



CNIPM Monthly Teleconference Notes

Teleconference Leader:
Call-in number: 1-866-832-7806
Passcode: 1993532

December 2, 2015

9-10 a.m. CNIPM Meeting

Board Member Attendees

- Heather Stewart, Chair (DNR – Plant Materials Center, Palmer)
- Matt Steffy, Vice-Chair (Kenai Soil and Water Conservation District, Homer)
- Gino Graziano (UAF – Cooperative Extension Service, Anchorage)
- Genelle Winter (Metlakatla Indian Community)
- Katrina LeMieux (DOTPF – Maintenance & Operations, Fairbanks)
- Lindsey Flagstad (UAA- Alaska Natural Heritage Program, Anchorage)
- Nicole Swenson (Tyonek Tribal Conservation District, Tyonek)

Ex-Officio Attendees

- Chris Overbaugh (NPS – Alaska Regional Office, Anchorage)
- John Hudson (FWS – Juneau Field Office, Juneau)
- Tom Huette (USFS – Forest Health Protection, Juneau)
- Trish Wurtz (USFS – Forest Health Protection, Fairbanks)

Regular Attendees

- Aditi Shenoy (Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District, Fairbanks)
- Aliza Segal (BLM – Anchorage Field Office, Anchorage)
- Ben Storey (DOTPF– Maintenance & Operations, Juneau)
- Beth Schultz (USFS – Ecologist, Anchorage)
- Blythe Brown (Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District, Kodiak)
- Brett Nelson (DOTPF – Northern Region, Fairbanks)
- Brian Maupin (Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, Juneau)
- Brianne Blackburn, (DNR – Plant Materials Center, Palmer)
- Bruce Bennett (Yukon, Whitehorse)
- Danielle Verna (Copper River Watershed Project, Cordova)
- Darcy Etcheverry (UAF – Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks)
- David Lendrum (UAS – Landscape, Juneau)
- Eric Geisler (BLM – Alaska State Office, Anchorage)
- Janice Chumley (UAF – Cooperative Extension Service, Kenai Peninsula)
- Karin Sonnen (NRCS, Homer)
- Kim Allen (DNR – Plant Materials Center, Palmer)
- Louisa Branchflower (Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District, Palmer)
- Mary Stensvold (USFS – Botanist, Sitka)
- Miranda Terwilliger (NPS, Wrangell-St. Elias, Glennallen)
- Phil Kaspari (UAF – Cooperative Extension Service, Delta)
- Rob DeVelice (USFS – Chugach National Forest, Anchorage)
- Steven Seefeldt (UAF- Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks)
- Tim Stallard (Anchorage Park Foundation, Anchorage)

Additional Attendees

Kyle Rosendale, Sitka

Kyle Mohatt, USFS

Notes from Round Robin (in any order)

Southeast

Mary Stensvold: Brad Kriekhaus, a botanist with the Sitka Ranger District, has taken a new job with the Gifford Pinchot NF.

Brian Maupin: Resigning positions with AACD and SESWCD at the end of the year. Finishing up grant obligations. Will put out the USFS IPM RFP early next year for 30 days and assemble an evaluation committee with funds to be awarded by early February. Looking for a group to take over Juneau garlic mustard eradication project; possibly Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

Genelle Winter: We have been working on completing our 2016 BIA invasive species funding proposal. We have been told the total we receive will be less than in previous years and we have been discussing how to access climate change dollars to continue this important work on the island. The consensus is that this is a valid statement and now we just need to start our application process for those types of funds. We otherwise are not doing anything earth-shattering in invasive species work.

We did talk to 'Kyle' from Sitka tribe about helping them to access the BIA invasive species funding to work on the problems that they have. I think they have a good chance at it. We will be glad to help as many tribes get traction in this funding as possible, as it will demonstrate its real need to support tribes especially in regard to subsistence.

John Hudson: working with Brian Maupin on Juneau Area Invasive Plant Management performance reports.

Southcentral/ Southwest

Blythe Brown: working on reports; Karin Hendrickson of DEC working on the legal definition of government entity as it relates to Soil and Water Conservation Districts. DEC will send out their determination for public comment next year; expected to be a lengthy process. Working on survey data for AKEPIC. Large reed canarygrass found upstream of Lake Louise in the Buskin River drainage (likely the mother of all infestations downstream of this site). The infestation possible originated from seed used to revegetate a former U.S. Coast Guard dump. USCG mows the site regularly and mowed areas are dominated by other plant species.

