



## CNIPM Monthly Teleconference Notes

**Teleconference Leader:** Beth Schulz  
**Call-in number:** 1-800-893-8850  
**Passcode:** 5711553

05/06/2015

### **Attendees** (check all that apply)

#### Board Members

- Brianne Blackburn, Chair (DNR – Plant Materials Center, Palmer) Heather
- Katrina LeMieux (DOTPF – Maintenance & Operations, Fairbanks)
- Lindsey Flagstad, Vice Chair (UAA- Alaska Natural Heritage Program, Anchorage)
- Louisa Branchflower (Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District, Palmer)
- Patrick Samson (Kuskokwim River Watershed Council, Bethel)
- Steven Seefeldt (UAF- Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks)
- Tim Stallard (Anchorage Park Foundation, Anchorage)

#### Ex-Officio

- Aliza Segal (BLM – Anchorage Field Office, Anchorage)
- Beth Schulz (USFS – Ecologist, Anchorage)
- Elizabeth Bella (FWS – Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Soldotna)
- Mary Stensvold (USFS – Botanist, Sitka)

#### Regular Attendees

- Aditi Shenoy (Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District, Fairbanks) (report)
- Blythe Brown (Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District, Kodiak)
- Brett Nelson (DOTPF – Northern Region, Fairbanks)
- Brian Maupin (Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, Juneau)
- Bruce Bennett (Yukon, Whitehorse)
- Chris Overbaugh (NPS – Alaska Regional Office, Anchorage)
- 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)
- Heather Stewart (DNR – Plant Materials Center, Palmer)
- John Hudson (FWS – Juneau Field Office, Juneau)
- Maggie Hess (DOTPF – Maintenance & Operations, Fairbanks)
- Matt Steffi (Kenai Soil and Water Conservation District, Homer)
- Miranda Terwilliger (NPS, Wrangell-St. Elias, Glennallen)
- 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)

Additional Attendees:

Sue Salmon, Anchorage

Laurie Thorpe, BLM Anchorage

Several noted they haven't been getting e-mail notices: who can add to listserv?

(Mary Stensvold, Aditi)

**Round Robin** (9-10 a.m., in any order)

Southeast

**Genelle Winter , Metlakatla:**

- We are seeing a lot of weeds sticking their heads up very early this year. Therefore, we are planning to hire our summer crew to start next week at the earliest more likely the week of the 18th we will start in earnest.
- We are getting the vehicle rinse and reclaim system worked on to ensure we are ready to go and plan on having that up and running by the last of May.
- We were pleased to receive IPP, AACD funds this year to continue our control efforts on the remote populations of Orange Hawkweed and Tansy Ragwort on Walden Point Road. That will start soon as well due to the warmer weather.
- We had over 100 mph winds last week and that meant that a lot of people were out looking at trees etc, as a result we did get a couple reports of Bull Thistle already. Looking to be a busy season.
- Other than that, we are just really getting ready. We have the jobs (3) advertised locally and expect them to be filled by the end of next week at the latest.

**Brian Maupin, AACD /SESWCD Juneau:**

**AACD** awarded IPP funding to 10 organizations for 14 different projects, several continuing from past years. Total funding was 86 K, with each project getting roughly 8-9 K each. Lots of travel planned for the summer.

**SESWCD** – Going out for a blooming garlic mustard hunt tomorrow to see what shape the patch is in and organize pulls as needed(?).

Treated knotweed sites are looking good – showing signs of glyphosate effects. Some discussion of timing of treatments – spring not so effective (too bad – that's when plants are small), but fall treatments good.

**John Hudson, Fish and Wildlife Service Juneau**

Working with Brian on knotweed, and with Blythe on co-op agreement weed management MOU.

**Mary Stensvold, Forest Service, Sitka**

Both dandelions and Rhododendron are in full bloom in Sitka. There is some controversy over DOT's desire to use herbicides along a stretch of highway between Thorne Bay and Craig on Prince of Wales Island. Several residents are very vocal in their opposition to the use of pesticides and have gone to the Thorne Bay District Ranger with their concerns.

