

Northwoods Weed Initiative  
Meeting Minutes  
Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center  
11-04-2003

Attendees: Tom Cogger, Gary Czapinski, Miles Falck, Cathy Hoffman, Mike Kroenke, John Markus, Kathleen Morgen, Steven Spickerman, Wendy Stein, Pam Troxell

**\*Curriculum Activity**

Mike Kroenke, UW-Extension Basin Educator, provided information on the Visitor Center site and its role in invasive species management. The plan/goal is to work to eliminate invasive species from the site. The Visitor Center site consists of 80 acres with 5 parcels for management (i.e. a Forest Land Stewardship site, Sustainable Agriculture site, etc.). The Center is working cooperatively with Northland College, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, and the Master Gardener program. The site provides a great place to demonstrate eradication methods, restoration, various land uses, etc..

Kathleen Morgen is interested in working with our group to develop an invasive species curriculum. She emphasized the need for a grant.

Pam reported Clayton Russell's class is working on designing 1-3 lesson plans.. presumably for high school or junior high level. It would be interesting to partner with the Washburn School to integrate the lessons.

Suggestions were made to adapt purple loosestrife curriculum. *Steven will check with western states to see what is available.*

Mike plans to sponsor a workshop or conference on invasive species sometime next year. Miles offered to represent the Northwoods Weed Initiative on a planning committee for the workshop. Discussed just how wide of an area to include—local or statewide? Since folks tend to be thinking in terms of a watershed, it would be more manageable to localize the workshop to the Lake Superior basin. Miles suggested targeting not only landowners, but local government officials, town officials, lake-shore property owners, nursery dealers, master gardeners, and farmers.

Cathy Hoffman, Science Teacher at Washburn High School, is very interested in keeping the Ecology Club involved in the project. Cathy suggested a directed study where students build a Powerpoint presentation geared toward Town Officials. Other venues could include presentations to area Elementary schools, a County Fair booth, Farm meetings, Spring Garden show, etc. She thought 15-18 year olds presenting to adults is an effective means to “grab” audience attention.

Discussed how to reach a larger audience. The Chequamegon Bay Natural Resources conference was suggested. Julie Van Stappen is the contact.

Cathy will purchase paint and stakes for the students to use to mark the leafy spurge sites in the Town of Washburn. These markings will serve to alert the Town crew to spurge locations. Students riding bicycles will use stencils to mark 'LS' on the pavement near the spurge locations. If the weather cooperates, students could start the work this Fall. *Wendy will check with the Town to see if they will cover the costs of paint and stakes.*

Kathleen explained the herbarium project she has been working on. She shared copies of the specimens. A total of 250 specimens will be collected with the goal to provide a set to every CESA 12 school district (18 districts), all of the 6 Ojibwe communities, as well as the public library. The specimen set will include a user guide. Kathleen may look to members of our group for advice on the user guide.

The meeting provided a good forum for the folks interested in education to meet and share ideas. It was suggested they share email addresses and keep in touch.

### **\*Leafy Spurge Poster Update**

Pam shared the 2 poster designs via email and circulated copies for review. One poster is 'less wordy' with the intent to be transportable and laminated. The other poster is 'more wordy' with the intent to be used for display/interpretive purposes. *(Please review the copies Pam emailed and send her any comments/edits during the week of November 17, 2003.)*

Decided to print 12 small (approx. 8 ½ x 11) and 12 large (18 x 20) of the less-wordy design, and 6 small and 6 large of the more wordy design. Miles offered to do the printing and suggested Pam contact Dick Stark of the Dept. of Transportation to ask for funds for laminating and distribution. *(Miles will email contact information for Dick Stark to Pam. Tom offered to check on funding for printing on poster paper.)*

Cathy suggested having a couple of the small, less-wordy design laminated and put on stakes to mark some of the spurge locations.

### **\*Herbicide Update**

Miles had a crew out for approximately 1 week in the Town of Washburn. Using Plateau, the crew sprayed approximately 3 ½ miles of leafy spurge. The crew started on the East boundary of the National Forest and worked east on South Maple Hill Rd.

The crew was pulled after one week for another project. Next year, Miles would like to coordinate better and start the crew earlier and work later. He could really use more people for a spraying crew.

Estimated costs are less than \$1.00 per acre.

Discussed possibilities for crew help for next year. Suggestions included checking with The Nature Conservancy; Cathy offered to check with her husband who has done this work in the past; training the Town crew; students for work—must be 18 years old.

Also suggested getting IPAW involved to buy one 2 ½ gallon jug of Plateau. Our group could purchase from IPAW. *Wendy will check with Pat Goggin to see if this is feasible. She will also check with the Town of Washburn for funding for herbicide.*

### **\*Grants/Funding**

Last year we applied for the National Forest Foundation CAP grant. It was suggested we look into re-applying if the grant is available this year. *(Pam will check on grant due dates.)*

Ted Koehler (US Fish and Wildlife Service) is a contact for the Private Stewardship Grant.

Our Management Plan includes a list of potential funding sources from groups like Whitetails Unlimited and the Sharptail Grouse Society. groups that might have a concern with leafy spurge getting into open areas. Cathy suggested having the students give a Powerpoint presentation at one of their meetings.

Mike mentioned that they will have a part-time employee funded via a NAWCA (North American Wetland Conservation Act) grant. It might be possible to have this person assist with some of the coordination duties that our group would benefit from. He suggested contacting Pam Dryer or Diane Daulton. There may also be potential assistance from the WI Lake Superior Partnership Team.

If we get any funding, it was suggested to contact Quita Sheehan to see if she had any interest in providing coordination for the group.

### **\*Miscellaneous**

Gary Czypinski (US Fish and Wildlife Service) shared information on his work with Eurasian Ruffe. He is very interested in staying involved with NWI.

Email addresses for Gary and Cathy:

[gary\\_czypinski@fws.gov](mailto:gary_czypinski@fws.gov), [choffman@washburn.k12.wi.us](mailto:choffman@washburn.k12.wi.us)

### **\*Next meeting**

Tuesday, December 9, 2003, 9:00 a.m. at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center (1<sup>st</sup> floor multi-purpose room).

Agenda topics:            Review/edit management plan and work plan  
                                 Forest Service herbicide ?  
                                 Grant possibilities  
                                 Update on Clayton Russell lesson plans

Wendy Stein  
Notetaker