

## CNIPM Monthly Teleconference Notes

June 4, 2014

General Meeting 9-10 a.m.

**Teleconference Leader:** Beth Schulz

Next Meeting: July 2, 2014, 9:00am-10:00am. Leader: Lindsey Flagstad

### **Attendees:**

Gino Graziano - UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Anchorage

Katie Orndahl: BLM, working for Ruth Gronquist

Katrina LeMieux-Alaska Department of Transportation, Fairbanks

Beth Schulz-US Forest Service, Anchorage

Brianne Blackburn - Division of Agriculture, Palmer

Heather Stewart - Division of Agriculture, Palmer?

Trish Wurtz – USFS Forest Health Protection, Fairbanks

Brett Nelson- Alaska Department of Transportation, Fairbanks

Genelle Winter - Metlakatla Indian Community

Tim Stallard - Anchorage Park Foundation, Anchorage

Lindsey Flagstad - Alaska Natural Heritage Program, Anchorage

Brian Maupin- Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, Juneau

Sue Salmons-retired NPS, now Tim's tech for the summer!

Aliza Segal - BLM Anchorage Field Office

Danielle Verna – Copper River Watershed Project, Cordova

Round Robin:

### Southeast

Genelle Winter – Metlakatla invasive plant work is underway. Getting organized for an weed pull later this month. Thanks, Trish, for the tattoos (Genelle was an early awardee because she actually submitted some design ideas generated from school kids).

She also thanked Brianne for the posters and brochures printed by the Plant Materials Center – she has put them to good during a composting outreach and local health fair. School kids have been pulling invasives on the school grounds. She took Brianne on a tansy ragwort excursion, and also has surveyed areas of past weed control (only 10 little knotweed sprouts, but was surprised to see orange hawkweed flowering already. Genelle also mentioned that the vehicle wash was temporarily out of order – waiting for a replacement valve – but expect to have a higher vehicle treatment count by the end of the season.

Brian Maupin – Juneau - AACD has several PSA's ready to begin playing on TV. He also reported that the SESWCD has a new invasive plant technician on board - Kim Valverde. Brian has been out surveying knotweed in Kake and Petersburg.

### Copper River Basin

Daniele Verna - Cordova. She's been out of state since early May, and won't return full time until the end of June. However, she reported CRB coordinator attended the recent DNR training, and plans for the CRB weed smack down are in place for July 12<sup>th</sup>. Brian will be making a site visit in August (wearing his AACD hat). The CRB held a mini-master gardener class this spring as consolation for not being able to hold the more formal course this spring, but hope to be able to offer that later this fall.

Radio station KCHU will be running PSA's focusing in sweet clover across the CRB. The reed canary grass control project continues this year, with plans to pull the matting, treat with herbicide, and replanting.

### South central

Libby Bella, Soldotna - I'm going to miss the meeting - we'll be out treating elodea! So I suppose that's a valid reason for missing the call. That's my only update. Treatment should be complete for all three lakes (Stormy, Daniels, and Beck) by Thursday. We set up permanent monitoring plots on all three lakes two weeks ago to monitor efficacy.

If there are any board tasks for the conference (tracking down speakers, etc) I'm happy to pursue options on aquatic speakers via Katie Spellman (although it sounded like Gino and Brianne were already in touch with her or had solid speaker ideas).

Gino Graziano – Giving a presentation on vetch tomorrow.

Several CES folks, Jessie, Corlene, participated in the Outdoor Week at BLM in May. All had fun leading an insect safari. Darcy is working away on the weed id phone ap. On Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> will be giving a presentation on Sweet clover in Glenallen in conjunction with the Wrangell Institute for Science and the Environment (WISE) and NPS.

Lindsey Flagstad – Conducted seasonal training for several agencies, but not much direct weed work going on the summer. ANHP does have some great training materials available that folks should be aware of: <http://aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Identification-of-Non-Native-Plants-in-Alaska-2013.pdf>

Beth Schulz – We've been busy with field crew training and new projects for this summer. An alert new field crew asked me if we had any copies of the field guide from ANHP. We picked up copies for reference and some tech-savvy crew downloaded to I-pads for ready access without lugging guides to the woods.

Tim Stallard – Happy to report he has a field assistant for the season. He was able to hire Sue Salmons, retired NPS with lots of invasive work experience. (Beth interjects - Sue just introduced herself to us last month. Welcome again Sue, and glad Tim was able to put your valuable experience to work!)

Tim will be posting information about Elodea at three lakes with infestations – Little Campbell Lake, Sand Lake, and DeLong lake and will be surveying five other high profile lakes this summer. City project has been approved (Bird cherry work?)

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, will be returning to the Westchester tarping/mat project. Be there at 3 pm if you can lend a hand. On Tuesday June 17<sup>th</sup>, he will be helping Lori Thorpe (BLM) with a presentation on invasive plants at the Glen Alps overlook at 6 pm as a part of the interpretive talk series. Would like to organize some smaller weed-pulls for the AK Invasive Species Week the last week of June – possibly on June 28 at Little Campbell Lake. There will be a weed smack down in Anchorage this year targeting Bird Cherry on August 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Brianne Blackburn – Heather starting the field season, out targeting Canada thistle. Requests that you send any planned events so that they can be announced during Alaska Invasive Species Week via media outlets. The Kenai Elodia treatments underway – John Morton sent a not about how exciting it was to be getting the work done on the ground, not just the paper slog to get there.

#### Trainings:

Two aquatic invasives classes on the Kenai well attended and engaged audiences. The combination of web-delivery and in-person sessions work well.

