

Clint Gilman, Forester, Tomah Ranger Fort McCoy; **Jessup Weichelt**, Threatened and Endangered Species Biologist, Natural Resources Branch NRB, Fort McCoy; **Rikki Ratsch**, Colorado State University, serving Fort McCoy Wildlife Dept; **Jessica Salesman**, Fort McCoy...; **Karen Williamson**, Sparta Township; **Matt Modjeski**, Conservation Warden, Tomah Ranger Station; **Randy**, HoChunk...; **Joey Esterline**, Adrian Township and Monroe Co. District 15. Supervisor; **Connie Weedman**, Sparta; **Andrew Senderhauf**, Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator Golden Sand RC&D; **Shelby Adler**, Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for WI DNR; **Tyson Langrehr**, Monroe County Highway; **Mic Armstrong**, Soil Conservation Technician and MCISWG Scribe, Natural Resource Conservation Service; **Lily Lefebvre**, Soil & Water Conservationist and Scribe, Monroe County Land Conservation Department

Pre-Meeting Field Trip

Core Meeting

Introductions/New Faces: Agendas passed around, went around the room for introductions.

Agenda Additions: **Williamson** with Chainsaw/1st aid course.

Outreach Media: **Weedman** has given updates to the Facebook page and newspaper regarding meetings. She will continue to run rough drafts by **Gilman** or **Armstrong** to ensure accurate information. She is looking for anybody else in the group to write something if they would like to.

Last Meeting Recap: A short summary of the pre-meeting field trip was given by **Armstrong** to the members that couldn't attend. **Armstrong** gave a recap of the Spring Bank field trip/meeting in December. Most notably that **Salesman** was appointed Vice Chair and will take **Gilman's** position after his term is up.

Annual Report: **Armstrong** provided an attached document summarizing the past year. Discussion of meetings, county cost-share recipients, vice chair, field trips, outreach events, and the Invasive Persuader award. The QR code for the website was created and placed at trailheads around the county. There were many working projects with a variety of invasive treatments used. A report of invasive mapping was given by Johnston at the last meeting. **Senderhauf & Adler** discussed how they could help with invasives. Some patches of phragmites were found and discussed what to do with them next.

Revise 2019 "Lead Individual's" list: New individuals were added to the list of events/programs. **Esterline** will cover boy scout groups. A few priority lands were discussed including the county's open space Volden property, Amundson Park, La Crosse fishery area, and SW corner of Ruland's Creek (DNR property). Creating a teaching

opportunity for Cashton School with these priority lands was discussed. **Esterline** will continue to head the Farmer's market and Garden clubs. **Armstrong** will continue to present "Invasive of the Week" at the farmer's markets. **Brad Robson** (county agronomist) will take care of the Monroe County Fair and Dairy Breakfast. **Armstrong** or **Gilman** will keep in touch with libraries to look for programs.

Chainsaw/1st Aid Course: **Williamson** stated that there will be a chainsaw/1st aid course on March 7th at 1pm. There will be WDNR Level 1 courses coming up on March 23rd and at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve on April 7th and May 4th. Discussion of where to have the course on March 7th was discussed, possible the Barney Center. **Williamson** will continue to work with Wildcat Mountain for a course, with details to follow.

Jackson County CISMA: Conclusion was that Jackson County didn't have enough leadership. They will continue to be a partner but no CISMA will be developed at this time. Will revisit in 2025 MOU. Jackson County will still be invited to events, and the group will still hold a meeting at the Cranberry Discovery Center.

Mapping Monroe County Highways: **Johnston** has not sent over the map to Monroe County Highway Department so no update until that happens. **Langrehr** discussed the endgame is that once mapped, the county can determine what sprayer to use and where to establish spot sprays. The county will spray plant growth regulator then mow once a year, rather than a couple times a year. Concerns of pollinator habitat being affected were brought up. Will see the effects after a few years.

Amur Maple Reduction/Committee: **Armstrong** stated that there have been 3 events since December. March 9th will be the last event with help from the Challenger Academy.

Monroe County Cost Share Applications: 1 application from last year that will be revisited. Looking for more applicants.

Purple Loosestrife: **Esterline** will raise cella bugs again this year. A plan will have to be established as to where they release them.

Play Clean Go Signs/Scrushers: **Micheel** would like an inventory of signs/scrushers that we have and the use of them. **Armstrong** is looking to purchase around a dozen scrushers. Looking for more locations to put them. Currently they are located at Amundson Park and Tri-Creek.

Senderhauf will get signage for Perch Lake, Brinkman's Landing, Angelo Pond, and Amundson Park.

Fort McCoy Updates: **Ratsch** has been treating glossy buckthorn with basal treatments. They will be using the shredder on a young stand of black locust, autumn olive, and honeysuckle.

Callery Pear: Land Conservation Department building has Callery Pear in lot next to them. **Armstrong** mapped on Ed Maps. Next step is to talk to the owner to get permission to kill seedlings in the field with herbicide.

Front Line Updates: **Gilman** included the timber sale for the Tomah School. Revenue to treat buckthorn was discussed. **Armstrong** brought up mapping the bike trail. Autumn olive was very prevalent in Rockland. Many different invasives were found along the trail. **Esterline** discussed the County Board meeting resulting in making it easier for invasives work. **Hochunk Guy** discussed tribal land in Sauk County.

Field Days: June 13th will be Pineview Campground field day. August 8th will be Cranberry Research Center Field Day.

Invader Persuader: Ballots will be distributed next June and also posted on Facebook and the website.

Future Field Day Ideas: Talk of the group attending towns meetings and having field days in different part of the county.

West Salem Schools Outdoor Education Center: Tour with John Sullivan. Possibly late May for a date. **Armstrong** will reach out.

Fire Fly Farm: Tour with Andre Paquette in Cashton, no date was set.

Tomah Walking Trail: **Armstrong** brought up buckthorn and honeysuckle issues along the Upper Lemonweir River. **Armstrong** wrote a letter to the city of Tomah regarding the issue.

Esterline Visit: **Esterline** would like to make the tour of her property an annual meeting. No date was set.

Meeting was adjourned before 4 pm.