



# CNIPM Monthly Teleconference Notes

**Teleconference Leader:** Katrina LeMieux  
**Call-in number:** 1-800-893-8850  
**Passcode:** 5711553

*July 1, 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)
- Brian Maupin (Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, Juneau)
- Genelle Winter (Metlakatla Indian Community)
- Katrina LeMieux (DOTPF – Maintenance & Operations, Fairbanks)
- Lindsey Flagstad (UAA- Alaska Natural Heritage Program, Anchorage)
- Steven Seefeldt (UAF- Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks)

### Ex-Officio Attendees

- Aliza Segal (BLM – Anchorage Field Office, Anchorage)
- Beth Schultz (USFS – Ecologist, Anchorage)
- Chris Overbaugh (NPS – Alaska Regional Office, Anchorage)
- Vacant

### Regular Attendees

- Aditi Shenoy (Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District, Fairbanks)
- Blythe Brown (Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District, Kodiak)
- Brett Nelson (DOTPF – Northern Region, Fairbanks)
- 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)
- Gino Graziano (UAF – Cooperative Extension Service, Anchorage)
- Janice Chumley (UAF – Cooperative Extension Service, Kenai Peninsula)
- John Hudson (FWS – Juneau Field Office, Juneau)
- Kim Allen (DNR – Plant Materials Center, Palmer)
- Elizabeth Bella (AECOM- Senior Ecologist, Anchorage)
- Louisa Branchflower (Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District, Palmer)
- Maggie Hess (DOTPF – Maintenance & Operations, Fairbanks)
- Mary Stensvold (USFS – Botanist, Sitka)
- Miranda Terwilliger (NPS, Wrangell-St. Elias, Glennallen)
- Patrick Samson (Kuskokwim River Watershed Council, Bethel)
- Phil Kaspari (UAF – Cooperative Extension Service, Delta)
- Rob DeVelice (USFS – Chugach National Forest, Anchorage)
- Ruth Gronquist (BLM – Central Yukon Field Office, Fairbanks)
- Tim Stallard (Anchorage Park Foundation, Anchorage)
- Trish Wurtz (USFS – Forest Health Protection, Fairbanks)

## **Additional Attendees**

- ☒ Rachel Bobka (Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District, Palmer)
- ☒ Karin Sonnen (NRCS in Homer)
- ☒ Betty Charnon (USFS-Chugach National Forest, Kenai Peninsula)

## **Notes from Round Robin**

### **Canada**

#### **Bruce Bennett**

- Yukon update: White Sweetclover pulls on the Dempster Highway (started yesterday). Sweetclover made it to km 46 in 2002. Efforts since have pushed it back to km 12.5 and it is spotty after that. This year a few plants were seen up to km 37 (and all plants pull beyond km 32). The plan is to get all remaining plants between km 12.5 and 32 then continue pushing it back down the highway.
- Spotters network is flourishing with workshops in Whitehorse, Teslin, Haines Junction and Watson Lake. No new species or infestations have yet been reported. Sweetclover started to bloom in Whitehorse ~June 15th this year.

### **Southeast**

#### **Danielle Verna**

- June 11-13, traveled to San Juan Bay, Montague Island, for dandelion removal, pulled for 2 days; about 0.2 acres left, going back in August and next spring.
- June 22-29, floated Copper River and pulled ~1500 dandelions at FS easement sites.
- We removed tarps from reed canarygrass at 4 sites in Cordova and revegetated.
- We're working on reed canarygrass seed head removal in conjunction with the USFS in Cordova.
- Orange Hawkweed is spreading around Cordova, mostly on private property; we spoke with property owners and plan to do herbicide treatments when the weather allows.
- The Copper Basin 3rd Annual Weed Smackdown is being held July 11 at 10am. Meet at the ROAR Recycling Center in Glennallen (across from Crowley). Free lunch and prizes for volunteers!

#### **Brian Maupin**

- The SESWCD invasive plant team is in Sitka conducting an invasive plant survey. We discovered a few small infestations of orange hawkweed, surprisingly there is very little of this plant in Sitka. We also found a little bird vetch in a recently renovated flowerbed along the harbor. We are mostly ground truthing Bohemian knotweed infestations and updating AKEPIC records for an invasive plant management plan for Sitka that we work on this fall.

#### **Genelle Winter-**

- We have seen that all plant growth is one to two months accelerated due to the hot weather and then teasing evening rains, the result is playing catch up trying to pull weeds that are in flower in June that we normally pull in middle July and early August, The Bull Thistle especially is way ahead of the game. However, we have a good team and are making a concerted effort on the Orange Hawkweed and Tansy Ragwort before it completely goes to seed.
- In June during Alaska Invasive Weeds Awareness Week, we had 40 youth doing litter patrol activities on Monday and Tuesday, then they spent the next three days working on Himalayan Knotweed in the downtown lots. This turned into a much larger activity than planned for, the leaders were deeply invested and the youth were excited to work hard pulling all of the plant including the roots. A couple of the groups requested shovels and they worked digging roots in addition to pulling. In the end those 40 youth pulled and bagged over 450 35lb+ bags of Himalayan Knotweed from a total 5 sites downtown. They cleaned out completely the two sites we have worked on for the last few years and made some serious inroads in three new sites. We published their results in the local paper and are getting great feedback from community members.
- We also have more community members coming back from Ktn distressed about all the invasive weeds they see over there, most common reported weed is Orange Hawkweed. We still have not addressed how to help Ktn, but we are doing well with prevention on Annette Island so far.
- All other work is field work on all 9 target species on Annette Island. Will be doing mid-season reports this next week.

