



Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2015

Boardman River Nature Center
1450 Cass Rd., Traverse City
1-3 pm

Present: Tad Peacock*, Mike Jones (Benzie CD), Reb Ratliff, Marsha Clark* (Grand Traverse CD), Chris Garrock, Jon Throop* (GT Regional Land Conservancy), Lindsey Hartrev (Inland Seas Education Assoc.), Maureen Pfaller* (The Watershed Center), Josh Shields, Susan Spencer* (Manistee CD), Buzz Long* (Leelanau CD), Laurene Kallioinen, Nick Kafcas, Vickie Smith (Wildlife & Wetland Solutions), Shaun Howard (The Nature Conservancy), Carolyn Henne* (Manistee National Forest), DJ Shook (GT Band of Ottawa Indians), Jason Kimbrough (USDA/NRCS), Mark Randolph (Kalkaska CD/CAKE CISMA), Emily Douglas (Leelanau Conservancy), Katie Grzesiak (ISN)

***=Steering Committee Member**

Action Items:

- **ISN will:**
 - **Hire Crew and Outreach Specialist** (completed)
 - **Schedule Crew for summer with Partners** (completed)
 - **Update resources list on Google Drive**
 - **Share list and resources with Partners**
 - **Create new resources as possible**
 - **Purple Loosestrife, buckthorns, baby's breath, blue lyme grass doorhangers?**
 - **"Getting Started" FAQ sheet for new CISMAs**
 - **Update website as needed**
 - **See Spring 2104 Action Items**
 - **Research invasive species topics, e.g. hybridization of PH, OB, NC**
 - **Loan out GPS units as needed**
- **Partners will:**
 - **Submit 2014 survey & treatment data to MISIN**
 - **Share appropriate grant opportunities & other info with ISN & partners**
 - **Brainstorm work for ISN crew** (completed)

Minutes:

Introductions

ISN Update—Katie Grzesiak

- MISIN Data Submission—Please do this! If you have lots of data, connect with Katie about bulk submission We need all our data in one place to do the best prioritization we can!
- MISGP Update
 - We received the grant! \$298,900 (\$100,000 less than our ask); working with the DNR to make appropriate cuts
 - Drafted a proposed amendment cutting down to one seasonal crew per year (with associated cuts), plus other trims across the board
 - Goals lowered accordingly
 - Conference call March 19; administrators seemed pleased with suggestions
 - Hiring! We got the OK to list and hire for 1 full time & 4 seasonal positions, so long as we don't actually spend money until the paperwork is signed
 - Outreach Specialist—Full-time for duration of grant. Presentations, outreach material creation, managing & growing *Go Beyond Beauty*
 - Crew—I Technician (crew leader), 3 Crew Members; function very similarly to last year (check-out "library book" style)



- *Go Beyond Beauty*
 - Outreach Specialist—Going to take this and make it “grow!” Very exciting.
 - Katie met with GBB participants last week, got ideas from them and lots of passion! Given a larger infusion of time, this will be awesome.
 - Ideas proposed by participants: industry workbee (“walk the walk,” get the press!), 2 meetings/yr, additional signs
 - Naming & Sharing guidelines
 - Background: GBB is awesome! Lots of folks want to do something similar. ISN was approached by the West Michigan CISMA for advice, and they eventually inquired as to naming rights; does ISN have a TM? Are we willing to share the name? There is merit in “protecting our brand,” but also in sharing among colleagues.
 - Discussion: (DISCLAIMER: I was trying to participate in this discussion, so these are a sampling, not an exhaustive list of comments & questions)
SH-How much of GBB is professionals themselves, how much is ISN?
KG-mix of both
MC-while copyrighting is easy, getting a registered trademark is more work (aggressive search, legal work, etc.), and costly (SH-registered TM requires also working to protect that, or you lose it)
JT-Name comes almost directly from Doug Tallamy’s book Bringing Nature Home; would that stand up legally?
DJS-Is it worth it to actually spend the money?
SS-unlikely that colleagues would intentionally damage the name, just use it to “springboard” their own efforts, but we want to protect ourselves (and it’s an awesome name)
 - DJS: Moves not to offer name, but also not to take any TM steps
JT: Before next meeting, we’ll research more about TM, just in case (TM versus Registered TM?)
- Field season: coming up!
 - Garlic Mustard Pulls! All 9am to noon, plus lunch (free for volunteers)
Leelanau: May 8 (meet @ Leland Twp Library)
Grand Traverse: May 9 (meet @ Boardman River Nature Center)
Benzie: May 15 (meet @ Frankfort UMC)
Manistee: May 16 (meet @ Manistee UMC)
 - Crew Use—same as last year!
 - Please begin listing priority species/sites that you need help with
 - Katie will ask for your ideas in early May to set up June-Aug (~1wk/project)
 - Difference from last year: after initial setup, contact will be between Partners and Technician (rather than Katie as middleman)
 - Future treatments—please start brainstorming other treatments (*Phragmites*, knotweeds, Early Detection/Response species, etc.) that might be covered by ISN funding to help prioritization later
 - Garlic mustard match/co-pay
 - In order to continue with treating garlic mustard on private properties (particularly those near natural areas), propose 50% co-pay with landowners
 - Vickie (Wildlife and Wetland Solutions) will contact landowners, then ISN can use that landowner buy-in as match
 - Hope to facilitate stewardship buy-in too!
 - May explore with other species in the future; want to make sure we’re using our money wisely AND not hurting local business



