

**CENTRAL MI COOPERATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT AREA
CONFERENCE CALL**

Monday, August 10, 2020
3 PM – 4 PM

Steering Committee Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Update from Each Partner
- III. Updates from Megan
- IV. GLRI Grant Update
- V. MISGP Grant
 - a. 2020 MISGP Grant
 - b. 2019 MISGP Grant
- VI. Moving Forward

I. Call to Order

II. Update from Each Partner

- a. Elan – Back to doing things more, at a modified capacity. Not back at the office. Doing some weekly invasive work, finishing up some deliverables from a NRCS grant. Doing some work on our preserves. When doing some Autumn Olive, invasive work, a lot of flood debris was found so we are trying to clean up some of that. Got an email from Dave from NRCS about cud weed – If anyone has dealt with it let us know. When you type it in online many species come up. There was an article in the Detroit paper about Sanford Lake and vegetation returning and the potential for it to be a problem.

<https://www.ourmidland.com/news/article/Plants-cropping-up-in-lost-Michigan-lakes-where-15468947.php#photo-19785977>

- i. Megan – Following that, Ryan mentioned in our MISGP meeting that if there have been any impacts from the flood that we see, specifically if we think that there is a new priority in our location because of it, that they would support changing things. We are the eyes on the ground, as he said, regarding how the flood has impacted the area.
- ii. Tom – got a call on potential purple loosestrife but ended up being smart weed.
- iii. Michelle – we should do a canoe trip and see what we can find.

- b. Tom – Kids programs are happening now with some day camps, in smaller groups. Trail use is less than it was but is still up 2-3% from what we use to have. Our invasive work is going well, even with less staff we seems to be getting a lot done, especially in some of our priority areas. Some areas are able to be treated because of less programs. Seem to be finding more barberry and less mature garlic mustard, which may be because the flood knocked out the mature plants. **We've been noticing more hedge parsley. If anyone has any experience with that and what to do.** Michelle mentioned putting it on the forum – Megan did.
- c. Julie – We are still not open on the NRCS side and the farm side is open by appointment. She is working from home on the Pine River grant. Less people have been calling in because they don't have the no-till drill anymore.
- d. Michelle – Still not allowed to do a lot of work; they are operating under more restrictions. She can only do work in some counties right now. She is doing work on wetland and grassland work they have to do. The Refuge had a Wood Stork spotted for the first time in a long while. Frog bit and flowering rush are the two they have the most problems with that they are trying to learn the best ways to treat them. Emily (SB-CISMA's new coordinator) is working hard on getting funding for projects. Hopefully we can meet here soon. The trails in the wildlife drive are

now open. She is trying to get back in the field as much as possible.

- e. Jim – They are finally caught up with flood damage and were able to repair all the large structures. They had to scale back on some other projects because of these. They are back to more normal with staff being able to do things that don't impede on restrictions. They are looking forward to the grant and what they can do to help with it.
 - i. Michelle mentioned that if they have any work being done that may affect fish, they have grants right now they may be able to get.
- f. Ashley – Similar to Jim, they had to put a lot of projects on hold because of flood damage. But there is not much new to report on.
- g. Melissa – We are currently interviewing for gypsy moth counters and educating them on invasives to look for when they are out in the field. Gypsy moth was approved to be on the ballot so that is a positive note; a lot of people have been pushing for it. They are interviewing for a soil erosion person. They are still having the Harrison Street Fair and she will have CISMA information out.
- h. Michelle – **Purple loosestrife insight** – If you are treating a large area, check to see if there are beetles on them. They are finding that their populations is fluctuating as the beetles fluctuate and the beetles need enough plants to survive. It seems to be a 10-15 year cycle. It may be worth leaving the plants if the beetles are on them

because they will keep them controlled. It, of course, depends on how sensitive the area is. She was not sure if there is a threshold found for this.

III. Updates from Megan

- a. Phone Calls – I have received a few phone calls about invasive issues people are having.
- b. I am scheduled to give a talk for the Daylily Association in September, if it still happens. This was moved from April. They seem pretty excited for it, so that is good.
- c. I did an invasive species talk through the MSU Bioblitz event that Little Forks was involved in. I think we had around 30 people on that talk. I did the talk with three other people and we did it on invasives and what native plants you can replace them with. I think it was a great audience to reach for it.
- d. I will be off the week of August 24th.

IV. GLRI Grant Update

- a. All paperwork is turned in. We are waiting to hear back from them on when we can start doing work for this. It should be in the next week or two, hopefully. Currently it is setup to be August 2020 through August 2022.

- ### VII. MISGP Grant
- Tom, Elan, and I had a meeting with Ryan and Erin (Kammy) for our “re-opening” call. It went pretty well. Basically we just went over what deliverables or parts of the time-line may need to change. I have to get these changes back to them by this Thursday. Basically they said however we

can make it work best, they are ok with. Before going into detail on that, I wanted to mention

a. 2020 MISGP update

- i. They are currently still waiting to see about the 2020 MISGP grant. Erin said that they should know at the latest by October. They are planning for it to happen, but they aren't sugarcoating that it may not come back.

b. 2019 MISGP update and structure moving forward

- i. All of this being said, Tom and I were exploring options of how to best optimize our resources. One option is to keep things how they are, with me being full-time, and this would take us through May 2021. The other option is to have me be part-time and this would take us roughly to mid/end of August 2021. This would allow us some extra time of support, if we don't end up getting the MSIGP funds back. This would also help in achieving some of the deliverables that we would otherwise not be able to without another summer to accomplish them. This would also help with the support and work of the GLRI grant as well.
- ii. Elan – I support the coordinator being part-time as long as we are getting done what needs to be done.

V. Moving Forward

- a. This sets us up for a potentially new structure moving forward. Tom and Megan discussed the option moving

forward of the coordinator continuing as part-time and getting a second part-time person to focus on more of the treatment side of things. This would allow the coordinator to focus on the grant/paperwork side and the outreach/education side. This is something that we don't have to decide right now, but would like to start thinking about as we move forward. This person could also focus on some of the GLRI grant.

- b. Megan plans to have a separate talk with Ryan regarding moving forward if the MISGP grant does not return, since getting grants in our area is more difficult.
- c. Michelle – Thank you Megan for sticking it out. We are grateful that CNC working through all of this and being able to keep Megan working.