:50-11:00 Cynthia Smith

- the role Rockingham County Conservation District and importance of landowners,
- how landowners are part of the model of a cooperative weed management area and how landowners are important in the fight against invasives.

11:00 Ted to orchestrate signing

- Signatories will be already sitting at the table up front; table could be set up with the engraved Phragmites in front of each seat

11:15-12 Demonstration Projects TBA-

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING THE CWIPP CEREMONY:

- NHCP has purchased 12 Pragwrites pens with laser engraved boxes that will be presented to each Signatory.
- Save the date and postcards sent to 400 stakeholders.
- CWIPP should be careful in how we brand ourselves: We are not the first invasive plant partnership in New England, but we are the first Partnership in New England modeled after the concept of Cooperative Weed Management Areas to sign a formal Agreement.
- Signing Ceremony Subcommittee will meet at GBNERR at 2pm on Thursday May 8th.

3. Management Plan

The current approach on the CWIPP Management Plan is to have multiple people from the Partnership author different sections of the management plan. This effort would be coordinated and consolidated by the CWIPP Coordinator.

Kevin suggested that perhaps CWIPP should consider contracting out the creation of the CWIPP Management Plan. The justification for contracting out the Management Plan is to reduce the stress that it would put on the Partnership and reduce the time it would take away from other initiatives. There was general agreement from the Steering Committee members, although other approaches are still being considered. Contracting this work could be funded through PTI money (if approved). If the PTI money is not awarded, the NHCP could possibly fund a portion of the CWIPP Management Plan.

ACTION: Steering Committee members to find relevant example RFP's, cost estimates from similar efforts, potential consultants and forward information to Kevin.

4. Partnership Agreement

A. The New Hampshire Attorney General's Office recommended that several changes be made to the Partnership Agreement. As follows:

1) Page 2, Second Paragraph: According to the AG, the paragraph that describes updating exhibits needs to be clarified as to: 1) how an exhibit would be changed; 2) who would be making those changes; and 3) how we would ensure that the partnership has the latest copy. This section now reads:

"Exhibits to this Agreement may be revised or deleted by consensus of the Steering Committee. The latest revision of any Exhibit will be incorporated into this Agreement and forwarded to the Signatories and Steering Committee representatives by the Steering Committee Chairman without necessitating a formal modification as defined in Provision IV-E. *See exception as noted in Exhibit B IV Steering Committee Responsibilities item I.*"

2) Section III. I. and Exhibit II: Change 'vested' to 'significant'.
Justification: the word 'vested' should be avoided because it has other legal connotations.

3) Exhibit IV. C. Changed 'approve' to 'endorse'.
Justification: The word 'approve' implies an authority that the Partnership Agreement does not give the Steering Committee.

B. During the last review period of Partnership Agreement, NRCS wanted to include the following language but agreed to wait to include the language until the next revision.

1. "The signatories to this agreement and their respective agencies and offices will handle their own activities and utilize their own resources, including the expenditure of their own funds, in pursuing these objectives. Each party will carry out its separate activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner". (OGC Memo Item "A")
2. "This agreement is not intended to, and does not create, any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person". (OGC Memo Item "D")

The AG's suggested changes were approved by the Steering Committee. Other minor changes were suggested by the Steering Committee that included revising the CWIPP Management Area Map and minor changes in punctuation. **Action:** Kevin will incorporate all Attorney General's suggested edits, and incorporate a revised map, and will submit final Agreement to all Partners. NRCS additions to the Partnership Agreement will be incorporated for consideration during the next round of revisions of the Agreement.

5. CWMA Conference, Reno, Nevada-update from Florence Peterson.

Florence Peterson, USFS, reported on the National Cooperative Weed Management Area Conference-People Powered Projects that she attended in Reno, NV in April.

The common thread between all the CWMA's was that a group of committed people were dedicated to unified cause. Also that there is no "right way" to do anything and that each WMA has it's own suite of problems.

Recipe for success: The right mix of people, respect, where opinions are valued, and a leadership technique that divides up the work and responsibility.

There is a new CWMA in Illinois, with similarities to CWIPP that would be willing to talk with our future coordinator.

6. Summer Coordination

TNC and GBNERR:

- Shifting from assessment and inventory to control with experimental design in Crommet Creek to develop control techniques that are regional relevant.
- Focusing on plant populations in the Crommet Creek watershed that are not well established: knotweed, loosestrife, black swallow wart, Norway maple

NRCS:

- Continue control work in Rye, Hampton on control projects
- The town restrictions against herbicides are limiting their success

NHCP

- Starting a pilot project to assess the extent perennial pepperweed in the Hampton Seabrook Estuary
- A summer intern will coordinate volunteers to map the extent of the plant.

7. June Meeting

- Location and date to be determined.