

CWMA stakeholders meeting
2/17/10 at 9:30 – 10:30 AM
NRCS Field Office – 590 University Ave

Minutes

Members present: Sunny Castillo (NRCS), Diane Claassen (CES), Darcy Etcheverry (FSWCD), George Hitz (FSWCD), Nicholas Lisuzzo (USFS), Bryon Lorenz (NRCS), Trish Wurtz (USFS)

Old Business

1. Activities Report

- a. **Weed free forage update** – AACD has developed a new brochure. A date for certification classes has not yet been set by Phil Kaspari with CES in Delta. It may be a good idea to send IP coordinators to this training. Darcy will email Phil and request training for this spring/summer. Darcy has been in contact with Sam Lamont from DOT about certified weed free straw wattles, for erosion control. Also has spoken with Bill Murphy from MasterNet about a possible value added commodity for straw producers. Need to get more info on the cost of machines and the possible revenue from state and private erosion control contracts.
- b. **UAF task force update** – Marie Heidemann is facilitating this group that will develop an invasive plant management plan for UAF. She has interviewed numerous community members and UAF employees to get input/opinions. Minutes from the first meeting were passed around.

2. Funding

- a. **IPP** – FSWCD will be submitting a proposal to AACD for perennial sowthistle control on Eielson Farm Rd, a farming community that has expressed interest in weed control along the road right of way. If you have other ideas for projects, please contact Darcy. The IPP grants will no longer be used so much for education and inventory, but should be being used to control high priority infestations.
- b. **Invasive plant coordinator update** – Trish reported that 120 people applied statewide and 3 people had been hired so far. There will be 2 start dates, the first on March 1st. Darcy noted that Joni Scharfenberg (FSWCD) mentioned Fairbanks may be getting 2 IP Coordinator positions. Interviews for the Fairbanks position have not begun.

3. **Weed Smackdown update** – Darcy has not heard back from Laurel DeVaney. Darcy will contact to see what the status of the project is.

4. **Weed Wackers curriculum workshop** – The date has been set for July 23-25th. The CWMA will have a presence, as Darcy will report to the class about resources in the community & how the CWMA can help. Diane offered to help with this presentation.

5. **Invasive species advisory council resolution** – Group signed the resolution to support HB 12, Darcy will send to representatives.

6. Strategic Plan

- a. **Plant classification approval** – Discussion on ornamental and agriculture crops on established invaders list (*Prunus padus*, *Caragana arborescens*, *Bromus inermis*, and *Phleum pretense*) – this may cause confusion/frustration/misuse of resources. Decide to add an extra line in the “Established Invaders” definition: “Several of these species are grown as agricultural and/or horticultural crops, but the focus of the Fairbanks CWMA is control in natural areas.” Phil Kaspari should be contacted to ask about confusion with weed free forage and the invasive designation for smooth brome and timothy.

New Business

1. **FNSB road service area – regulations for invasive plant control** – Darcy reported that her road service area is interested in spraying along the right of way for perennial sowthistle and white sweetclover. FNSB public works director Bill Gryder spoke with the borough attorney and only road maintenance and construction is a power of the road service areas, which they interpret as not including noxious & invasive plant control. The borough did suggest formation of a weed management service area, but that would be another level of bureaucracy. Trish and Darcy will plan a meeting with Bill Gryder in March or April to discuss this issue, possible options, and to inform about invasive plants.
2. **2010 planning** – Darcy presented plans/tasks for the USFWS crew and the IP Coordinator. Several suggestions were made, both in the meeting and through emails, which will be added to the priority list. These lists will be used to prioritize time for employees. One idea was a poster campaign “What does Anchorage have that Fairbanks doesn’t?” and list invasive plants (purple loosestrife, Canada thistle, orange hawkweed, etc.) to play up the competition between Fbks & Anch.
3. **Member updates** – Sunny mentioned that as an NRCS employee she can be a liaison for producers with an NRCS contract. She can ask for control information, as well as conducting inventories during site visits. Darcy will show her the AKEPIC data sheets and how to record/submit the information she collects.
4. **Next CWMA meeting** – March 24th, 9:30am