## Southcentral/ Southwest

### **Matt Steffy, Natural Resource Specialist, Homer Soil & Water Conservation District:**

- We had a very successful annual Workshop on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup>. Strong community attendance and agency folks. ROW discussions in the morning and a certification was offered in the afternoon. Covering terrestrial, aquatic, and marine invasives, plus biosecurity.
- Planning on a ROW project for this summer. Still sorting out staffing and some prioritization of infestations. Renee with DOT will be working with us to facilitate the IVMP process. This will tie in with RAC project with Whittier and IPP project in Seward.
- Received funding for two IPP projects: Nanwalek and Port Graham EDRR and white sweetclover in Seward.
- Amendment for Elodea permit has been submitted and public notice will proceed through June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- I will be working with City of Homer Planning Commission to incorporate weed free material and practices into contract language via ordinance.
- Continued work on IPM for Kenai Peninsula for USFWS Field Office. We will be losing Heather Fuller soon, which will be a huge loss, but we look forward to working with her replacement. Also losing Libby, so the Kenai will be feeling a void that we hope to see filled soon.
- I have been working with Aditi, FSWCD, to help encourage growth and strength in their CWMA as well as the permit process for their Elodea project.
- We have three smackdowns planned for this summer in Soldotna, Kenai, and Seward.
- I will be participating in the Citizen Science Monitoring program through KBRR and installing monitoring pots at my cabin across the bay to watch for European Green Crab.

### **Danielle Verna, Copper River Watershed, Cordova:**

- The Cordova Elodea meeting in March was a success and the Copper River Watershed Project has since been in discussion with the USFS about strategies and potential funding sources for managing Elodea in Eyak Lake and on the Copper River delta and options for engaging surrounding landowners.
- CRWP is very happy to have received funding from the USFS, USFWS, and AACD IPP for summer 2015 to continue our manual and chemical control projects in Cordova and the Copper River basin.
- We have quite a lot of travel planned throughout the watershed for treatment of known infestations, monitoring, and surveying new areas.
- The 3rd Annual Copper Basin Weed Smackdown is scheduled for July 11, 2015, at the Glennallen HUB (intersection of the Glenn and Richardson Highways); more information soon.
- The Valdez Fly-In is a great opportunity for outreach to pilots about Elodea. This year's event is May 8-10. CRWP is unable to attend but would like to set up a vendor booth next year.
- Matt mentioned surveying for Elodea in Robe Lake: as far as I know there isn't anyone specifically working on invasive species in Valdez; however Don and I occasionally

travel through Valdez between Cordova and the Copper Basin and could be of service if anyone has suggestions or leads for surveying the lake.

**Blythe Brown, Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District:**

Very happy to get the IPP funding, will have enough for a 2 person crew this summer, but hard to find qualified people. Fortunate to have a chemist returning who is already a certified applicator.

**Libby Bella USFWS Kenai NW Refuge: won't be able to stay for board meeting**

- Kenai Peninsula elodea work is progressing. Due to a minor math error in the permit for fluridone treatment for Daniels, the DEC permit has been amended to reflect the correct prescribed amount, and the IPM has also been updated. SonarONE (fluridone) and FasTEST assays have been ordered for the summer, and funding has been secured for this year's treatments and monitoring. A public meeting will be held at the Nikiski Community Rec Center in early June to update stakeholders.
- John Morton and I attended the KPCWMA workshop in Homer on Friday April 24th. I assisted with the invasive species training in the afternoon, giving a talk about biosecurity practices for field-going personnel. Attendance was good for the afternoon training session, and for the workshop overall.
- John will continue to work with Matt Steffy and the HSWCD on hiring/training/outfitting the 2-person invasive strike team that will treat reed canarygrass (containment by watershed target), and bird vetch and white sweet clover (eradication target) on right-of-ways this summer on the Kenai Peninsula.
- The Swanson oil & gas field areas on the refuge were surveyed last summer by HDR (contracted by the lease owner, Hilcorp), and we just received the report and data. The refuge will work with Hilcorp to develop and implement an IPM for treating the oil & gas field non-native species. No surprises - the data reflects what Toby and I have seen in recent surveys of the same area.
- Dandelions are in bloom in Seward and Soldotna as of last week. Happy spring!

