

Kevin Luepke, Natural Resource Specialist, Fort McCoy; **Jessup Weichelt**, Threatened and Endangered Species Biologist, Natural Resource Branch, Fort McCoy; **Rikki Ratsch**, Colorado State University, Serving Fort McCoy; **Bob Micheel**, Director and **Roxie Anderson**, Land Use Planner, Monroe County Land Conservation;; **Bill Halfman**, UW Extension, Monroe Co. Agricultural Agent; **Mark Pfost**, Private lands Biologist, Necedah Wildlife Refuge and Partners for Fish and Wildlife, **Noah Buraglio**, NRCS (NWTF) Forester, Richland Center; **Dave Texley**, Lead Pest Control Specialist, MTNT, Serving Fort McCoy, **Michelle Komiskey** -District Conservationist, USDA NRCS. **Mic Armstrong** Soil Conservation Technician and Scribe.

Luepke thanked **Armstrong** for sending out the email invitation to join the meeting. **Armstrong** noted the weather is still nice, so people are probably still busy.

Armstrong mentioned email from **Randy Poelma**. Ho-Chunk Div. of Env. Health was unable to make the meeting as he was redirected to Covid ICS work related to the vaccine roll-out. **Joey Esterline** is seeding prairie behind Schauf's event barn and this was the only day that worked out for her and Scott. **Chris Barlow** called to offer best wishes; he is tied up in an interview about transferring ownership of their farm to Mississippi Valley Conservancy.

New Faces.: **Noah Buraglio** is the new National Wild Turkey Federation Forester at the Richland Center area office of the USDA NRCS **Dave Texley** has been associated with MCISWG over the years and has a lot of experience with herbicides, invasive species and, in his current position, management of other pests above and below ground.

Report on Field Trip/Pre-meeting- Poison Hemlock, on October 21st **Komiskey** and **Armstrong** met with **Jack Herrick** Jefferson Town Chair and the town patrolman, as well as Monroe County Highway Program Supervisor **Tyson Langrehr** to discuss poison Hemlock. We met on Mascot Avenue at a site where the Poison Hemlock is growing both in the town right of way and on private land, above a ravine that seems to be used as a dump. We examined the dead stems, flower heads and foliage below the plants which closely resembles wild carrot (Queen Ann's Lace). Across the road we were "lucky" enough to find the plant in full flower, not sure why it decided to do that in late October but perhaps that is one reason it has become a successful invader, creating the opportunity to spread seeds twice in on season. We were able to observe the characteristic purple mottles on the (hollow) green stems. **Armstrong** emphasized that every part of the plant is poisonous, **Komiskey** remembered from our premeeting of 19/24/19 that **Mark Renz** said that animals or humans would need to consume approximately half a percent of their body weight for a lethal dose. An unpleasant plant we agreed. We moved down the road to Marshall Avenue where the plant could be observed, again in full flower growing in the right of way and could be seen spreading into a neighboring alfalfa field. (complicating management). The town chair and Highway department discussed possibly working together to get herbicide on the plant as appropriate. Tyson also mentioned that in addition to the large roadside sprayer the Highway department has a few backpack sprayers, so the possibility of collaborating with landowners to manage poison hemlock was there too. We observed wild parsnip (tough to find in the fall) and identified Garlic mustard at the site too. We talked about the importance of mapping to allow mowing and spraying operations to be tuned to take out these infestations. **Herrick**s thanked MCISWG for bringing attention to the problem and at least now they could recognize it.

Last Meeting Recap. **Luepke** summarized the minutes of the October 8thth Teams meeting. <https://www.co.monroe.wi.us/departments/land-conservation/invasive-species-workgroup>

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The meeting with **Mickelson** and **Luepke** still has not transpired in order to pass on the MCISWG binders, however **Michelle Komiskey** tracked the binder down at the Tomah Ranger Station and was able to meet with Megan.

Action Updates

CISMA: **Armstrong**, said we still weren't officially a CISMA, one pending signature did not make it to the binder yet. **Armstrong** attended part of the 10/22/20 virtual meeting hosted by the WI Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) group which was interesting. The session by **Tony Roman** of the WI Extension Education Technology Support on making effective videos was excellent. You need to identify the goal of a video for starters, you may also need selfie sticks, tripods, editing software and Tony explained it all while self videoing. See for yourself <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/edtech/professional-development-and-training/tech-bytes/getting-started-with-making-videos/>

Mission Statement. **Komiskey** shared two ideas. **Armstrong** read out a third which he found in one of the original MCIPWG fliers (Buckthorn). A final version will be presented at the next meeting

Gravel/ Fill Certification. **Luepke** is still pursuing the possibilities of getting gravel /fill certified free of invasive species and weeds. He will report at the next meeting.

UMISC **Luepke** was able to attend some of the sessions on zoom and was still able to do other tasks throughout the week of the proceedings. **Ratsch** also attended sessions enjoying talks on "building systems integrity, where it can defend itself from invasion. Also, genetic manipulation, of say nursery stock, to prevent invasions by breeding to change characters such as sterility (or fecundity). **Luepke** mentioned talks on the impacts of global warming on invasive species as well as the sessions on the new class of herbicides containing Rinskor (Duracor Terraview). **Armstrong** had offered to volunteer (for a free registration) as a commons steward making sure no one does inappropriate stuff online. However, it turned out this was a well-behaved group and these services were not necessary. The free registration still stood and although his week was incredibly busy with dams being constructed **Armstrong** did attend (on his phone) the sessions on Jumping worms in Minnesota (they have been there a long time) and a couple of other interesting videos. Although the conference went well, they are all looking forward to meeting in person again in Green Bay 2022. Although the sessions are now history you can click on this link to see what you missed and, perhaps more importantly, access the proceedings from the last UMISC conference held in Rochester MN. <https://www.umisc.net/program.html>

The mention of the Rinskor®- herbicides prompted a discussion about the purported "Reduced Risk Label". **Texley** was unable to find any "Signal words" such as Caution on the Duracor™ label.

