

CNIPM Monthly Teleconference Notes

March 5 2014

General Meeting 9-10 a.m.

Teleconference Leader: Aliza Segal

Next Meeting: April 2, 2014, 9:00am-10:00am. Leader: Patrick Samson

Attendees:

Steve Seefeldt - UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Gino Graziano - UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Anchorage

David Lendrum - University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau

Aliza Segal - BLM Anchorage Field Office

Danielle Verna - Copper River Watershed Project, Cordova

Eric Geisler - BLM Alaska State Office

Brianne Blackburn - Division of Agriculture, Palmer

Heather Stewart - Division of Agriculture, Palmer

Trish Wurtz - USFS Forest Health Protection, Fairbanks

Aditi Shenoy - Fairbanks SWCD

Mary Stensvold - USDA Forest Service, Sitka

Elizabeth Bella - Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Soldotna

Genelle Winter - Metlakatla Indian Community

Tim Stallard - Anchorage Park Foundation, Anchorage

Louisa Branchflower - Palmer SWCD

Lindsay Flagstad - Alaska Natural Heritage Program, Anchorage

Bruce Bennett - Yukon, Whitehorse

Brian Maupin - Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, Juneau

Round Robin:

Fairbanks/Interior

Aditi Shenoy – Just started at the Soil and Water Conservation District in Fairbanks two days ago. Reading up on Elodea. Thinking about going to the Elodea conference in Kenai in April.

Trish Wurtz – Conference call last week on revision of the Invasive Species of Alaska book. Lots of good feedback and offers to help.

Steve Seefeldt: Has been focusing on preparing for the sustainable agriculture meeting next week.

Southcentral:

Eric Geisler – As people are working to revise the invasive species book, if anyone needs copies of the existing book, he has about 50 that are spoken for, but please let him know. Otherwise, gearing up for summer.

Heather Stewart- Working on Elodea data, getting it in a downloadable format to make it available to everybody (working with Division of Mining, Land, and Water). Will be offering an Elodea field staff training. Working on compiling the presentation and kits. Meeting with ADF&G to share with them, hopefully finished by beginning of April. Looking at a couple of trainings in April. They will offer it over the web too, so people could call in to it.

Brianne Blackburn – At the end of last week, a new house bill 344 was proposed. It's a very short bill aimed at prohibiting the sale of *Elodea canadensis* in Alaska. Shenalt Seaton. Hopefully we will have something out for public review and comment on regulations. Discussion about whether it should be specifically *Elodea canadensis* or could it be just *Elodea spp?* It will go to committee meeting at 1:00pm on March 10. Also, HB 201, aimed at reversing the DEC regulation changes that happened last year is also still being discussed.

Gino Graziano– Is finalizing an agreement with the Western Alaska LCC to work on a phone application. Working on training 6 or 7 teachers in the Anchorage School District for the moose and chokecherry curriculum. They get continuing ed credits, but it's a time intensive process for him. Meeting with DOT with Brianne to discuss herbicides to use for DOT's IPM. Also working on the BMP (Best Management Practices) manual, preparing for one last review. It will be somewhere in between a large booklet and a small manual.

Tim Stallard– Anchorage Park Foundation and the Parks Department has a small amount of money to do beach shoreline stabilization at Campbell Lake. There is a scoping meeting tonight to see what the public wants to see happen with the money. It's not for elodea management, but the project would be a good outreach opportunity to user groups, fisherman and triathletes. It is likely that the elodea will impact recreational users soon and make it tough for people to swim within a year or two.

Danielle Verna -Submitted AACD proposal last week. Working on IPM plans for pesticide use in right-of-ways in Cordova and Coper Basin. Planning to hold a Master gardener class this summer– Julia Riley or Neva Nolan. Gino shared that he usually instructs the invasive species section of Master Gardener classes. Question to group: has anyone had a booth at outdoor shows in Anchorage/Fairbanks with success. One response of unsuccessful movie showing at sportsman show, one response of success for BLM booth at Anchorage Sportsman show.

