



Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2016

Boardman River Nature Center
1450 Cass Rd., Traverse City

1:00 – 4:00pm

Present: Carolyn Henne* (Huron-Manistee National Forest), Marsha Barber Clark (GT Conservation District), Jon Throop* (GT Regional Land Conservancy), Kaldis Grants, Shaun Howard (The Nature Conservancy/Michigan Dune Alliance), Becky Hill* (Leelanau Conservancy), Vickie Smith (Wildlife & Wetland Solutions), Mark Randolph (CAKE CISMA), Melissa Buzzard (Huron Pines), John Ransom (Benzie Conservation District), Heather Huffstatler (Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy/CAKE CISMA), Pat Trentacoste (Benzie Long Lake Association), Lydia Burfield, Carolyn Sonderegger (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians), George and Sandra Goodrich (Shingle Mill Preserve), Mike and Evelyn Szpliet (Shingle Mill Preserve), Paul Kogelschatz (Conservation Resource Alliance), Rob Dreer (Northwestern Michigan College), Dennis Wiand (GT Long Lake Association), Mac Templeton (Huron Pines AmeriCorps/GTCD/ISN), Julie Winkler (Lakeshore Native Gardens LLC), Kama Ross (Leelanau Conservation District), Susan Spencer, Kayla Knoll (Manistee Conservation District), Laurel Voran (Glen Lake Association), Bob Dompierre (Old Mission Associates), Jason Kimbrough (NRCS), Paperworks Studio representative, Emily Cook, Katie Grzesiak (Invasive Species Network)

***= Steering Committee Member**

ACTION ITEMS:

- **ISN will:**
 - **Hire Crews and long-term employees** (complete)
 - **Continue improving *Go Beyond Beauty***
 - **Continue representing ISN at the state-wide level**
 - **Host workbees & training sessions**
 - **Host prioritization meeting (summer)**
 - **Continue creating/improving resources**
- **Partners will:**
 - **Submit 2015 survey and treatment data to MISIN**
 - **Brainstorm work for treatment & survey crew**

MINUTES:

Introductions

ISN Introduction (see *powerpoint*)

- History
- Partners
- Future

ISN Steering Committee Updates – Jon Throop

- Emphasized importance of partner collaboration for the success of ISN
- ISN is in the process of hiring 8 employees - 6 seasonal, 1 full-time, and 1 part-time
 - Steering Committee input for non-seasonal hires
- Meeting review:
 - Budget changes (receiving all 3 grants changes things!)
 - Katie will soon be receiving a raise to reflect positive work done for ISN
 - Future grant brainstorming
 - Possible revamping of Top 20

ISN Update – Katie Grzesiak

- MISIN data submission
 - Partners are encouraged to submit data if they have not already
- Grant Updates:
 - MISGP 2: *Habitat Matters Targeting Source Populations*
 - Ready to initiate – first steps are hiring new, long-term employees

ISN Meeting Minutes cont'd

- USFS (GLRI): *ISN Restoration and Management*
 - Ready to spend in field season
- GLRI (EPA): *Growing "Go Beyond Beauty"*
 - QAPP 1st revision underway
- Frankfort Rotary Willoughby Grant
 - Ready to initiate (treatment match for MISGP2)
- Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Contract – 2nd revision
- Match
 - Match is still needed for grants, both direct funds and in-kind
- Discussion
 - What match is, how we share it
- Hiring:
 - Hiring process is underway with seasonals almost completed. Long-term employees should be starting in early April.
 - Crew leader + 3 crew members to serve as traditional roving crew, directly treating invasive species – for ISN directly and for partners
 - 2 survey technicians with goal of identifying new populations of invasive species in service area
 - Habitat Management Specialist – Full time position managing the goals set in the MISGP2 grant, primarily:
 - Project management of *Phragmites* and knotweed treatments in Benzie and Manistee Counties,
 - Seasonal crew work (mainly JK treatments, some other field work)
 - Data recording, management, and permitting/compliance
 - Outreach Assistant – Part-time position
 - Outreach to townships/municipalities throughout four-county service area
 - Assist with Go Beyond Beauty Program
 - Present on ISN/create outreach materials as needed
- Go Beyond Beauty Update – Emily Cook
 - Expansion of program through GLRI (EPA) grant
 - New benefits will be offered to participants including more promotion, additional signage, and a buy-back program
 - Goal of recruiting 10 additional participants over grant period (Fall 2017)
 - Spring Go Beyond Beauty Meeting
 - Monday, April 4, 2016, 1-3pm
 - Presentation by Duke Elsner, "*Supporting Native, Beneficial, and Beautiful Insects by Plant Selection*"
 - Upcoming focus:
 - Creating new, larger signs for participants
 - Visiting potential nurseries in area
 - Developing buy-back/trade-up programs
 - Further Development/production of boot brush stations
 - **GBB participants need to be added to google group**
 - Discussion:
 - Improve web presence
 - Expand outreach to home inspectors?
 - Expand outreach to landowner associations?
 - Outreach to foresters?
- Field Season