\$ Account for MCISWG. **Micheel** explained that people are buying Tim's buckthorn walking sticks and want that money to go to MCISWG, but we have no vehicle to do so. nor have we discussed what we would do with monies as they accumulate, (Purpose and Outcome). **Micheel** and **Luepke** would investigate possibilities and report back.

Monroe County Cost share Applications for Private Land Invasive Species Management.

Micheel: Five applicants- Helgren, Quirin, Prochazka, Justin and Buckmaster received funding in 2020. Brecheisen and Arena are the only two applying, so far, for 2021 funds. **Armstrong** listed the other known committee members as **Poelma, Mickelson, Esterline** and **Fraze**. **Micheel** recommended we try to encourage more landowners apply for funding.

- Display Printing Update **Komiskey** stopped bugging NRCS State Office as it is still not needed.
- Fort McCoy Updates **Ratsch** reported that a lone Common Barberry was mapped and treated while conducting buckthorn basal treatments. Crews have been working on cut stump and basal treatment of the Autumn Olive and Burning Bush population as well. The weather has allowed a good round of fall treatments of garlic mustard through mid-November.
- Phragmites-Tomah **Komiskey** during the process of applying for the Early Detection grant to manage the phragmites in Tomah there was a question on establishing a non-government identity. Consulting with **Alex Selle**
- Buckthorn Walking Sticks **Luepke** said the recommended price is \$15.00 and will start a spreadsheet to keep track. **Komiskey** described her visit with **Tim Wilder** at the Visitor Center parking lot with the beautifully finished sticks laid out on the hood of his truck. There may be a version one day with a compass inlay. **Armstrong** wondered if any had been fashioned to shepherds' crooks. No, at least not yet!
- Amur Maple. **Armstrong** gave a short version of the report on the volunteer working parties to manage the population which we now have mapped at 80 acres. There will be a little more acreage when we map the private land to the west of the bike trail, hopefully our efforts will start to turn that tide. **Ben Johnston** has led the Amur Maple Reduction Program, communicating with DNR, compiling paperwork from the COVID sized volunteer group (<10), procuring herbicide and tools for the job and more than just being there on the three occasions we have worked the site. We hope to get at least one more crack at it this winter with the volunteers, Ben requests we have more help with pulling and stacking brush. **Luepke** is looking into the possibility of a McCoy crew working for half a day or so as the bike trail is, perhaps, close enough to Fort or the Maple population to constitute a threat. Update- next meeting **Armstrong/ Johnston**
- Virtual Contractor Show and Tell. At the last meeting **Armstrong** floated the idea of contacting contractors who offer services (invasive species) in Monroe County to see if they would be interested in preparing a short video of what they do. **Ratsch** had been doing more research and found that most of our contractors do not have videos on their websites, if they even have a website. That reinforces the notion that it would be unfair to ask them to create videos as it would tend to promote the tech savvy ones over others. Agreed to drop the idea.
- **Armstrong** relayed a request from **Esterline**. Joey is going to go back to an area between Evans Bossard Park and East Oak Street, a prairie planting with a walnut tree, crabapple and in between there are plantings of prairie and non-invasive perennials. There is a lovely patch of prickly pear too. The problem is it is swamped in cool season grass (mostly Quack Grass, I believe). PR for MCISWG? If we were to help spray the grass would we need applicators licenses? **Halfman** said it depends on the chemical, maybe not if not RU. Not sure who owns the property either. Not really

a showcase of anything to do with invasive species, so not within mission? although we love prairies! **Esterline** should bring up again at annual meeting

Updates from the front line:

- **Halfman** updated us on the DATCP Pesticide Certification program during the pandemic. Everyone with an expiring certification (between Jan 2020 and Nov 2021) will get an automatic 1-year extension. New Commercial applicators can do an online test which will be good for 1 year (also commercials expiring prior to Jan 2020). Private Applicators are eligible for a 1-year online certification. **Texley** mentioned that he recently needed a Termite applicator certification and made arrangements with Bonnie, (DATCP Madison), and was able to take a (Wisconsin) test in St Paul, Minnesota, which they sent back to Madison. **Ratsch** also needed his crews to be certified in the Right of Way category and was able to arrange tests on a certain date in Eau Claire.
- **Halfman** advertised that **Mark Renz** from UW Madison will be leading a free on-line discussion on pasture weed management. (March 9th) begin at 7:00 PM CT with a presentation followed by a Q& A session until 8:30 PM CT.
- Future Field Days- still too far out to start planning

Next Meeting: will be the Annual Meeting

Lamentably we will not be having our annual meeting at Jakes on a big table by the fireplace like we did last year. In fact, by the time we have the meeting Jakes will have closed the restaurant, another casualty of COVID.

** Note our web page is no longer on the Extension web page, it is now housed in the Monroe County, Land Conservation site <https://www.co.monroe.wi.us/departments/land-conservation/invasive-species-workgroup>

Microsoft Teams/ phone
Thursday January 14th 1 to 3 p.m.