**Rob DeVelice, Ecologist, Chugach National Forest:**

- Kate Mohatt, Angela Coleman, Andrew Morin, and I have drafted a preliminary five-year *Elodea* response plan for the Chugach National Forest. The plan speaks to exploring the feasibility of potential eradication of elodea on the Copper River Delta and estimating the ecological effects of elodea on fish and invertebrates. An elodea treatment trial on a small lake/pond is proposed for 2016.
- Kate has initiated a procurement request with Ryan Thum of Montana State University to analyze DNA sequence data of *Elodea* material from Alaska and construct phylogenetic networks and/or trees.
- Keith Boggs (Alaska Natural Heritage Program) built a classification of community types of the Copper River Delta (google "PNW-GTR-469"). A total of 471 plots were sampled for this work between 1989 and 1994. Although only a subset of these plots was from aquatic sites, he did not report *Elodea* among taxa observed. Also, in 1993, the former Copper River Delta Institute collected aquatic plant composition data from 92 plots along grid lines in Bering Lake. *Elodea* was not observed in Bering Lake in 1993 but is now

abundant. A plan is afoot to reread at least a subset of the Bering Lake points this summer.

### Anchorage/Palmer

#### **Gino Graziano UAF Cooperative Extension:** (won't be on the call)

I spent most of April working with various teachers and their students, and participating in training programs. Now that things are leafing out, I am getting more inquiries about removing bird cherry trees.

#### **Chris Overbaugh, National Park Service Update for May 2015;**

- Parks have hired all interns and seasonal staff and will be conducting orientation training
- We're preparing for the annual intern and park staff EPMT training being held later this month
- Finalizing work plan, travel and logistics for my work in parks
- Held a Steering Committee meeting with high-level park folks; discussed many topics with focus on future direction of the team with shrinking budgets
- Attended the AIS Workshop at the fish hatchery in Anchorage

#### **Aliza Segal, BLM Anchorage Field office**

- Working on a EA for using herbicides on the Campbell Airstrip and other administrative areas on the Campbell Tract in Anchorage. Hoping to have it ready for a 30 day public comment period starting around June 1st.
- Will have 2 student interns this summer from the ANSEP Program (Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program) working on invasive plant issues on Campbell Tract.

#### **Laurie Thorpe, BLM Anchorage Field office**

- Working with Heather, Brienne, and Gino on a permit stipulations for inventory and treatments along the BLM/DOT right-of ways for the Trans-Alaska pipeline, AGDC ASAP, Donlin Gold -type projects – significant ROW corridors in the state, for consistent permit stipulations on both State DNR and BLM-issued permits, for the benefit of permittees as well as the landscape approach for ecosystem health.

#### **Lindsey Flagstad UAA Alaska Natural Heritage Program**

- Another bulk upload to AKEPIC should be happening by the end of the week. Changes to produce desired outputs for Elodea mapping will require major internal changes to the database.
- Getting ready for training for National Park Service

#### **Beth Schulz USFS FIA program:**

Getting geared up for field season and training, preparing preliminary reports from pilot in Interior AK (no invasives recorded). Major effort this year will be back to coastal

inventory – and planning for implementing full interior AK inventory in 2016.

