

Coastal Watershed Invasive Plant Partnership

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 19th, 2008 9 a.m -12 p.m
United States Forest Service Office, Durham

Attendees:

Kevin Lucey, nhcp
Catie Foley, nhcp
Rachel Stevens, nhf&g
Mary Currier, rccd
Doug Bechtel, tnc
Florence Peterson, usfs

Dave Burdick, unh
Bryan Comeau, nh dred
Joanne Glode, tnc
Brooke Smart, nrCS
Christine Perron, nhdot

Agenda

I.) Welcome and Introductions and debrief Signing Ceremony

- Signing Ceremony was covered in the Union Leader and The Wire,
- The national publication for Resource Conservation Districts, *News and Views* has an upcoming article about the role of the Rockingham County Conservation District in CWIPP
- CWIPP will be featured in the NHDOT publication, *N.H. Roads*
- CWIPP Article on the NRCS website
- CWIPP will be in the national *U.S. Forest Service Newsletter*

II.) Management Plan: decide approach for completing Management Plan

Kevin presented the two options currently being contemplated regarding the creation of the management plan.

Option A: develop an RFP and hire a consultant to write the management plan. The hired consultant would follow an established format (i.e. table of contents) for the plan. The work of each of the subcommittees would be used by the consultant to complete the plan.

Option B: Sections of plan would be written by the members Steering Committee and orchestrated, edited, and co-authored by a coordinator (who we would hire). This option would rely on Steering Committee members serving as co-authors and editors. The work of each of the subcommittees would be used by the coordinator to complete the plan.

Rachel Stevens suggested an **Option C**, which, after much discussion, became the preferred alternative. Option C would be to hire a coordinator to complete multiple objectives including coordinating the creation of management plan **as well as** hiring a consultant to complete the technical writing/ layout of the plan. Steering Committee Members and subcommittee members would be expected to help organize material and data for the plan, as well as to produced products related to subcommittee work but will not serve as authors.

The Coordinator's responsibilities would include:

- Coordinating the creation of the management plan (i.e. compiling information, working with the CWIPP Subcommittees, working with technical writer/consultant);
- Coordinate Monthly Steering Committee meetings;
- Coordinate the tracking of Implementation Projects;
- Meeting NRCS tracking criteria;
- Limited Grant writing (not to include organizational support).

Dave Burdick suggested that we look into the use of Science Translators or technical writers, such as Dana Truslow or Peter Taylor.

Florence mentioned that upon hiring a coordinator, other CWMA's found that Steering Committee members do less work and all the responsibilities are transferred to the paid Coordinator... a situation we should avoid!

Action: Mary will develop a draft job description for the proposed position (Option C) and will send out for review to the Steering Committee.

Kevin mentioned that since we are seeking funds we should look into hiring AmeriCorps members or SCA (Student Conservation Association) interns to assist in our on-the-ground efforts, to engage with the public, and initiate education and outreach.

Christine mentioned that NHDOT gets 6 members SCA crew to help them during the summer. The crew includes high school students and two crew leaders

Action: Kevin will contact NH AmeriCorps representatives to find out more information. Florence to forward information about getting SCA interns.

III.) **Generate a consolidated list of implementation projects**

All agreed that a unified list of implementation projects was necessary to determine:

i) who is doing what where, ii) gauge financial needs, iii) guide management plan, iv) start tracking success.

The idea is to create a listing format that would be sent to project partners throughout the management area to capture meta-data about all invasive plant control projects in the Management Area. The list would be sent to the CWIPP Steering Committee, CWIPP Sustaining Partners, as well as other partners to include: land trusts, towns, conservation commissions, UNH Forestry Office, etc. Steering Committee members will follow up with other partners to encourage completion of the form.

A draft created by the RCCD was reviewed at the meeting and commented upon.

Action: RCCD will incorporate edits and submit revised project listing format to Steering Committee. Steering Committee to review and submit comments to RCCD.