- Outreach Materials—Hot off the presses!
 - Re-print of *Plan Before You Plant* with updated GBB inserts available!
 - Doorhangers—reprint of garlic mustard & Japanese knotweed, NEW print of *Phragmites* and Oriental bittersweet
- GPS units—Calibrated and ready for check-out!
 - Still have 4 left; if you need one, contact Katie
- Michigan Invasive Plant Council Update—Shaun Howard
 - In early March, a second discussion-and-lunch meeting was held (first was last year)
 - Mainly open dialogue and discussion round-table, including presentations from DNR, MDARD
 - A “difficult meeting to convene” due to opposing viewpoints, but overall good discussion
 - Last point, made by a nursery owner, was very upset by feedback from customers not wanting to see Japanese barberry (invasive ornamental) sold due to habitat impacts
 - Good side: our outreach work is being effective, changing demand from the bottom-up!
 - Bad side: some nursery professionals are upset anyway
 - We should continue our messaging with special care to how it may be “replayed” to a business (encourage reaching out without creating a scene)
- Michigan Invasive Species Coalition Update
 - Katie (and Shaun) sit on the Core Team
 - Working on Strategic Planning and website updates
 - “CISMA for CISMAs,” communicating between CISMAs and the State (& others)
 - Forum and “knowledge base” on website

ISN Steering Committee Updates—Katie Grzesiak

- Sarah Cook (Chair) and Emily Shaw (Co-Vice Chair) have pursued new employment (Ann Arbor and Antarctica, respectively)—congrats and well-wishes to them!
 - Jon Throop (Co-Vice Chair) is presently Acting Chair
- Elections
 - Chair Responsibilities:
 - Review materials for Coordinator
 - Act as “sounding board” for Coordinator
 - Lead Partner & Steering Committee meetings (Coordinator makes agendas etc.)
 - \$2-3K asked for in grant to offset time commitment
 - Vice Chair Responsibilities
 - Support/back up/fill in for Chair as needed
 - Nominations & elections
 - Chair: Jon Throop nominated & accepted; no other nominations, unanimous approval
 - Vice Chair: DJ Shook nominates Maureen Pfaller (decline); Reb Ratliff, & Mike Jones also nominated.
 - Discussion: Reb and Mike must both talk with supervisors before accepting
 - Discussion: ISEA and Leelanau Conservancy are hiring; would like to keep them on the Steering Committee
 - Tabled until Fall meeting
 - Further discussion--Representation
 - Tribe? DJ accepts pending Tribe agreement. ISN will send formal request
 - Lake Associations? Representation from TWC? Revisit.
 - Reminder & discussion of terrestrial focus



