

**Megan Mickelson** DNR Forester and **MCISWG Chair**, **Bob Micheel**, Director, Monroe County Conservation, **Joey Esterline**, Landowner (Adrian Tsp); **Bernie Arena**, Landowner, LittleFalls TSP ; **Howard Garves**, MCISWG Vice Chair, Sparta TSP and Landowner, **Jim Raiten** Center for Environmental Management Colorado State University, Fort McCoy; **Randy Poelma**- Environmental Science Program Manager, Ho-Chunk Nation, Black River Falls **Michelle Komiskey** -District Conservationist, USDA NRCS, **Mic Armstrong** Soil Conservation Technician, USDA NRCS and Scribe and **Alex Selle**, AIS Regional Coordinator – West Region, Division of Environmental Management, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

**Armstrong** summarized the pre meeting at Fisherman’s Park-see separate report.

We did not summarize last meeting – see notes at this link:

<https://monroe.extension.wisc.edu/files/2019/07/Minutes-JULY-2019.pdf>

**Mickelson** reported that **Ben Johnston** sent an email excusing his absence and talking about a meeting he had with **Matt Walworth** (Upper Sugar River Association) re existing SW Badger grants and a scheme they want to develop to manage Japanese knotweed in the southern half of the county (as they already have a grant for some management in Ontario?)

- Monroe County Land Conservation Cost share program: **Mickelson** reported she has several applications from landowners. Will call on the committee to schedule ground truth reviews. **Randy Poelma** will coordinate. First time applicants will rank higher than repeaters, but all will receive a review.
- Little Falls TSP Field Day. **Mickelson** has been working on the agenda. Plant ID (**Armstrong**), **Halfman’s** Half Hour, Cost share talks at the town hall. Then move to **Arena’s** for Tools of the trade, Herbicide and Working with your contractor presentations. We will survive on snacks and adjourn at 12.30.

Around the table:

- **Armstrong** attended a Towns meeting, gave a presentation on MCISWG premeetings and was invited to give a talk to Leon Garden club on September 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **Mickelson** stated that Chad Ziegler and a team of 2 treated roughly 16 acs of thick buckthorn in the county forest, mostly basal, some foliar. They are also working with Meadowview Middle school on a buckthorn problem there.
- **Komiskey** told us about the Phragmites identification run along Hwy 16 to Oakdale. Those populations were assessed by **Selle** as the native, the only known population of the nonnative invasive is in and around the trucking distribution center. Asked about management **Selle** said usually herbicides are applied as foliar sometimes aerially. A combination of mowing and herbicide (tricoplyr) may improve success.
- **Selle explained** a little about the AIS grants he administers. There are small scale grants (\$50M), large scale (\$250M). Cost share 75%, the 25% can be ‘in kind’- labor etc. Up to \$20M). Early Detection Grants are available for stands of invasive species that have been observed less than 5 years or on less than 50 acres. Grants can be managed by no profits (e.g. CISMAS) or private landowners. Hopefully I got this right the web site is hitty missy.
- Somehow the Conversation turned to a report that Japanese knotweed can have health benefits similar to red wine, and paper can be made from invasive plants

## MCISWG-09/06/19

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- **Raiten** reported the crews on Fort pulled 1700 acres of spotted knapweed, treated 120 acres of honeysuckle (mostly foliar) and were transitioning into woodies. They also retreated the Japanese knotweed on County A. Asked about Garlic Mustard spread **Raiten** admitted that there were some areas near the fire tower that they have never really managed to control. There were also new populations occurring in the compass course areas, presumably by foot traffic.
- **Armstrong** explained the “Invasive of the week” project at the Farmers Market and showed the posters on Purple loosestrife and Japanese knotweed including a fine portrait of **Raiten** and his crew in action. **Esterline** agreed we still have some kinks to work out with the display.
- **Armstrong** passed around a map showing the new observations of Poison Hemlock discovered by NRCS personnel along Hwy 27 and Mascot Ave. We plan on having a meeting at a site off HWY 27, the landowner was at the Towns meeting **Armstrong** attended is concerned and has agreed to it. We will try to invite as many stakeholders as we can and promote it at the Leon Garden Club. Hopefully we can teach ID and management appropriate to the different land uses.
- **Esterline** wondered if she could get some help with the area she manages as a native plant area, but it has become weedy. Located where the trail from Evans Bosshard Park meets the Beaver creek Bridge at Main St. She thought a prescribed burn by Ervs (Sparta Fire Dept) would be positive. Mickelson agreed we could help in other ways

Next Event: Field Day October 19<sup>th</sup> Little Falls Town Hall and Arena Property 9-12.30pm

Premeeting: Poison Hemlock. Hwy 27, South of Leon. 11am Oct 24<sup>th</sup>

Core Meeting Monroe Co. Courthouse. Oct 24<sup>th</sup>, 1-3p.m.