

## CENTRAL MI COOPERATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT AREA

Thursday, April 09, 2020  
Central Michigan CISMA Meeting 10 AM

Zoom Meeting

**Attendees:** Ashley Rockefeller, Chase Stevens, Elan Lipchitz, Melissa Townsend, Tom Lenon, Megan Rider, Jim Wyniemko, Michelle Vander Haar, Tristan Hewitt

- I. Call to Order
- II. Updates from Megan
- III. Updates from each of you
  - a. How you are doing
  - b. Status of your organization
    - i. What's open – for those with trails open I can post these to our Facebook page.
  - c. Any other thoughts
- IV. NAISMA Webinar Summaries
  - a. Triclopyr Confusion
  - b. Health Effects of Glyphosate
  - c. Effectiveness of Boot Brushes

V. Call to Order

- a. A big thanks to Tristan for allowing us to use his Zoom account for this meeting since we do not have one.

VI. Updates from Megan

- a. List of purchased items – Megan finished up spending the remaining funds we had in the 2018 MISGP grant. These items included a new computer, office supplies, partner meeting supplies, and outreach materials (pens, sticky notes, boot brushes, and native plant cards).
- b. NAISMA Class – Megan has been working on this daily. As a reminder this is the class that is all invasive species related. So far a lot of the content has been pretty straight forward and species specific details that haven't all pertained to us. However, she thinks it's getting to the point now where things are getting more in depth and more applicable.
- c. Megan has been keeping up the Facebook page with posts and taking phone calls. As always if you have content she can post please send it to her. She has gotten a few landowner calls with questions. One person wanted to rent a tool, unfortunately with the closers we couldn't make it happen.
- d. Megan turned in the final reimbursement and final report for the 2018 MISGP grant. So that is done.
- e. Megan will be looking over the work plan that she had been working on to see how things will be changing based on the current situation with everything being canceled. Megan is looking into doing an "online event" since a large number of our events will be canceled.

- f. Saved Home and Garden Show funds for next year.
- g. NAISMA Webinars – the NAISMA webinars are free to non-members right now, so look on there if you have time. There are a few pretty good ones that Megan plans to watch. She has watched three so far.
- h. We received great news that we were awarded the GLRI-USFS grant that we recently applied for, for \$38,000. The email received said to sit tight to receive word on next steps. The first year of the grant will just be surveying the properties that we applied for and the second year will be the treatment. With this news, Megan will start to work on a plan for the upcoming field season. I would also like to set up another conference call, with those directly involved or whoever would like to join, to discuss grant details after I have received more information about moving forward. Start date is supposed to be April 30<sup>th</sup>, but we will see how that may be effected.
  - i. Jim asked about who will be doing the treatment. Megan clarified that we do not have those details set yet. The first year will give us time to decide if we want to have a strike team or do it through contractors.

## VII. Updates from everyone

- a. Elan – All employees are working remotely with the exception of Greg going in for paperwork. All properties are open and they are encouraging people to report any issues they find, since staff and volunteers are on hold right now from doing work. Event in April are on hold but looking to do some online such as volunteer training. Shelby the AmeriCorps member is working

from home and looking for projects if you have any she may be able to do. Sara has recently looked at the City of Midland guidelines for landscaping that has some unwanted species on it and could be a project to look into.

b. Tom

- i. All trails are still open and seem to be busier than usual. Signs are put out to encourage social distancing and congested areas, such as the Play Area, are closed. They are doing a lot more online educational opportunities through social media and other avenues. His biggest concern is losing ground on invasive species work if it has to go without work this year, such as garlic mustard.

c. Tristan

- i. The tree sale is still set to be put on. They are holding it as self-serve so people will pull up and do it all on their own. He mentioned still getting the native plant cards to give with people's orders. Using social media platforms to try reach out to people. Programs, such as the Lower Cedar River Project are at a halt. They did get a few grants to do more work on their Children's Garden. It was mentioned having Megan talk at an event about invasive species. The garden is meant to be an educational demonstration garden.

d. Melissa

- i. Tree sale has been postponed until May 1<sup>st</sup>. She did an outreach event in February at the 4H Winter Blast. She has the CISMA tools on display and people were really

interested about what they were and passed out a few business cards. The North Country CISMA sent data regarding their recent survey. Mostly was purple loosestrife but other species were included. Megan pointed out that she also received the data and spoke to them about how we can work together on it. Also how not all of their species are the same as our priorities list but it is still good information to have.

e. Michelle

- i. Spoke to Christina who said they haven't reach out to coordinators and mentioned that she would talk to them about doing this. Christina indicated that she was pretty stressed out about the current situation.
- ii. Clarified something from the regional CISMA coordinator meeting that was in February. She mentioned how they discussed how the coordinators feel overwhelmed with having to do all MISGP stuff and get new grants. She spoke with Christina who said they are expecting coordinators to use some of their MSIGP salary funds/time to work on other grants. This means that money we may have otherwise used in another grant on Megan's time could be used elsewhere. And this time could also be used as match for other grants.
- iii. MISC meeting is coming in June, so if anyone has feedback she can take to the board, let her know.
- iv. Dawn Hergott is doing interviews this week for their new coordinator.

- v. Had previously mentioned the Refuge having a MSU Glassen Scholar but will no longer be having them this summer.
- vi. Refuge update - trails remain open and busy. They are looking to open up the Wildlife Drive earlier. Usually it is June 1<sup>st</sup> which was because of an active eagles nest close to the road, however it was not active last year or this year. It is almost fully flooded because of all the rain but trails are looking good. They have a maintenance guy keeping up with things and another guy checking water monitoring. Not doing anything creative to reach out to public, almost doing less right now because they are being told to stay away from people, which includes no field visits. Partner program is hoping to take place because it is only contact with one person and you can keep distance.
- f. Elan mentioned how it will be interesting to see how people interaction will work after all of this is done, such as with landowners. Also with sanitizing tools, how people have been doing this for things they are doing, and if we may have to adopt some of these after all of this is done. Invasive species increase as a thought as more people are using the trails and some may wander more to try and avoid people.
- g. Michelle mentioned agencies changing protocols after all of this. She also mentioned how many agencies are telling people to get outside so it will be interesting to see if this will continue after all of this. We may see a continued increase in trail use.

h. Ashley

- i. Crews continue to work but are alternating shifts; doing maintenance work. And front staff are waking less days and different days. She is working from home on projects.

i. Jim

- i. Same as Ashley. Doing maintenance on roads and emergency situations when needed. He is working from home but has been able to do some survey work.

j. Chase

- i. There office is working remotely, he is the only one out working. He cleared 40 acres and is maintaining the trails and land management; all trails remain open. He helped Dawn do interviews for the new coordinator position.

VIII. NAISMA Webinar Summaries – detailed notes attached in email

a. Triclopyr

- i. Elan and Melissa watched this as well and said it was a good one.

b. Health Effects of Glyphosate

- i. Tristan mentioned how it is an endocrine disrupter and is interested in learning more as new things are known.

c. Effectiveness of Boot Brushes

**UPDATE:** After this meeting Megan received an emailed stating that the state is holding off on grant funds due to the Governor's order to limit spending. Megan will continue to keep up the Facebook page and answer calls. She will also continue to take the NAISMA class.