Matt Steffy (was not on call): Between November and December I have largely been tasked with non-invasive projects. Lots of trails and bridges and such. However, I did make time to visit with the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade classes of Fireweed Elementary and had some wonderful educational sessions. It amazes me every time how much this younger generation knows their stuff. We did ID cards, Q&A, coloring sheets, and even temporary tattoos. I strongly believe in getting the next generation on board if we are going to have a preemptive approach to invasive management. Other than that, quantifying seasonal data, preparing reports, and applying for funds for next year.

We did also host a wonderful session between Anchorage CWMA and Kenai CWMA in Girdwood that involved many utilities and land managers (USFS, BLM, KNWR, etc) and the concept of managing the Kenai

isthmus as a critical collaborative corridor. We are all excited about this new management perspective.

Anchorage/Palmer

Aliza Segal: I'm almost done submitting the summer's data into BLM's National Invasive Species Information System (NISIMS). Next step is to submit it to AKEPIC. I've also been pondering next summer's treatment priorities.

Gino Graziano: Working on an Alaska Magazine article on invasive weeds that came about at their request. We are planning mobile application additions of different plants and updating other components. Submitted presentations proposals for the Alaska Forum on the Environment and should hear back soon. Presentations included one for how to participate in reporting, and one for success stories. I will contact people to present when I hear back. Best Management Practices online course is being reviewed by DEC to determine the number of CEU it will be worth for certified pesticide applicators. I will call them today to get an update.

Tim Stallard: A joint meeting between the Anchorage and Kenai CWMAs took place on Nov. 18th in Kenai. Participants included 3 staff from ADOT, including 2 environmental analysts and 1 ROW expert. Got some good advice on requesting a permit to manage weeds on ADOT ROW. Reps from Chugach State Park and Alaska Railroad were not able to attend. The meeting focused on the Turnagain Arm area. As ADOT is short-staffed and under-funded when it comes to working with others to manage invasive plants, they emphasized the need for providing specific locations of infestations by species.

Kate Mohatt: A study of Elodea ITS DNA sequence data from samples from around the state has been completed. Three taxa were identified: a hybrid in Kenai; *E. canadensis* in Anchorage, Cordova, and Alexander Lake; and *E. nuttallii* in Fairbanks. Because the ecology and other traits may vary among taxa, different management tactics may be required. For example, winter robustness may vary among taxa. 4 unique sequences were found from across the state. Samples from Cordova, Sand Lake, Delong, and Alexander Lakes lumped together as *E. canadensis*. Little Campbell Lake also identified as *E. canadensis*, but was a unique sequence from the rest. Only one sample from the Kenai (Stormy Lake) partially amplified, but was informative enough to support that samples from there were likely a hybrid of the two Elodea species. All of the sequences from Fairbanks were identical and clearly grouped with *E. nuttallii* sequences in GenBank.

Rob DeVelice: Public comments will soon be sought on a proposal to treat Elodea on three areas totaling about 75 acres on the Copper River Delta using fluridone in 2016. Comments on the project proposal (Eyak Cannery Ponds Invasive Plant Test Treatment Project) can be posted directly at the following website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/chugach/landmanagement/projects>. Approximately 7000 acres on the delta are infested with Elodea. Mary S: Is the Cordova Elodea is canadensis? Yes.

Chris Overbaugh: working on formulating work plan for next season, including youth work agreements for different national parks around the state. Want to get at least one SCA intern certified to spray weeds in Katmai NP in 2016, and then use this model to place certified pesticide applicator interns in all parks. To date, invasive plant management efforts in parks have focused on handpulling, which has had little success, and repeated surveys. Survey work needs to focus on unsurveyed areas.

Nicole Swenson: done with AACD reports and reed canarygrass maps. Reed canarygrass infestations involve more landowners than previously known. Working on plans for next year.