IV.) **Subcommittee Update**

GIS Database Subcommittee:

- They are looking into a new mapping website to house CWIPP data called iMap Invasives, <http://imapinvasives.org/partners.html>
- The site is still getting off the ground and emphasizes getting volunteers to use a web-based mapping system.
- The system is currently being used by TNC in Oregon, NY Natural Heritage Program, etc.
- iMap Invasives is compatible with WIMS
- Requires an annual fee for data management.

Action: Joanne to find out about annual fee and to continue conversations with their representatives.

It was agreed that two new Subcommittees were needed:

1) Treatment, Control, and Disposal Sub-Committee

Purpose: To develop lists of BEST PRACTICES of control for all relevant invasive plant species. Best Practices to include most effective non-herbicide treatment alternatives as well as to determine creative options and strategies for disposal.

N.H. Invasive Species Committee initiated a similar effort but it had to be temporarily abandoned to deal with pesticide rules and re-writing of the shoreland rules. But a significant amount of research was compiled. **Action:** Doug Bechtel will provide cd's of data for the Treatment, Control, and Disposal subcommittee.

Christine Perron notified the group of an Invasive Plant Working Group headed by the UNH Cooperative Extension that is working on developing a list of invasive plant management techniques. **Action:** Christine will coordinate with the working group to see that our efforts align and are not duplicative.

Action: Brooke to discuss with UNH Cooperative Extension, who will be Frank Mitchell's successor on CWIPP.

Kevin notified the group of the extensive invasive species control going on at the Parker River Wildlife Refuge and of the potential to utilize that knowledge base. **Action:** Kevin to contact Nancy Pau to request her input or participation in developing regionally relevant control techniques.

2) Education and Outreach Sub-Committee

Purpose: To assess existing education materials and develop strategic approaches for education and outreach.

It was agreed that we will wait to create an education and outreach subcommittee.

Technology Transfer Center: (T2) is a training center at UNH for Road Agents, that provide education and accreditation called Road Scholars. Something we should look into in the future.

Kevin asked for clarification of the membership of the CWIPP Subcommittees. They are as follows:

GIS / Database Sub-Committee

Joanne Glode, TNC
Florence Peterson, USFS
Rachel Stevens, GBNERR
Tom Luther, USFS

Plant List Sub-Committee

Doug Cygan, NH Dept of Ag.
Joanne Glode, TNC
Florence Peterson, USFS

Management Plan Sub-Committee

Kevin Lucey, NHCP
Tracy Degnan, RCCD
Brooke Smart, NRCS
Ted Diers, NHCP

Treatment, Control, and Disposal Sub-Committee

Christine Perron, NHDOT
Rachel Stevens, GBNERR
Kevin Lucey, NHCP
Dave Burdick, UNH
Florence Peterson, USFS

V.) Funding Sources-

- a. US Forest Service
 - Amount: \$10,000
 - 50:50 match (can be in-kind including volunteer time, materials, workspace (cannot be matched with other Federal Funds.
 - Need to find a place to host the grant
 - **Action:** Florence to email grant info, and RCCD will likely end up submitting a proposal.
- b. NRCS
 - NRCS may have money available, CWIPP needs to develop proposal that details our needs and submit to NRCS
 - **Action:** to have proposal available before the next CWIPP meeting.
- c. NHCP
 - NHCP is interested in partially funding the creation of the Management Plan and providing sustaining funding for existing implementation projects.
 - CWIPP needs to develop proposal to the NHCP detailing need.
- d. Grants: RC& D to seek out available grants
 - i. **Action:** Brooke to ask Holly Humphrey of RC&D to begin looking for grant sources related to invasive species, CWMA's, etc.

VI.) Other

ME / NH / ME Coastal Invasives Workgroup: is coordinating invasive species management in the coastal corridor east of Route 95. Kevin has been participating in that effort and wanted to let people know of its existence. Florence and Rachel suggested that a mini-conference could be coordinated between our two groups.... An idea that was well received! **Action:** Kevin to make sure that our efforts align, and to bring certain people together as necessary and will pitch the idea of a regional mini-conference.

Florence indicated that audio files of speeches and power point presentations from the CWMA conference in Reno were posted on-line. **Action:** Florence to forward to link to partnership.

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 7th 2008, 9am –12pm, U.S. Forest Service, Durham