### **Southcentral/ Southwest**

#### **Blythe Brown**

- DEC will not issue emergency exemption
- The Refuge is currently treating Canada Thistle, Oxeye Daisy, Orange Hawkweed,
- During Invasive Species Awareness Week, conducted radio and newspaper interviews and posted information around town
- Working with DOT&PF to conduct site visit of infestations in ROW
- Crawdad captured in Buskin River- female with eggs

### Rachel Bobka

- We got funding through Fish and Wildlife for starting a CWMA in the Mat-Su!! Gooseberry Peter will be organizing it. He'll be gone for the next month doing field work, but will be getting things up and running when he returns. If you have any questions, comments, or ideas, please let me know and I'll be sure to pass the information along to Gooseberry: Rachel Bobka, [rlbobka@gmail.com](mailto:rlbobka@gmail.com)
- Palmer's 4th Annual Invasive Weed Smackdown happened this past Saturday. We had 30 volunteers pull 900+ pounds of invasive weeds from the Downtown Palmer area!

### Rob DeVelice

- Elodea on the Copper River Delta (information summarized from June 10 document prepared by Andrew Morin)  
From 2011 to 2014 the Fisheries and Ecology crews conducted elodea surveys across the Copper River Delta, Prince William Sound, and the eastern half of the Kenai Peninsula. Infestations were found in Eyak, McKinley, Martin, and Bering Lakes and many areas downstream. 2015 is focusing on completing an infestation inventory of the Delta.

A study with the Pacific Northwest Research Station, University of Notre Dame, and Loyola University Chicago is quantifying effects of elodea on fish and invertebrate populations. This project will continue into the future and a fluridone treatment trial is proposed for next year. Consultation will occur this summer with SePro about the treatment trial. Following NEPA analysis wide scale treatment is not expected until 2018. The Cordova Ranger District is working with the Copper River Watershed Project on public outreach on elodea and as the lead organization for the potential treatment of Eyak Lake.

- Orange Hawkweed above the new Bird Ridge parking area, Seward Highway

I encountered an infestation of orange hawkweed with up to 70% cover along the power line above the large new Bird Creek parking area (rock quarry). As can be seen in the screen capture of the Google Earth map below, the Bird Ridge Trail is just above the infestation (marked point) in easy range of wind dispersal.



### Matt Steffy

- Our summer weed crew began work earlier this month. They have begun conducting weed pulls and surveying in the Homer area, and will move along to cover all DOT roadways (or as many as possible) on the Kenai Peninsula. We have narrowed our ambitious list of “every bird vetch infestation” down to three verified sites. Initial hoop jumping has been somewhat laborious, but we’re figuring it out as we go. This summer will focus on gathering more accurate data, next summer will focus on more actual application sites.

- It was an interesting process ground-truthing AKEPIC sites for vetch. Some coordinates were significantly off, mostly from older entries that probably came from less accurate GPS equipment. The good news was the frequency of false positives. A significant number of sites were actually beach pea or various other native vetch lookalikes. I'm curious about the process of correcting false positives in AKEPIC.
- Weed crew accompanied Brian Maupin on a RAC grant project to Harriman Fjord on the eastern peninsula in Chugach State Park. Trip was a success and will be followed up by a second trip later this summer. Target plant was common dandelion in a remote access campsite.
- Crew will also assist with completing a RAC project in Portage and Whittier.
- Crew will be doing systematic ROW vegetation mapping and survey work over next two months, but also assisting with IPP projects in Nanwalek and Seward.

### **Karen Sonnen**

- No update. Newly assigned NRCS Rep to be involved in CNIPM.

### **Betty Charnon**

- American Hiking Society volunteer group came to pull weeds around Spencer Lake/Glacier. They also pulled a lot of bird cherry around the Hope Museum. Hopefully Gino and/or Tim will work with Hope community on bird cherry control.
- Many of the FS trailheads have been sprayed.
- Worked with State on spraying orange hawkweed on Seward Highway.
- Girdwood will start weed control with work coordinated by Tim Stallard and conducted by local Girdwood resident Kari Anderson.
- Boot brushes placed at 4 trailheads are receiving a lot of use.
- Unusual fires on the Chugach NF. Added stipulations to fire management teams to prevent spread of Elodea. Also brought over 4 additional boot brushes so fire crews could keep their boots clean.