Elizabeth Bella – The Refuge held an Elodea stakeholder meeting on Monday, March 3rd at CIAA. Many people attended: all involved agencies, local landowners, outside experts, & SePro (pesticide developer) scientists. Matt Steffy is continuing to work on permitting; Brianne is working on the EA to include Beck Lake (infestation found after the original EA was written last spring). Will continue to update IPM plan. Making public information brochure to describe the process (Kenai Peninsula Borough, CES, Kenai Watershed form as leads). Waiting to hear about funding for eradication from the state, there is a chance for partial funding. If no funding is available, it is unlikely we could purchase the full amount of pesticides needed. Also trying to reinvigorate the public message. We will have a special section on Elodea at the KPCWMA conference (Friday April 25th, 2014, Kenai River Center in Soldotna, 9AM-4PM). Also will have a public meeting in Nikiski with landowners and other stakeholders to get more information on the process, opportunity to ask questions like how the pesticides work, etc. (Thursday April 24th, 6:30-9PM, Nikiski Community Center).

Working on updating the Kenai Refuge website with all present on the Refuge, including non-natives. Helping organize our non-occurrence records to be sent to AKEPIC. A publication she has been working

on with Matt Carlson, Gino, Steve Seefedt, Melinda Lamb, and USGS scientists in Fort Collins was accepted in Invasive Plant Science & Management. May have a collaborative invasive transplant research project this August/long-term with Dr. Lisa Rew at MSU (Bozeman, MT) through MIREN.

Lindsay Flagstad– Uploaded another 5,000 records to AKEPIC. Tried to response back to all who submitted records. If you submitted data and didn't hear back from Lindsay, let her know.

Chris Overbaugh, NPS – Couldn't make the call, but submitted an update for the group: He is:

- Working on Youth Agreements for invasive plant removal work in the parks
- Interviewing SCA candidates for interning at parks
- Forming my spring/summer workplan to assist the parks
- Cleaning up the data sent in for AKEPIC
- Various other data related tasks
- Reviewing park reports

Miranda Terwilliger, NPS, Wrangell-St. Elias NP&P – Couldn't make the call, but submitted an update for the group:

1. The Copper Basin CWMA MOU is finalized and circulating for signatures of relevant parties. If people are interested a copy can be sent out. Currently the following partners are involved: Ahtna Corporation, BLM Glennallen Field Office, Copper River Watershed Project, USFWS Alaska Regional Office, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve, NPS Alaska Regional Office Exotic Plant Mgmt Team, ADF&G, AKDOT, Copper Country Alliance, DNR, Kenny Lake Soil & Water Conservation Service, Natural Resource Conservation Services, Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment, and the Copper River School District.
2. Also the CB-CWMA has it's own email listserve set up. If you are interested in joining you can subscribe to it on the Copper River Watershed website here: <http://lists.copperriver.org/lists/sigrequest/copperbasininvasives>
3. The CB-CWMA is planning on another white-sweet clover smack down this summer in Glennallen. Details will be sent out to both listserves when we know more.
4. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve and the NPS Alaska Regional office have hired Peter Frank in a subject to furlough EPMT position (Annie Lain's former position). For the park as the park lead EPMT coordinator leading field work, working with collaborators, outreach/ education. For the regional NPS office he will be assisting primarily with data management for all Alaska parks as well as training for field crews. Peter will be starting April 6 and will be based at the park in Copper Center.

Southwest and Southeast

Ginnelle Winter– Presented at the Alaska Forum on the Environment slides of the 11 dicots and 3 grasses that were found in thematerial from the vehicle wash over the summer. Currently waiting for them to grow to begin identify them. Trying to use this info to leverage funding for a crew to run the system. There were originally 20 plus different seeds that germinated, but only 11 have survived. Planning to publish data to strengthen case for wash stations. Submitted AACD proposal and tursuing application with the Pulling Together Initiative. Would use funds for brochures and outreach.