ISN Goals

Re-evaluated ISN goals in fall; update shared again

Partner Updates

- Sleeping Bear Dunes
 - Invasive plant team of 3 working on the usual assortment of invasive plants- garlic mustard, thistles, purple loosestrife, japanese knotweed, Phragmites, etc.
 - Baby's breath team of 4
 - Working on an autumn olive control project in the Otter Creek watershed.
 - Found invasive weevils (*Rhinocyllus conicus*, *Larinus planus*, *Cleonus piger*), on Pitcher's thistle. This was confirmed last year by Noel Pavlovic from USGS, who is stationed at Indiana Dunes. She did a site visit last summer and confirmed the PT predation. This is bad news and may impact protections of Pitcher's thistle when working on the dunes.
- Inland Seas Education Association
 - Permanent liaison (Jeanie or Tom) for ISN soon!
 - Volunteer training starting
 - Adding a high school program (fish monitoring in deep water)
 - Still monitoring Bay's sediments & benthic communities
- Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
 - Heavily involved with CAKE CISMA
 - Crew is hired for the season; all rehires, plus former ISN Chris Garrock
- Benzie Conservation District
 - Lots of water monitoring! Platte Lk, others
 - Grant for Herring Lakes watershed management plan
 - SEEDS 2% grant for 3 weeks of SEEDS crew time in Benzie—hoping to use for invasive shrub control
- The Watershed Center
 - Phragmites! Spring partner meeting got us off to a good start
 - Many areas are in “maintenance phase,” only treating every other year
 - Some surveys (Duck, Long lakes)
 - Road-stream crossing monitoring for Grand Traverse Bay watershed management plan
- Josh Shields (Manistee/Oceana-Lake District Forester)
 - Lots of landowner visits; reporting invasives to MISIN
 - Completing Forest Health Reports
 - Completing all-day training on Oak Wilt
- Leelanau Conservation District
 - 2 townships (Bingham, Suttons Bay) who've updated their ordinances to “all terrestrial invasives” instead of just Phragmites, and removed the expiration
 - Spring meeting scheduled for early June
 - Native Plant Sale happening first weekend in June (through Designs by Nature/Vern)
 - Seedling Sale: all non-native species removed except for Norway spruce
- Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions, LLC
 - Introducing Laurene Kallioinen! (billing, logistics, etc.)
 - Hiring! Ready for garlic mustard
 - April 16 & 17: Chainsaw training! Open spots!



- The Nature Conservancy/Michigan Dune Alliance
 - Hiring Dune Crew now!
 - Hiring Coastal Restoration Manager now!
 - Moving the baby's breath "line" forward; will be using ISN crew again
 - Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) grant awarded again through 2016
 - Also working with the West Michigan Cluster/CISMA—they consider ISN to be the "cutting edge!"
 - May want to create a 1-pg "getting started FAQ" for any who are interested?
- Manistee Conservation District
 - Working on Strategic Plan
 - Acreage between MCD & Manistee Road Commission that is covered in knapweed
 - Would like to turn it into a natural area to advertize no-till drill rental, native species use
 - Looking for input! Ground cover/cover crop?
 - DJ Shook: till first, annual cover, then no-till & plant native
- Manistee National Forest
 - 6 seasonals: 4 invasive species crew, 2 pollinator habitat
 - Piping plover & Pitcher's thistle protection on shoreline monitoring (need help!)
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa Indians
 - DJ's position is changing to "lake area management"
 - Road-stream crossing/EQIP personnel hired soon (DJ does both for now)
 - Phragmites treatment on Bay & Lake sides of Leelanau funding available; RFP soon
 - Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
 - MI was most competitive region; we had a strong proposal, but too varied/vague
 - Will apply again
 - Locally-led resource prioritization (NRCS) should do lots of work
 - Invasive Species control is high-priority!
 - If you're in Benzie/Manistee (or other), get with Scott Hughey to give input on prioritization!
- NRCS
 - Working to implement 2014 Farm Bill
 - New Soil Conservationist hired!
 - 2 habitat & 2 fish passage projects funded this year
 - Other important parts: Soil Health Initiative (crop rotation, low till, cover crops), Pollinator Habitat (native grass/flower/shrubs) & manage forests well, protecting farmland from development
- CAKE CISMA/Kalkaska CD
 - We got the MISGP grant! Now what?
 - Lots of inventory work (Kalkaska)
 - Mentoring from ISN
- Leelanau Conservancy
 - New hires for Land Stewards soon
- Grand Traverse Conservation District
 - Managing parklands within the county
 - Garfield Twp is providing \$ for invasive work!
 - Road Commission agreement for roadside knotweed and *Phragmites*
 - Please report!
 - Other counties contact Reb Ratliff for more info on partnership
 - 2 seasonal workers for "stewardship" will include invasive work