

Howard Garves Landowner Sparta TSP Vice Chair; **Dave Ohnstad**, Monroe Co. Highway Dept; **Randy Poelma**- Environmental Science Program Manager, Ho-Chunk Nation, Black River Falls; **Bernie and Jim Arena** Landowners Little Falls TSP, **Bob Micheel**, Director & **Roxie Anderson**, Land Use Planner Monroe County Land Conservation; **Tim Wilder** Fort McCoy Environmental Dept.; **Scott Giraud** and **Joey Esterline**, Farm Guru and Landowner, Adrian TSP; **Skip Frazee** Landowner Sparta TSP; **Andre Paquett**, Landowner, Jefferson TSP; **Chris Barlow** (Landowner, Greenfield TSP, **Chuck Hoffman**, Scott Town Chair; **Ron Luethe** Ridgeville Tsp; **Nick DeHaan** Continuous Improvement Manager, Covia, Tunnel City; **Sean Davison**, DNR Forester, **Sharon Folcey**, WI Towns Association; **Karen Williamson**, Sparta Resident: **Mark Pfost**, Private lands Biologist, USFWS Necedah; **Mic Armstrong** Soil Conservation Technician, USDA NRCS and Scribe

Pictures of site visit prior to meeting at the end of minutes.

New Faces? We all introduced ourselves. New faces included **Nick DeHaan** Continuous Improvement Manager, Covia, formerly the Unimin sand mine, Tunnel City, and **Roxie Anderson**, the first Land Use Planner Monroe County LCD, Welcome!

No Agenda Additions

Pre-meeting Recap. **Armstrong** said there was a good turnout for the Amur Maple Field visit near Speeds Bikes on John Street in Sparta. He first met with August Ridder a vegetation manager for Excel Energy at the property adjoining the bike trail, then moved to 2 different trails off John Street. The event was videoed and is now available for your viewing pleasure or displeasure (sorry boss!) A contest to see how many Amur Maples could be observed between Speeds and the Justice Center was won by Skip Frazee. **Armstrong** observed that a lot of people seem to come to the pre-meetings but then go on with their lives and the Core group don't see them, in this case there were a dozen or so on the trail but only 3 or 4 ended up at the "core" meeting. All good! We were proactive enough to have an email signup sheet at the pre-meeting.

The complete notes can be found in...

Action Updates:

Bernie Arena reported that we could have a free display area at Butterfest. The group wondered about the status of the table top display, **Armstrong** thought it was in the same status as the last meeting. Consensus on Butterfest was to not stretch ourselves too thin this year and review in the future.

Paquette has been researching the Adopt a Highway program in an attempt to synchronize those efforts with invasive species awareness but couldn't connect with anyone at the Highway Dept. **Micheel** introduced Andre to **Ohnstad**

Armstrong had sat in on the **CWISP** meeting via zoom, they had a good discussion about invasive species management on WI river islands, they have a nice tri fold leaflet almost done, they are planning a field day with IPAW and are working on an MOU. and bylaws. Josh Benes is very dynamic

Although it was sent to the entire email list no one stepped up to represent the group at the CISMA meeting next week in Oshkosh, **Armstrong** will go on his own time as he is on the IPAW board as a member of the green industry, not USDA. He will nevertheless report back on the meeting which seems to have an excellent agenda.

Fort McCoy Updates: **Wilder** reported that on the question of gravel and other rock and fill coming in apparently contaminated with invasive seeds the Engineers decided that they could enforce the contracts and insist on clean fill from the vendors. This may end up meaning that McCoy staff will inspect vendor quarry sites to make sure they are managing invasive species.

Wilder asked **DeHaan** if he knew about the poison hemlock that his predecessor treated along Hwy 21. **DeHaan** would fill out DOT permit and they would continue to monitor and treat. **Wilder** mentioned that there was also Garlic Mustard near there and that Jim **Raiten** would continue to stay in contact.

Armstrong mentioned that **Ridder** had asked if we had prioritized invasive plants and I said it was in our strategic plan to do that. **Ridder** said his vote was definitely Garlic Mustard. **Wilder** commented that on certain areas of Fort McCoy (South) Garlic Mustard was high priority, other areas there just was so much that it was a lower priority. Higher priority species on Fort are Japanese Knotweed and Amur Maple. They also prioritize by area some are more sensitive and important to the natural resource and mission.