### **Heather Stewart AK DNR**

- Anchorage Elodea: Pesticide Use Permit is in public review until May 22<sup>nd</sup>. All other permits have been submitted or already received. I encourage you to spread the word on this work getting done this year, and to reference our website ([plants.alaska.gov](http://plants.alaska.gov)) for project updates. There will be a public meeting after the PUP comment period to publically address any controversial questions and to keep transparency in the project.
- Alexander Elodea: Currently working with Bill Rice on the EA and permits will be submitted soon. The project has full funding and I hope to get out to Alexander with the Tyonek Tribal Conservation District to do more surveys in the creek, including for reed canarygrass.
- eDNA for Elodea is on its way to becoming a real thing. Brent and Charlene from JBER are spear-heading the project and collaborating with other partners from USFS and USFWS.
- Canada thistle: Getting permits together and organizing additional herbicide sites this year. More surveys will be done in the Mat-Su area because we don't have a full picture of its spatial extent. I visited a site in Anchorage that had the first flower
- I am organizing summer field trials in our PMC fields to test out some marketed organic or natural herbicides on common, invasive, and noxious (Canada thistle) plants. This is a project that was done as part of a greenhouse pilot project this winter, and would like to implement it in field studies.
- Certified Weed Free Forage and Gravel training will take place this season in either Kenai or Palmer (most likely Palmer). The training will be considered a “refresher” course for those already trained but be later in the year when species are more abundant. Date TBT.

### **Tim Stallard:**

- First treatment of the year today – basal bark spraying of European bird cherry (*Prunus padus*) trees with Garlon 4 Ultra (triclopyr BEE) in Spruce Park (4 acre). Several additional similar projects in coming weeks – adding glyphosate once the trees reach “full leaf expansion”
- I've been able to get permission for a large number of projects this summer from the Anchorage Parks Dept and local Community Councils for projects in parks and along Municipal ROWs.
- Outreach – “gorilla marketing” effort to draw attention to bird cherry monocultures along Anchorage greenbelts – temporary installations (~ 1 week) – outreach signs, “Invasive Species” and “Killer Tree” flagging on trees.
- Awesome new print brochure on European bird cherry; info online also on PMC website – put together by Kim Allen from the PMC. We've already handed out a few hundred and have several local residents fired up to drop off these brochures at other residents with these trees in their yards.
- ANC Smackdown – July 18 – Russian Jack – EBC

Tim's contracting business, Alien Species Control, LLC will be supervising invasive weed control work in Girdwood this summer. This work was formerly supervised by AACD, but they no longer have a local staff member, so Sue Salmons and I will be overseeing this

work. I've been talking to Betty Charnon about this as any input and feedback from Chugach Forest Service staff and others about Girdwood priorities would be welcome.

## Fairbanks/Interior

### **Aditi Shenoy, Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District:**

- 1) FSWCD hosted a Elodea workshop at Fairbanks City Hall for agency groups and select members of the public. The efforts to control elodea in the Fairbanks area so far (mechanical methods) were presented, followed by presentations on the statewide perspective on elodea management, elodea eradication program on the Kenai Peninsula, herbicidal means of eradicating elodea, and plans for the Fairbanks area. Permit applications for fluridone and diquat to be applied in Chena Slough and Chena Lakes (fluridone only) are in process. Other plans for the summer are public outreach programs to increase awareness about elodea and herbicide application, as well as surveying select water bodies in the region for elodea (Tanana River, Chena River, airport float ponds, and a few lakes in Salcha-Delta area). This summer small patches of elodea on the Chena River will be removed by suction dredging. If permits come through by August, one application of diquat and possibly fluridone is planned for Chena Slough.
- 2) IPP funding was secured for continued surveying for invasive plants, and control of white sweet clover in villages in the Yukon Flats. White sweet clover will be controlled using manual methods in Fort Yukon, Birch Creek, and Stevens Village. Invasive plant survey will be conducted in Beaver. An IPMP will be prepared for Fort Yukon under this grant.

### **Maggie Hess (Katrina LeMieux) AK DOT NR:**

DOT&PF Environmental personnel are currently working with several cooperators that are interested in performing herbicide applications in the right-of-way, under the DOT&PF IVMP. Learn more about the IVMP at: <http://dot.alaska.gov/IVMP>.

