



CNIPM Monthly Teleconference Notes

Teleconference Leader: Aliza Segal

Call-in number: 1-800-893-8850

Passcode: 5711553

March, 4 2015

Attendees (check all that apply)

Board Members

- Heather Stewart, Chair (DNR – Plant Materials Center, Palmer)
- Matt Steffy, Vice-Chair (Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, Homer)
- Katrina LeMieux (DOTPF – Maintenance & Operations, Fairbanks)
- Lindsey Flagstad (UAA- Alaska Natural Heritage Program, Anchorage)
- Louisa Branchflower (Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District, Palmer)
- Brian Maupin (Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, Juneau)
- Steven Seefeldt (UAF- Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks)
- Genelle Winter (Metlakatla Indian Community)

Ex-Officio

- Aliza Segal (BLM – Anchorage Field Office, Anchorage)
- Beth Schultz (USFS – Ecologist, Anchorage)
- Chris Overbaugh (NPS – Alaska Regional Office, Anchorage)
- Elizabeth Bella (FWS – Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Soldotna)

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, Chair (DNR – Plant Materials Center, Palmer)
- Brian Maupin (Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, Juneau)
- Bruce Bennett (Yukon, Whitehorse)
- Christina Kriedeman (Kenai Fjords National Park, Seward)
- 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)
- Genelle Winter (Metlakatla Indian Community)
- 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)
- 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 Kasper (UAF – Cooperative Extension Service, Delta)
- Rob DeVelice (USFS – Chugach National Forest, Anchorage)
- Ruth Gronquist (BLM – Central Yukon Field Office, Fairbanks)
- Trish Wurtz (USFS – Forest Health Protection, Fairbanks)

Notes from Round Robin (9-10 a.m.)

Southcentral/Southwest

- Elizabeth Bella
 - John is in Cordova for the Elodea meeting. From John “As you know, this winter the ice came in late on the lakes and, once it came, they have often been clear of snow. With more light penetration, it seems logical to conclude that photosynthesis by elodea might be higher than normal this winter. In any event, refuge staff retrieved water samples recently from Beck, Daniels and Stormy Lakes for mid-winter analysis of fluridone concentrations. It wasn't surprising that Elodea was not seen in Beck and Daniels Lakes given the results of our treatments last summer. However, elodea biomass was still high in Stormy Lake when we surveyed in September because of the late first application in July. What is telling is that auger holes punched in Stormy Lake this February (2015) did NOT have the same outcome as auger holes in February 2013. Photo on left shows the elodea that spewed out of the hole in Feb 2013 including fragments floating at the surface of Stormy Lake. In contrast, the photo on right shows Feb 2015 where NO ELODEA was seen. This bodes well for elodea surveys that we'll do shortly after ice-out this spring (which might be March or April at this rate of melt).”
 - All of our 2014 AKEPIC are now submitted.
 - We're helping host the Climate Change in our Backyard workshop on Saturday March 28th, 9AM-4PM, in Soldotna at Kenai Peninsula College. May be of interest to CNIPM folks. For more information and the schedule, like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/kenaichange> or visit the website <http://kenaichange.org>. There will be some discussion on invasive species, although the focus of this workshop is broader. We have plenty of table space for vendors if anyone is interested in hosting a booth or providing information for a non-hosted booth (get in touch with me directly).
- Christina Kriedeman
 - Just getting back from her winter furlough.
 - Working on hiring for this summer: a biological technician, Sca interns, and high school students. There is no snow in Seward.
 - Will the weeds be early this year?
- Matt Steffy
 - He will be presenting at the Kachemak Bay Science Conference (<http://kbayscience.org/>) on Saturday about Eloda. Specifically talking about the science of cooperation and will also be talking about reed canary grass.
 - He's also working on revisions to the CWMA strategic plan. And collaborating with a project doing spatially explicit modeling for reed canary grass.
 - Working on two IBP proposals, one for Port Graham, management plan for them to use. Nanwalki, survey and outreach there. Submitting request for funding in right now way project. Betty charnon, got a vehicle.
 - He has a job announcement open right now for 2 field technicians: (<http://www.homerswcd.org/employment.htm>). They are currently interviewing for

- o a School Yard Habitat Coordinator. This position would be juggling lots of different tasks. He is trying to maximize the possibility for lots of hours of work.
 - o The Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area Invasive Awareness Workshop is on April 24th (<http://www.homerswcd.org/index.htm>). Presentations and updates will be in the morning. In the afternoon, there will be a session on identification of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species and prevention techniques.
 - o Matt is very interested to hear about how public meetings go in Cordova.
- Danielle Verna
 - o I won't be able to join the call this month since we are hosting the Elodea workshop in Cordova this Tuesday and Wednesday. Most of my time recently has been spent organizing the workshop and planning for the upcoming field season, along with a few good webinars last week during NISAW. I'll share a summary of the Elodea workshop at the next CNIPM call.