## **Fairbanks/Interior**

### **Steve Seefeldt**

- Nothing to report

### **Darcy Etcheverry**

- June 18<sup>th</sup> Public meeting in North Pole about Elodea eradication in Chena Slough project plans. SePro representative was present to answer questions. About 25 people present. First step in public outreach for project and good support from public.

### **Maggie Hess**

- Working with 3 cooperators under DOT&PF IVMP: CRWP in Cordova, CRWP and USFS on Tok Cutoff and Salcha-Delta SWCD
- Supported Governor's Invasive Week declaration by posting on DOT&PF Facebook page; have answered questions from the public. Good outreach.

## **Anchorage/Palmer**

### **Lindsey Flagstad**

- Just got off a work trip along the Colville River where I found just one non-native/nuisance plant: *Hordeum jubatum* in Umiat.

### **Gino Graziano**

- Work continues on the development of the phone application, and online training for Best Management Practices in Right of Way vegetation management. Both of these projects are getting close to being done. I worked with a Tyonek Tribal Conservation District summer employee to get him familiar with weed identification. The last couple of days I have been teaching weed identification, and pulling/inventorying for weeds with the South Central Foundation summer interns and that will continue through next week. Tim and I have been partnering

with SCF for the last 3 or 4 summers. We have been getting lots of calls about various weeds and how to control them including, hawkweed, vetch, and bird cherry.

### **Tim Stallard**

- Recently turned attention to orange hawkweed. I'm finding the application timing on this one to be challenging.
  - A population exploded in remote Far North Bicentennial park in the Fire Break near Campbell Tract. Sue Salmons and I are planning to treat that next week. We are treating several sites this week.
- Need to continue checking last year's Canada thistle treatments – haven't visited every site yet, but haven't seen many so far
- Working with volunteers – last week was a Church group from Philadelphia – current and next 2 weeks – Local Southcentral Foundation interns (Gino is with them today).
- Anchorage Smackdown – Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> – Russian Jack Park – pulling European bird cherry

### **Beth Schultz**

- Quiet in the office while crews are out working in coastal AK.
- At home: planning a weed pull with some neighborhood kids looking for work this summer. Bird vetch – look out!

### **Libby Bella**

- Nothing to report. Still plans on participating in CNIPM calls.

### **Heather Stewart**

- ***Elodea in Lake Hood:*** Elodea was found in Lake Hood on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June by Amy Larsen with NPS. It was also confirmed by Tim Stallard on the 16<sup>th</sup> during a south-shoreline survey. We (Krissy Dunker with ADF&G and I) conducted a survey on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June and found out that it is a very early find; the stands are small, and it looks as though it is competing with an abundant amount of native vegetation. We have a few concerns: 1. Even though it was not detected lake-wide, the native vegetation could be concealing more than what we found, 2. The DOT is operating a “weed harvester” and it is fragmenting the Elodea, allowing it to distribute where it isn't. We are working on a plan as we speak.
- ***Elodea in Anchorage:*** All the permits are in place to apply fluridone the week of August 3<sup>rd</sup>. We had a public meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> that went very well, with surprisingly little opposition.
- ***Canada thistle:*** Herbicide applications in right-of-ways will be starting next week. We have a few more sites that we will be applying at, and follow-up spraying on sites that have been coming back from last year.

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## 10-11 a.m. Board Meeting

### **Board Member Attendees**

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## **Additional participants**

Blythe Brown

Maggie Hess

## **Discussion Points**

### **Gino Graziano**- emailed update:

- I am promised a save the date card soon. Sorry I had hoped to have it by today. I have catering quotes. It looks like we could probably afford to do lunch all three days without a significant increase in the cost of registration. I recall we had decided to do lunch only two of the days. I just want to confirm if we want lunch some or all of the time. As we start to fill out the agenda keep me up to speed so I can update the website regularly etc. I have an agenda template that has been used in the past that I can share. I think Brienne had a different agenda template which would be great as well. We have sent out requests for presentations in the past, and we usually get a few responses from people who don't regularly attend the meetings.

### **Conference**

- Board members decided to have lunch catered all three days, based on Gino's update that the cost of registration would not be significantly affected
- Heather will send out request for presentations/posters once we have the Save the Date info from Gino
- Genelle will send Heather the info on Jen, the speaker,
  - Will look to finalize topics and travel costs
- Heather will email Brian to clarify item from last meeting's notes, "Venue for John Hudson's talk..."
- Heather and Gino will maintain/populate the draft agenda

### **Strategic Plan**

- Steve said that Katie Villano had hoped to have the Research section finished last Friday, but not sure if on Google Drive yet. Heather has not seen it posted yet.
- Heather said Kim will have a hard time formatting from Google Drive and would like the format changed
- Maggie suggested consolidating chapters to Word document and then circulate for review
- Heather will send request to board members to review their chapters on the Google Drive, ensure that all comments and edits are reviewed/addressed/incorporated and to then send the most recent updated Word version to Katrina who will combine and circulate for board review
- Heather also mentioned that because we have edited the sections we will need to update the table of contents for an order that makes sense

### **Libby's position on the Board**

- Since Brian was not on the call, we did not get an update about whether he had spoken to John Hudson