Several Weed Free Forage/Gravel classes. Palmer crowd more interested in the gravel side, producers from Kenai more interested in the forage piece.

Outreach planned – PSAs on general invasives to run on the radio through July.

There is a Mat-Su Elodea working group (GWMA and Div. of Ag) pursuing collaborative approaches.

And finally, Brianne reports that due to retirements, The Plant Material Center is going through some transitions that will shift Brianne's responsibilities toward program management and away from Invasives, but they hope to continue the Invasive Plant and Agricultural Pest Coordinator position. (Beth interjects again -Congratulations if this is a desired promotion! We hope you will be able to stay involved with Invasives!)

Louisa Branchflower – could not be on the call but sent in this update from Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District: Fairly limited funding for invasives this year- was able to hire a seasonal technician (Gooseberry Peter again) who will coordinate the Smackdown (looking like July 12th in downtown Palmer) and the Division of Forestry Intern crew for 10 days- they will target specific infestations around the Palmer area and work with some local organizations (Chickaloon Tribe, Palmer Hay flats, etc) to survey and pull around some recreational areas.

We met last week with an Elodea/Aquatic invasive working group for the valley to try and get some coordination with future funding efforts for Elodea surveys in the coming years. Will be working on finding some grants that allow us to continue aquatic surveys.

#### Interior

Trish Wurtz – Attended the BLM Dalton Highway Weed Management Plan (DCWA – Jennifer McMillian(?) mentioned as a contact). The Fairbanks Weed Smack Down is planned for June 22, and Trish will be giving a talk on Invasives on June 18<sup>th</sup> at Denali NP. Trish asked Lindsey about entering some 1700 survey points of data on bird vetch in one subdivision - Lindsey said they could handle them as is.

Katrina LeMieux – also attended BLM’s Dalton Highway Invasive Plant Strategic Plan meeting, with a particular interest in how DOT could facilitate/ cooperate with the roadside portions of the plan. Met with the Copper River Watershed Project in Cordova in May to discuss their target application of reed canary grass along the roadsides.

Katie Orndahl joined the call and introduced herself as Ruth’s invasive plant technician for the summer. Trish sent her information on upcoming events in Fairbanks. Welcome Katie!

## **Board Meeting**

Gino Graziano - UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Anchorage  
Katrina LeMieux-Alaska Department of Transportation, Fairbanks  
Beth Schulz-US Forest Service, Anchorage  
Brienne Blackburn - Division of Agriculture, Palmer  
Aliza Segal - BLM Anchorage Field Office  
Tim Stallard - Anchorage Park Foundation, Anchorage  
Lindsey Flagstad - Alaska Natural Heritage Program, Anchorage  
Tammy Davis – Alaska Dept. Fish & Game, Juneau

Agenda: Conference planning, Brienne led discussion

Confirmed details: Marriot in downtown Anchorage October 28-29<sup>th</sup>, with a possible 3<sup>rd</sup> half day

We discussed if we should mix topics or group them, in the end deciding that mixing topics is a good way to keep attendance up throughout the meeting.

Tammy suggested we might be able to share speakers with the AFS (American Fisheries Society, AK Chapter) meeting invasive species session and partner with travel costs (to be held in Juneau Oct 20-24). Speakers could provide an update on DVEX (SERC), results of a tunicate workshop in August, and the development of a West Coast management plan. Linda McCann (SERC), expert on tunicates, D.Vex is a potential speaker.

There was a suggestion of Catie Bursh to speak on a citizen monitoring project (marine invasive species). This led to a lively discussion on having a citizen Monitoring session – covering goals, how it’s done, etc. This topic could lead to an action-driven panel or breakout session to determine information gaps citizen scientists could help fill, how to initiate a program, etc.

Another session could include updates from around the State. Mat-Su was mentioned in particular, for the pike and Elodea work going on with, as mentioned in the RR.

“Nightmare Under the Surface” theme begs for an earthworm session/speaker. The Lake States have an expert conducting a “worm watch” NSF funded project. Check out the web site: <http://www.nrri.umn.edu/worms/>

Earthworms as invasives is a growing interest in the State, with Cook Inlet Aquaculture becoming involved. ADFG covers bait regulations, but live bait just one vector. How can we approach regulating organisms? Anyone can submit a proposal for a regulation to the Board of Fish.

We should have a general presentation on CNIPM for new folks, but also provide history for folks who have been engaged for a while.

For a Monday evening speaker, Katie suggested someone from Canada who could speak about their landscape/watershed approach for how to detect, map, and manage aquatic invasives. Another suggestion was Molly McCain from Idaho SWD, where they are working with lake front property owners.

We discussed the breakout sessions and concluded they need to have more structure to be effective, such as setting objectives for the a desired outcome of the conversation, assigning a facilitator to ensure/encourage wider participation, and taking notes that could be shared with the wider CNIPM community , identify information gaps and needs.

Options for training sessions on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, located at offices near DT (CES, AKNHP, Forest Service):

- Aquatic/Marine monitoring
- AKEPIC (both a presentation and update in the general session, followed by a hands-on training on the 3<sup>rd</sup> morning)
- Right-of-way management training by CES, with CEU credits

It was noted that the AK Rare Plant Forum will be held the same week and there may be opportunities to mix, share a poster/ costume session. Justin with AKNHP is involved with the planning.

Continuing Ed: One final note on Continuing Education: Gino and Lindsey mentioned that a non-native plant class was in the works for next spring. This would be a “regular” credited course, to be held over the semester, details YTBD.