

March Email in Place of Steering Committee Meeting – from Megan

- If there are items I miss on this list or you would like more details, please let me know.
- I have been working on a more detailed work plan for the 2019 MISGP grant period, and beyond. However, due to the current circumstance, this is proving challenging, as things are changing in the world day-to-day. That being said, I will continue to plan as if events will be taking place, keeping in mind that this may change. I have attached what I currently have done. **If you have anything you think should be added or edited, please let me know.**

Event and Outreach Updates – plan to attend if circumstances allow

- Happy Little 5k
 - I was going to move forward with planning these events to be publicized by the end of March, however, I have decided to hold off a little bit, until I know if these will have to be canceled, as it is six weeks away. After speaking with a few steering committee member, it was mentioned that we could still advocate for the event to get people outside.
- Gladwin Home and Garden Show was canceled.
- Healthy Pine River Group meeting was canceled.
- Presenting at the Day Lily Association meeting in Mt. Pleasant in April, as I have done for other garden groups.
- Passing out information at Conservation District Tree Sales.
- Booth at Chippewa Nature Centers Earth Day event
- Winter partner meeting was canceled and substituted with a winter newsletter. **Please share this with others.**
- A press release announcing we are funded for 2020 through the 2019 MISGP grant was released. Midland Daily News put our story on the front page!
- Outreach items – pens, sticky notes, hand boot brushes, and native plant cards were purchased. The native plant cards include resources for native plants and what things to look out for. These will be passed out with orders at tree sales and other events. These are to sublimit the information that will, hopefully, be created by the Go Beyond Beauty program that I plan to partner with.

- Facebook Ad that was ran for two weeks and reached 24,753 people.

Grant Updates

- GLRI – USFS grant
 - We received an email asking us to increase our match about for this grant, as the 20% match amount was misinterpreted. I am working on this with a few partners individual but if you have match you would like to give toward this, please let me know. We will probably know about this grant by the end of April, if things do not change.
- 2018 MISGP grant end date on March 7th, 2019
 - I have turned in the final reimbursement and final report for this grant.
 - Find final purchases below.
- 2019 MISGP grant began on March 9th, 2020 – see this year’s current budget below.

Other Updates

- Megan recently got married and changed her name to Garrett. If you have old business cards with Rider on them, please let Megan know and she will get you more. In the time being, if you need to give someone her card, you can.
- Regional Partner Meeting Update
 - MISC website <https://www.michiganinvasives.org/> - you can join the forum if you want. The more people that use it the more useful it is. If you would like to join it, please let me know and I will give the lady a heads up so she knows you are creditable to be on the site. Also, make sure you have your notifications on to be able to get what other people share.
 - MISIN app issues – if you are having issues with your MISIN app, delete the app and re upload it when you are on Wi-Fi.
 - Lake St. Clair CISMA partnerships with townships and road commission – the CISMA does the treatment and survey work and the township and road commission split the cost 50/50. With 5% of the cost going toward the CISMA and fiduciary. There events are through partners and then they do the mobile boat wash and a MISIN event.

- Oakland county CISMA is working with their farmers market to increase awareness of invasive species they may be selling.
- Oakland and Lake St. Clair CISMA's do a half day event of vendor tables, food, and speakers who do 15-30 minute presentations.
- JLW CISMA had sent landscape companies information and called them about stilt grass and did a seminar with them to learn more about the plant.
- Eyes on the Forest – Forest Pest Workshop – This workshop was put on at MSU and had several pest topics. My notes are attached in the email. Here are some big take away:
 - Remember to ask people that have tree problems if they have recently had work done, this can help narrow down what it may be.
 - Asian longhorned beetle: Infested trees don't always show signs. Native longhorned beetles live in dead or dying trees. Look for woodpecker holes that are bigger than normal and on tree with canopy still. Positive: the rate of spread is slow because males are territorial and keep females close by, and they don't fly far. It has been eradicated in certain areas which is encouraging.
 - USDA is surveying for the velvet longhorned beetle – located in the U.P.
 - Oak wilt: temperature is key to when it is most abundant. Key factor of knowing is if the tree dies in the same year. Other disease show leaf scorch that don't kill off the tree as fast. People are working on projects to know the best time frame to avoid Oaks.
 - “Environmentally friendly chemicals”: if a product is made with certain ingredients, it doesn't have to be regulated by the EPA.
 - Spruce decline: needles start to die at bottom of tree and move up. Brown cankers are found just below the surface of the bark (not seen on the outside). Different types of fungus that are killing trees.
 - Spotted lanternfly: Adults can be sited in July but most are seen in late summer and fall. Tree of heaven is the desired host plant although there are many others they feed on. They haven't killed any trees yet but they make them less productive and weaker.

- Midland Conservation District Strategic Planning Meeting – I attended a meeting that they put on to get input moving forward for their strategic plan; what they should really focus on as they are starting to grow more as a district. I think it was beneficial to be there and I'm excited to see where things go.
- NAISMA Class – I enrolled in this course to increase my knowledge about invasive species. It starts off more broad and basic and then gets more detailed with treatment and such. The teacher said he has compiled everything he has learned in the past several year to teach others.
- Met with Huron Pines – I went to Huron Pines to learn more about their organization and how they run their strike team. I think they have some good things to model but also need some more information.
- I have sent out emails to each road commission about setting up a time to meet. This may change now with the restrictions in place, on whether or not I will be able to do these meetings.