David Lendrum - It has been clear and cold in the southeast. Gardening Conference hosted by the University and Extension in southeast. Louis Devorchok is being featured as an invasive species manager.

Mary Stenzel - Starting their pre regional invasive species phone call. Try to figure out what they will do with the RISIT, interviewing to get ideas of regional invasive priorities to deliver a consistent message, charter and review strategy, develop a plan of work. Results of the initial meeting will be shared at the Forest Service's regional leadership meeting. The Forest service is doing a land exchange, 30 acres of wilderness that has been affected by mineral exploration. They are starting to plan the re-vegetation, but will first determine if there are weeds out there first, right after the mining materials are pulled out. Questions to the group: How to people get weed free waddles (erosion product)? Gino- A man in the valley (works for Glen Air) who produces locally weed free straw waddles, coconut fiber ones are likely the best for weed free. Brianne – might not be producing them anymore. If can't find them locally, you can look outside of the state, they may be available from elsewhere, but look locally first. Eric Geisler- A man in Fairbanks makes waddles out of woodchips. He provided waddles for the Hasting fire 2 years ago.

Brian Maupin – The deadline for proposals for IPP grant just passed. They received 16 total. Hopes to get them all reviewed by next Friday. Recipients announced before first of April.

Whitney Rapp – Hired her summer staff, SCAs, before heading to New Zealand.

Bruce Bennett – Update on Yukon. Interdepartmental working group drafting strategic plan, action plans on top 10 species of concern identified. Question: People in Yukon looking for Elodea? Aquatics seem to get more attenuation than terrestrial, because Yukon govt has jurisdiction over water plants. More discussion about aquatic plants, but have yet to be any reports.

Discussions on hosting for Yukon data on AKEPIC, thoughts on if this is a good idea. Right now not enough funding to pursuing any options. If Canadian record would be included, they would make a way to screen for just Alaska, or Yukon or BC records.

Board Meeting Notes:

Gino has contacted many hotels for the conference (Oct. 28-29) and waiting to hear back from them. The board discussed comments from the past conference to get ideas for themes and presenters for the upcoming conference:

- People want new stuff, research and data driven topics
- Gino liked suggestions of really focusing on what projects have been done and how they align with state strategic plan
- Having a Weed Whackers ball
- Update on Pat Tomco's research
- Sounds like people are interested in nuts and bolts kinds of stuff: management decision making, tools, AKEPIC, lots of interest in hands on management and operations issues, herbicides and contracting.
- Interested in seeing a legislative update, regulations, how we deal with weeds.
- There will likely be a lot to report on Elodea next fall
- Paul Seatan would be a good speaker to have. He came to CWMA meeting in Homer. He would likely be open for giving short talks.
- Theme: Nightmare Under the Sea

- Celine Duncan from Montana State has done trials for submergent aquatic plants (she presented at the Western Weed Science Conference), would be a good guest speaker
- Are aquatic, and marine, invasive species of interest to the south central Alaska area? This would help bring in people from other taxa
- Discussion on the “all taxa group” and CNIPM and if they should be combined. History: Once the funding went dry, the “all taxa group” lost momentum.

Lindsay will email the entire CNIPM group for themes relevant to south central, speaker ideas.

Discussion of HB 344: Although it might not go anyway, but it should include other species, legislation maybe isn't the best way to deal with invasives, it should really be in DNR regulations. Regulations are more flexible, and they get at what we really want to get out of it, needs to be in the regulations, not legislation. However, this legislation may be aimed at trying to instigate DNR to start taking action to get regulations on invasive species finalized. Board members are in support of writing a letter to support the legislation, listing out the taxa, ideally one paragraph.

Discussion of House bill 201, basically reverts all the pesticide regulation changes that went into effect last year and puts it in the statutes.

Subcommittees: Revamp their appropriate section in the State Strategic Plan. Should have mission statements, revamped by the conference in the fall. Before next meeting: review comments in their area and how they would fit into your committee.