Anchorage/Palmer

- Chris Overbaugh
 - o I've been setting up the schedule and writing agreements for SCA crew work to be conducted in Denali NP & Pres., Kenai Fjords NP and Wrangell-St. Elias NP & Pres.
 - o Interviewing SCA Intern candidates.
 - o Working with the parks regarding increasing herbicide treatments and determining potential targets and/or site locations.
 - o Initiated discussion with DOT (thank you Katrina) to potentially conduct herbicide applications in ROW areas outside Denali NP & Pres.
 - o Working with the NPS regional GIS database specialist to streamline the data management protocol.
 - o Preparing for the annual EPMT Steering Committee meeting to discuss future direction of the team.
- Gino Graziano
 - o Working on BMPs
 - o Working with teachers on moose and chokecherry stuff. After spring break he will start meeting with them.
 - o Next week he is going to the Western Society of Weed Science meeting in Portland. He will present about his teacher projects. Going to a landscapes best management practices meeting tomorrow, division of forestry is hosting this. It is a broad discussion type of meeting. He will be talking about weed free gravel and topsoil.
- Aliza Segal
 - o Preliminary draft alternatives for the Bering Sea Western Interior (BSWI) Resource Management Plan are currently open for a public comment period and are posted on the website. (http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning/bering_sea_western.html).
 - o Proposed alternatives for management of invasive species is posted on this website. We're calling them "Alternative Concepts." Comments are being accepted until March 20th.
 - o The approach is basically following the BLM Alaska invasive species policy and incorporates all the standard measures to prevent and do EDRR. So it's nothing revolutionary, but the current land use plan for this large area says nothing about invasive species at all, so it's pretty exciting to get proactive invasive policy into

this large plan.

- Beth Schultz
 - Has gotten all of her records into AKEPIC, which was a lot, but most are negative records.
- Blythe Brown
 - Was late to the call because she was at a community site with a local high school group.
 - She noticed some lush green creeping butter cup.
 - Working on finding money and trying to hire back the person she had working for her last year who was trained to apply herbicide.
 - Still working with SWCD on permitting.

Southeast

- Dave Lendrum
 - Nothing is happening.
- Mary Stensvold
 - There was some public outcry last week on Prince of Whales Island because DOT put out a notice that they are planning on spraying along 15 miles of road this summer. People in Craig contacted the Forest Service District Ranger asking about the lack of public input on this action. This has started some “anti-herbicide” sentiment in the area. The District Ranger contacted DOT who said they no longer need public involvement/already had the public involved. Bottom line: the public is upset. Trish Wurtz said they will be having public involved when they do a NEPA analysis this spring. The road is USFS land, but with a DOT right-of-way (was never conveyed to the State).
 - Katrina said that DEC requires an IPM for herbicide application in right-of-ways, program development for that. Also, right-of-ways are not cut and dry. So it can be confusing, especially with the public.
 - How is communication on Prince of Whales Island happening now? Mike Coffee and Karin Hendrickson have been visiting Prince of Whales Island to answer questions. They also went to the Alaska Conference of Mayors early on with DOT Integrated Vegetation Management Plan.
- Genelle Winters
 - Trying to make the invasive species program part of the normal natural resources program so that it can get a permanent allocation for funding.
 - Last week, she went to a Fish and Wildlife Service training at Lake Mead, NV for a Zebra and Quagga mussel identification training. The instructors were very committed and did a fabulous class. Everyone could inspect and decontaminate for zebra, quagga, milfoil, 12 species in total by the end of the class. They even talked about elodea. Great speakers, talked about logistical topics like equipment as well as biological considerations. They were excited to see that AK was represented. The training was taken very seriously with an actual test and homework. Highly recommended by Genelle!

Fairbanks/Interior

- Katrina LeMieux
 - Not much going on. Looking to get the website up and running for the IVMP (Integrated Vegetation Management Plant).
 - Talking with people who are interested in doing herbicide applications on DOT right-of-ways.

- Getting ready for the next season.
- Side note: any questions, please call Katrina until the website goes live for more information.

Board meeting

- Update on hotel and spaces for the next CNIPM conference: either the Prospector or the Westmark would be a good bet for us. Prospector is close to Centennial Hall (which would be a good venue for the conference), but Westmark has their own conference rooms and would waive the fee. Tom Huette offered to give advice on spaces. Said there may be a conflict with the time for this meeting, will get in touch with Juneau people. Both places are good, both are old school, but will work fine. We should plan for 120 people, but it may be more like 80 people.
- Jennifer Grenz, from the Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver is willing to come be a guest speaker at the conference. It sounds like Gino has funding to get her up here. She would give two talks and is willing to teach a workshop. One of her topics would be about how she and others in Canada are using metrics to show success.
- One possible training session could be on aquatic invasives since Green Crab Monitoring is a high priority in Juneau right now. Marine monitoring in the southeast would be a prime place for this and it seems approach for the conference. It could be a way to reach out to the local community.
- The conference will be a great opportunity in Juneau for public awareness considering the current issues (backlash on herbicide use etc.) Good to point out that southeast may be a more susceptible part of the State.
- AKNHP is joining with Katchemak Bay, they do a lot of education and outreach.
- We should reach out to Canadian partners. Potentially contact Suzanne Kerry or Matt Ball? Any other connections in Canada?
- We should have a “Break It Down” presentation about what damage is caused by invasive species and what the threats are.
- Between now and next month: board members should read the strategic plan sections that have a draft version ready for review (Control section and IPM section).
- Our goal is to have the strategic plan completely finished by the conference.
- We will likely leave the conference on the original dates unless there is an issue with hotel availability.