Palmer

Heather Stewart: Presented on at the Mat-Su Salmon Symposium on the Alexander Lake Elodea plan for

2016. We will be doing a partial lake treatment with fluridone, and doing a lot of surveys both in the rest of the lake, the creek, and surrounding area. We're also starting the Environmental Assessment and permitting for this work. Working with our Publications Specialist, Kim, on incorporating all the CNIPM Strategic Plan edits. Should be done with the second draft by next meeting. Working on DEC Permitting for the Fairbanks Elodea project. My draft will be done by next week. Giving a talk to the Lake Hood Pilot's Association this Saturday, December 5th to talk about what happened this past season, and what to expect in the future with additional herbicide applications and DOT's strategy. Also working with ADF&G (Tammy Davis) and ISER (Toby Schwoerer) to start doing pilot surveys to eventually produce a statewide distribution map of where and how often pilots are going. This will help us prioritize our surveys and future management.

Fairbanks/Interior

Darcy Etcheverry: involved with projects reported by Gino above; reporting and planning

Katrina LeMieux: Finishing up with year-end cooperator info; Salcha Delta SWCD treated just under 14 acres of DOT ROW along the Richardson Hwy and in Delta Junction. Looking into contract botanist term agreement that DOT is doing in SE. I have received the a copy of this term agreement as well as the construction specs that SE is using for invasive species control on large scale construction projects. I have circulated these documents internally to Northern Region (NR) DOT to see how we can incorporate invasive species control into upcoming large federal projects, so as not to solely rely on state funded M&O level work. I contacted SE about the consultant that Trish mentioned and that contract botanist was only surveying a small area along road because footprint of that project was small (pavement and guardrail work). The survey effort will usually be commensurate with the extent of proposed ground disturbance. Our DOT Statewide IVMP meeting discussed how to streamline ROW permit process. Cooperators need to work with DOT early. As there is no designated statewide position for invasive plant mgmt. anymore; no positions or vacancies now; not likely in near future; regional IMVP folks in DOT are wearing many hats and need good lead time to get things done to help cooperators stay on their schedule. Winter and spring best time to get in touch with DOT. Site visits can be done in the year before treatment will occur. ROW can take a long time, depending on location, so this is one of the first things we do internally when contacted by cooperator: ownership is confirmed by DOT to ensure compliance with the regulations. Understand that DOT staff are always working on specific funding codes that usually do not cover IPM. Mike Coffey working to carve off funds to provide a source for IPM work. We are considering the elimination of ROW permit fees for folks managing IP in DOT ROW.

Yukon

Bruce Bennett (was not on call): I had someone bring in Common Burdock (*Arctium minus*) which someone was apparently growing in a garden in Dawson City. It looks like it has previously been reported for Alaska from Hyder (UAAH) collected in 2006.

10-11 a.m. Board Meeting

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Discussion Points

- Kim Allen is editing the strategic plan; next draft available for review in the next two weeks
- CNIPM MOU: Gino will assemble a list of previous signatories; board members should review and provide comments on the latest version.
- Heather has not been able to change the settings for Google Drive to allow others to edit docs; Heather will figure out how to make Google docs sharable with other board members for editorial purposes.
- Blythe found old list of signatories of MOU from 2004; will share with Heather
- All board members should review MOU; add/remove signatories as necessary; recommend changes; potential signatories will be contacted after final version of MOU is complete
- A draft annual work plan was presented by Heather with minor changes suggested
- The draft strategic plan will be sent out 1 week before the February teleconference for review by all members. Plan will be discussed during February teleconference. Final comments will be due 1 week after February teleconference.
- By-laws: provide comments to Heather if you have them. It has been proposed that “Plant” be replaced by “Pest” in CNIPM. That proposal and other changes to the by-laws will be brought to the board for a vote.
- The creation and use of subcommittees to deal with specific aspects of the annual conference was discussed. Katrina will provide an ADOT conference planning template that can be used to attract media attention to the annual conference. Local members should be tapped to outreach to local media in advance of the annual conference. Have board members solicit in-state speakers for specific annual conference sessions starting in April
- Action items: Heather will investigate Google Drive accessibility; Blythe will send out a list of 2004 MOU signatories; Gino will look through archived docs for other past MOU signatories; Heather will send out Strategic Plan in the next week or so; All board members provide ideas about potential conference subcommittees.