### **Steve Seefeldt – UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks**

Not much to report. Met with crop protection group for first session on Early detection and rapid response.

### **Phil Kasper – UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Delta**

- Visiting some past noxious weed sites to determine if they need another application this year (most on DOT right of way? Working within their IVMP guidelines)
- Working with local CWCD – DEC now has more oversight, but may be hampering government employees efforts to treat private property. (Blythe has spoken about this before)
- (There will be an IPM tech in Delta this summer Weed free forage?) and certified weed-free straw is available in Delta.

Next meeting: June 3. Chris Overbough leads.

## **Board Meeting** (10-11 a.m.)

### Voting Board Members in Attendance

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

### Ex-officio

Beth Schulz

Mary Stensvold

Aliza Segal

### Discussion Points

#### *Conference Planning*

Gino: We have two hotels with room block rates for the workshop this October in Juneau. I also have an Alaska airlines rate for the workshop. I am working on figuring out catering options for coffee, snacks etc.

Themes – Got weeds? Up your EDRR! Clever, but probably inappropriate.

Got knotweed? Keep it to yourself – or better yet get rid of it.

Got weeds? Learn what's in your backyard...

Genelle will follow-up with Libby to see if she made contact with Speaker from Vancouver?

Heather is going to start looking for sponsors for the Conference – State budget predicament is challenging. She's looking for a list of those who have sponsored in the past.

Brian made a suggestion for a presentation – the value of CWMA's – get folks charged up about participating... Homer and Anchorage CWMA's great examples where they are really effective...see his comments amended to the end of the notes.

Strategic Plan chapter reviews. Try to get some more input in the next few weeks and let Kim have it to format – final review later in the summer/early fall. Plan to present at the conference.

In the google doc account – need to organize all chapters into Strategic Plan folder. Word doc's can be read but not edited in Google drive platform.

Chapters:

Accomplishments – Lindsey put together, pretty much finished

Education – Heather, Brianne (?) drafted

Inventory/Monitoring – Lindsey, Libby and Beth have drafted

Prevention/Control – Tim took the initial stab, Beth added comments, (Chris will review?)

Research – Steve?

Coordination?– Louisa was going to work on it – unknown status. Matt will contact Louisa and offer assistance.

Education and Outreach- draft has been posted by Maggie and Katrina

Please review. We would like to have a final by conference time to present. Looks like some folks have been actively reviewing – Thanks!

Follow up from Matt Steffy on CWMA – worthy of adding to the notes... I'm wondering if we might want to invite Heather to present on her thesis if we want to have a session on strengthening CWMA's....

There has been a lot of discussion around the state recently about various CWMA's and strategies for strengthening them. I feel that, here on the Kenai, we have been very blessed with strong partners a strong vision, and a sustained momentum. I'd like to offer some resources here for folks to use as they see fit:

1. Heather Fuller, our local USFWS Field Office partner, did her thesis on quantifying what makes CWMA's effective. I have found it an invaluable resource and have attached it to this message.
2. I recommend that every CMWA have at least quarterly meetings. This can be a simple partner sharing opportunity, but provides the conversational framework for identifying where ones needs may coincide with another's available resources.
3. Host an annual workshop of some kind, open to the general public, allowing partners to deliver their message, share their knowledge, and promote their mission. This provides a venue for a CWMA to be tangibly relevant to its local community.
4. Lastly, the [CWMA Cookbook](#) is a great resource. Not just in the formation and structuring of a CWMA, but in regular maintenance and continued planning.

Kudos to everyone out there who is contributing to their local CWMA. And remember that there is a network of other CWMA's around the state that can be used as resources as well.

Maybe we should consider some kind of subcommittee of CNIPM specifically focused on CWMA's comprised of CWMA coordinators from around the state?

**Matt Steffy**

Natural Resource Specialist

Homer Soil & Water Conservation District