



Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2015

Boardman River Nature Center
1450 Cass Rd., Traverse City
1:00 – 3:00pm

Present: Carolyn Henne* (Huron-Manistee National Forest), Rebecca Koteskey (Invasive Species Network), Reb Ratliff (GT Conservation District), Marsha Barber Clark (GT Conservation District), Jon Throop* (GT Regional Land Conservancy), Josh Shields (Manistee Conservation District), Jeanie Williams (Inland Seas Education Association), DJ Shook* (GT Band of Indians/NRCS), Vicki Sawicki (North Country CISMA), Kaldis Grants (The Nature Conservancy), Becky Hill* (Leelanau Conservancy), Vickie Smith (Wildlife & Wetland Solutions), Emily Cook (Invasive Species Network), Mark Randolph (CAKE CISMA), Katie Grzesiak* (Invasive Species Network)

***= Steering Committee Member**

ACTION ITEMS:

- **ISN will:**
 - **Create new resources**
 - **Doorhangers**
 - **Update website as needed**
 - **Add list of regional contractors**
 - **Explore volunteer recruitment options (detailed below)**
- **Partners will:**
 - **Submit 2015 survey and treatment data to MISIN**
 - **Share potential job applicants with partners during spring hiring season**

MINUTES:

Introductions

ISN Update – Katie Grzesiak

- **Emily Cook**—first formal introduction! Welcome. ☺
- Junior Achievement Intern – High school senior, Julianna Chang, assisting with ISN tasks through fall/winter
- Part-time data manager – Rebecca Koteskey, 2015 ISN field crew member
 - Using unused grant funds to assist with data entry
- ISN Strategic Goals Review & Discussion—no changes
- Field Season Recap:
 - Garlic Mustard Pull – four counties, attendance was low
 - Suggestions to improve numbers include: reaching out to NMC Freshwater Studies Program, coordinating with school groups, combine with presentation, taking advantage of employee volunteer hours (i.e. Haggerty), volunteer questionnaire (what days work best, etc.)
 - Crew use
 - Good success and good feedback!
 - “We were able to accomplish much more than we would have otherwise, especially when we had many crews teaming up together in priority areas.” –Kaldis Grants, TNC (e.g. baby’s breath)
 - Organization and flexibility was good
 - Intend to manage similarly for 2016 season
 - Fall workbees – woody invasives – attendance was also low
 - Manistee and Leelanau counties, four counties planned for fall 2016
 - Japanese barberry, buckthorn, autumn olive
- Grant Updates:
 - MISGP I - Success in “Habitat” Matters

ISN Meeting Minutes cont'd

- First interim report submitted, monthly reporting and reimbursements to continue
- Thanks to partners for hard work on reporting!! We're sorry it's such a crazy burden
- Grants Applied for—**see attached sheet**
- Go Beyond Beauty Update
 - GLRI Grant (applied for)
 - New resources and incentives for current/future GBB participants
 - Visited current & prospective nurseries this year, targeting Benzie & Manistee counties
 - 1 new nursery (Farm & Garden, Sutton's Bay)
 - Annual meeting and workbee – Oct 9th
 - Presentation by Plant It Wild
 - Great discussion generated!
 - Continuing to recruit new members throughout winter and generate new educational material for participants (educational materials, special recognition, etc.)
 - Suggestion: private MNLA membership to know more about their messaging
- Michigan Invasive Species Coalition Update
 - Strategic plan is finished
 - Annual meeting to be held later in November
 - Katie on planning committee
- 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 most likely be printing more in spring.
 - Plant signs
 - Website updates
 - Resources are on Google Groups—some
 - New treatments will begin next field season
 - Grant reporting is currently underway
 - MISIN submission
 - Partners should update MISIN with any GIS data from 2015 surveying

ISN Steering Committee Updates and Elections

- Watershed Center no longer serving on steering committee
 - Reshuffling of organization
- Co-vice chairs
 - Becky Hill (Leelanau Conservancy) and DJ Shook (GT Band of Indians/NRCS) volunteered

Partner Updates

- Huron-Manistee National Forest
 - 450 acres treated
 - Acreage numbers down because of successful management
 - Approximately 30 different species
 - First sighting of bladder campion along lakeshore
- GT Conservation District
 - Primarily contracted work with phragmites and garlic mustard (some volunteers)
 - Quantity of herbicide use is less and less
 - Working with Road Commission (via grant) to treat roadside Japanese knotweed
- GT Regional Land Conservancy
 - Very busy season!

ISN Meeting Minutes cont'd

- Finishing third year of treatment for many areas and starting to see a lot of great success.
 - Baby's breath in Arcadia Dunes and Green Point north to Elberta Beach
- Manistee Conservation District
 - Focus on oak wilt
 - Submitted MISGP grant for treatment dollars (assistance for landowners)
 - MISIN – connecting landowners with contractors
 - Project by district using rye, clover, and buckwheat to combat spotted knapweed
 - New Conservation Specialist starting in mid-November
- Inland Seas Education Association
 - Continuing to educate on aquatic invasive species because it's important to share how they have completely changed the ecology of the Great Lakes.
 - Looking into the effect of microplastics
- GT Band of Indians and NRCS
 - Primarily invasive shrub removal
 - Aquatic invasive species management plan in the works (NRCS)
 - One year extension of grant
 - Underutilized funds for private landowners available!
- North Country Cisma
 - Just getting established and learning about the work being done by partner organizations
- The Nature Conservancy
 - Great success with baby's breath!
 - 90% of known baby's breath populations has been treated and considered under control.
 - More time can be spent on untreated areas.
 - Elberta Beach
 - Trying to get landowner permissions to continue treatments
- Leelanau Conservancy
 - Becky Hill new to position
 - 2 person crew focused primarily on surveys
 - 90% of properties surveyed
 - Shift to treatment next year
 - Planning over winter months
- Wildlife and Wetland Solutions
 - Phragmites work on Grand Traverse and Leelanau shorelines
 - Many places with tiny amounts/skipped for "maintenance phase"
 - All PH work in Leelanau shoreline was funded by GT Band funds!
 - Very little in inland lake areas
 - Starting planting this year!
 - Partnership with GTRLC and Huron Pines
 - Ruffed Grouse Society
 - New office next year!
 - Contact information will be changing
- CAKE Cisma
 - Still getting up and running! Encouraging progress so far, but lots still to do
 - Kalkaska CD ordered white oak acorns for its tree sale—resistant to Oak Wilt!