

Northwoods Weed Initiative
Meeting Minutes
Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center
07-30-2003

Attendees: Tom Cogger, Barb Gajewski, Dara Olson, Wendy Stein, Carrie Woerdeman

-Carrie Woerdeman, an intern working with Pam Troxell, reported on the Douglas County survey for Leafy spurge. One large (football size) field was found off of Highway 13. Carrie provided a map with the routes traveled. She did not get a GPS point for the spurge found, but thought her co-worker on this project (Martine) may be able to get back and GPS the site.

-Discussed roads and rights-of-way and the possibility of Dept. of Transportation responsibility for the spread of weeds. Barb thought the Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation is exempt from the State Noxious Weed Law. Barb will research the rationale behind this exemption.

-Carrie provided a copy of the posters that were developed by herself, Martine, and Pam. A few suggestions were made for changes. Carrie will make the changes and email a revised copy to the group.

-Discussed continuing Ecology Club participation and possible tasks. Ideas included having students enter the monitoring forms into a computer, making landowner contacts, recording spurge sites, taking photo points prior to herbicide application. Barb will email a photo point form.

-Wendy reported on the beetle release. Steven Spickerman, Phil Freeman, and Wendy released beetles at 3 locations on July 2, 2003. The first site was the Lewis property where 4500 *Apthona lacertosa* and 500 *Apthona nigriscutis* were released. The second site was the Biazzo property where the same numbers of the *Apthona* species were released. The third site was another location on the Biazzo property where 50 *Obera erythrocephala* were released. Wendy and Steven put in one monitoring plot on the Lewis property prior to the release. (The pre-release monitoring on the Biazzo property was conducted by NWI and the Ecology Club back in June.)

-Wendy passed around a copy of the letter that John Markus sent out to the Town of Washburn residents advising them to mow the spurge on their property prior to it going to seed. The letter went out on June 16th and included a Leafy spurge fact sheet from Monroe County Extension office.

-Tom suggested contacting Dale Brevak (County Highway Commissioner?) to raise awareness and discuss their role in controlling the spread of invasives.

-No news on washing facility. Agreed this is still a good idea for the Town of Washburn and something we should pursue... maybe something the Town could help fund, as well as look for grant opportunities.

-No news on potential grants.

-IPAW: Barb will talk again with Quita about the pros/cons of becoming a member.

-Wendy will email the Chairman for the Town of Washburn and ask for agenda time at their next meeting for a Leafy spurge update.

-Miles telephoned during the meeting to report he was awaiting the delivery of 50,000 Leafy spurge brochures and 50,000 Plants Out of Place brochures. He also ordered herbicide (Plateau).

-Next meeting: Tuesday, August 26, 2003, 9:00 a.m. at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center (1st floor multi-purpose room).

Wendy Stein
Notetaker