ISN Meeting Minutes cont'd

- Workplan
 - Created, based off deliverables from all 3 grants
 - Available upon request
- Workbees
 - Garlic mustard pulls in May—one per county
 - May 6, 7, 13, and 14
 - Greens go to *Paperworks Studio!*
 - **Paperworks Studio**
 - Working with ISN to make garlic mustard paper!
 - Interested in other species as well—Autumn olive? Japanese knotweed?
 - Fall workbees focus on woody invaders—one per county
 - September 9, 10, 23, and 24
 - Future Trainings
 - AmeriCorps Invasive Species Training
 - June 9
 - All-day event, with indoor (messaging/ID photos), outdoor (ID work), and control (small project) planned!
 - Partners (crews especially) welcome!
 - Clean Boats Clean Waters training (in the works)
 - Other trainings
 - Invasive species workshops open to the public (in the works)
 - Crew Use
 - Start brainstorming!
 - Watch for email in late April asking for prioritized projects for crew
 - Future (contract) treatments
 - Money is left from MISGPI for treatment of high-priority species in high-quality/high-risk areas
 - ISN needs assistance from partners to make sure as many areas are treated as possible (public & private)
 - Watch for prioritization meeting in summer
- Discussion:
 - How best to share information with ISN
- Michigan Invasive Plant Council (MIPC)
 - Katie attended 2nd annual meeting
 - Provided updates, presented on *Phragmites* projects, presentation on cultivar creation
- Michigan Invasive Species Coalition (MISC)
 - Core team meeting
 - Strategic plan essentially completed
 - Sue Tangora is no longer chair; her spot will be filled by new DNR hire
 - MISC forum now available!
 - Katie developing “CISMA Cookbook Appendix”

Presentation – UAV (drone) surveys

- Rob Dreer and Dennis Wiand from Northwestern Michigan College presented on use of drones to survey for invasive species – primarily aquatics, but possible for use in terrestrial environments too.
 - Rob Dreer (NMC) rdreer@nmc.edu
 - Dennis Wiand (Long Lake) dennis@zerogravityaerial.com

ISN Meeting Minutes cont'd

On the radar

- New resources
 - Door hangers – waiting to send out for partner review until more are complete
 - Almost out of Invasive Species field guides, will be printing more in spring
 - Plant signs
 - Hybridization briefs
- Website updates
 - Many resources are on Google Group
- New treatments will begin in field season
- Grant reporting is currently underway
- MISIN submission
 - Partners should update MISIN with any GIS data from 2015 surveying

Partner Updates

- Huron-Manistee National Forest
 - Continuing to survey and treat
 - Focus will be around camping spots in Nordhouse Dunes
 - Work with native plants to increase pollinators
 - 4-person IS crew, 2-person native plant & pollinator crew
 - 4,000 acre survey goal
- GT Conservation District
 - Working with ISN to implement grants
 - Continuing additional programs incl. MAEAP, Parklands, Boardman dams work, Education, AmeriCorps
 - Hiring interns for field season
- GT Regional Land Conservancy
 - 5 AmeriCorps Members!
 - Conducted winter treatment of Autumn Olive
 - 3-pronged approach: hillside work with chainsaws & herbicide, “step” area using giant mulcher (help from Ruffed Grouse Society), Eagle Scout project with [Buckthorn Baggies](#) in sensitive areas
 - Preparing for field season
- Manistee Conservation District
 - Received county millage for District operations
 - Received MISGP grant to combat Oak Wilt
 - 10 counties
 - Hired several new staff members
 - Working with Manistee Watershed Coalition
 - Clean Boats, Clean Waters and raingarden projects
- The Nature Conservancy/Michigan Dune Alliance
 - Currently hiring baby's breath crew
 - Focus will be on Sleeping Bear plateau
 - Reciprocal sub-award funding from ISN
 - ISN funds a crew member, TNC helps in early/late season work
 - Work with GVSU on research on baby's breath
 - Is there a variant species starting to appear?
 - GVSU publishing study on Phragmites' affect on property values
 - “The study shows that the increase in property value resulting from the removal of non-native Phragmites leads to an increase in property tax revenue that would be sufficient to fund biennial shoreline Phragmites

ISN Meeting Minutes cont'd

control. The mechanism to access this extra revenue is known as Tax Increment Financing.”

- Still work to do to see if it's implementable
 - Still working on blue lyme grass, baby's breath, and *Phragmites* throughout eastern Lake Michigan
- Leelanau Conservancy
 - Survey was focus last year – treatment will be priority for 2016 season
 - Acquired new preserve—Palmer Woods, largest preserve!
 - Sustainable forestry harvest management
- Wildlife and Wetland Solutions
 - Mostly in planning stage, waiting on plant growth to begin treatments
 - Created ruffed grouse habitat at Manistee National Forest
- CAKE CISMA
 - Still getting started, hired new coordinator!
 - Gearing up for field season
- Huron Pines
 - Preparing for field season, hiring crews for treatments
 - Work at Pigeon River State Game Area
 - Experimenting with injectors for Japanese knotweed treatment
- Benzie Conservation District
 - Participating in extra treatments this year
 - Working on management plan for Herring Lakes
 - Watershed stewardship guide in progress
 - Hosting Natural Shoreline Partnership workshop
- Glen Lake Association/Laurel Voran LLC
 - Focused on coltsfoot control
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
 - Area meeting in Empire, March 15th
 - Conservation Partnership meeting April 12th
- Leelanau Conservation District
 - Hiring for upcoming season
 - Participating in oak wilt grant received by Manistee Conservation District
- Conservation Resource Alliance
 - Manage 16 watersheds in northern Michigan
 - Creating a new policy to address invasives within organization
 - Hoping to get more involved with CISMAs
- Shingle Mill Preserve
 - Have *Phragmites* (Carolyn ID'd)
 - Gathering info for treatment
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
 - Have helped with funding, surveys in the past
 - Excited for another year
- Old Mission Associates
 - *Go Beyond Beauty* participant
 - ~30 employees
- Lakeshore Native Gardens
 - *Go Beyond Beauty* participant
 - Just starting!