Farmers Market: **Esterline** had talked to the organizers and it was possible we could have an “event” on the stage May 11th—opening day of the Market. **Armstrong** would help and bring handouts, samples for an ID session. Said it would be great if others from the group were there—more the merrier! **Esterline** to confirm date.

Dairy Breakfast: No location selected yet. **Micheel** said we could have a display incorporated with the Land Conservation display

Field day:

- Saturday? Probably not, no Herbicide guy, no free pavilions at Fort McCoy, could be problem for Federal people.
- 1/2 day OK we did fine at Scott Township, **Halfman** agreed.
- Probably skip mapping we have had 3 or 4 trainings involving probably a hundred people and the only people who have used the app are **Armstrong** and **Luethe**.
- Stations possibly repeated with same presenter.
- Forestry was popular. ID is a must. Herbicide advice a must. Funding sources a must.
- Equipment displays? Maybe not that important
- Date possibly June 13th, time to be determined.

Promotion: **Armstrong** presented a new power point he is working on to highlight the history and activities of MCISWG. Armstrong used the opportunity to explain NR 40 and CISMAs. We noticed on the new CISMA map that Monroe Co. is now orange as per our request.

Armstrong reported progress with a 4 H project to propagate biocontrol bugs for Purple Loosestrife in the Sparta area.

Logo: **Paquette** announced the winning logo was a done deal. **Armstrong** said that he did not like the winning logo particularly, thought the original idea was for it to be a plant being pulled up, (a bit like the new CWIP logo), sparking a discussion around the room. Many thought the idea was to promote the stewardship aspect of the group, planting natives etc. Agreed to keep working on the logo, new imagery can be sent to Andre. **Folce** thought we needed an outline of Monroe Co. in the logo **Micheel** would provide.

2019 Monroe Co. Cost share Applications: **Micheel** stated there was nothing to report, inspectors would be out looking at the new applications in spring. **Armstrong** requested photos for the power point of successful projects,

Wilder announced that Fort McCoy was the recipient of US Fish and Wildlife Military Conservation Partnership Award. Pressed by Micheel he also acknowledged he was promoted to the Natural Resource Branch Chief of Fort McCoy Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division and that when his replacement in the Endangered Species and Wildlife Dept is hired they would be joining us at MCISWG meetings.

MOU: **Armstrong** had sent out an updated version prior to the meeting and we had a lot of action in the room with landowners and agencies signing hard copies. We will send out again before the next meeting, hopefully for the last time

Armstrong passed around the spotted lantern fly handout, mentioned that this one is potentially as bad or even worse than Emerald Ash Bore, commenting that when they were locating barberries and Multi flora rose in Amundson Park some huge native ash (Black Ash?) that were already white, like so many others in the area with piles of bark at the base of the trees, Someone mentioned there were lots of pileated woodpeckers following the ash bore movements. Fort McCoy is on High alert for Spotted Lantern Fly, the egg mazes are hard to detect and come in on metal surfaces such as trucks, trailers and equipment moved so frequently in and out of military bases.

Tomah Ranger Station UTV. **Davison** reported they have it on hand and are getting separate slip on tanks for herbicide applications and water for use in prescribed fire and firefighting.

Williamson, asked if there should be signs posted for herbicide applications in public areas? **Armstrong** said there is a "Reentry period" stated in a box on the label of each pesticide. There is something called the Right to know law but that only pertains to Agriculture, the reentry period for non-Ag is also stated. **Halfman** added that the label is the law!

Good question, we will revisit as we learn more, A great topic for Halfman's Half Hour perhaps?

Wilder requested we use email to make decisions including the details of the next Field day, Farmers Market, Dairy Breakfast etc. Finalize at next meeting-

Thursday May 9th. 1-3pm

Pre-meeting: Location TBA, (A purple loosestrife patch near Sparta), possibly helping to construct the tent for PLS bio control, coordinated with the local 4 H group.

Pictures from site visit prior to meeting.



