
Invasive Plants Committee Minutes

Monday, May 2, 2011 -- 5:00 p.m.

St. John's Church, Center Point

Raul Moore, Chair

Keith Ruble, V. Chair

Bev Pestel, Secretary

Attendance: Raoul Moore, Jim Spence, Bev Pestel, Ron Ellis, Lisa Ellis, Jeremiah Lemmons, Keith Ruble, Everett McMichael, John As

I. The meeting was called to order by Raoul at 5:00 pm

II. Minutes of the April 4, 2011 meeting were approved.

III. Old Business

A. CWMA – “Rails to Trails” in Montgomery County has a glitch. The person who has been coordinating agencies in Montgomery County has left. The new coordinator hired through the grant by Hoosier Heartland for the CWMA may be able to help if that person has been hired yet. Raoul doesn't know yet for sure how he want to focus the event. Maybe an Invasives Fundraiser, a “kill-a-thon” with pledges per person per hour worked?? He doesn't want to involve a number of partners: Park & REc., MCSWCD, STRC&D, Friends of Sugar Creek, CWMA.

B. Eradication Tools/Chemicals

We have the Element 4, Bev is storing it and we have it available in small units for landowners who may need a small amount – available for a donation to STRC&D. (We don't know the price yet.) NOTE: Clarification on Element 4 (Garlon 4) it is not soil active but it is often mixed with Stalker which is soil active. Stalker has been known to kill tulip trees in a stand treated with Garlon4 and Stalker. Element 4 itself does not pose the problem.

Brian has reported that he has used a shingle shovel as a removal tool and it works great. Keith suggested the possibility of some kind of walk-behind chopper that could cut off the honeysuckle at the base and chop it at the same time, he doesn't know of any such machine currently available.

C. Signage for Invasive Control Measures

60 mph Signs: Templates from Chuck were looked at and one chosen. Now we wait to see how long it takes to get ~20 made. A material similar to that of the smaller size will be recommended.

- D. ISU Earth Day – April 21: Keith Ruble (Wabashiki), Karen Staub (Invasives), Jim Luzar (forest pests), and Jeremiah Lemmons (presented Tree Campus award) were all there. (Bev had the date wrong, so the banner was not there - sorry.)

Bev has signed us up with Center for Community Engagement at ISU, so we should be contacted directly now anytime ISU has events where non-profits could be present AND be contacted when volunteers are looking for a place to work out service hours now required by many courses and programs at ISU.

- E. STRC&D Woods 2011 activities – April 30 Work Day
8 folks showed up. Raoul Moore, Bev Pestel, Jim Spence, Bud Sharpe, Ron Ellis, Evertt McMichael, Paul Hoppengartner, and Karen Straub. The fence row along the road was cleared and a new fence erected, the new sign was put up (in spite of some engineering difficulties), and much of the bush honeysuckle and vines on the flat west of the road was cut.

Karen suggested that another work day soon would allow us to do clean-up on the bush honeysuckle that was cut. May 21 has been scheduled for another work day.

IV. New Business

- A. New Invasive Sightings: Raoul has winter creeper creeping up his trees. More and more Japanese Barberry is showing up in the woods.

Question was posed regarding the Invasive Species Council set up by the State but not funded. No one had any updated information on this Council.

- B. April 16 at Dobbs
We had 8 people at the work day: 5 students from South High School (Aaron Warner's students), and one Boy Scout from Troup 30.
Bev is meeting with Carissa on Thursday for put the Invasvie Removal signed up and with Jane Morse (TREES, Inc.) next week to discuss continues work days and a possible schedule of events.

- C. Other:
Jeremiah reported that ISU has talked with him about the management of several forest properties the school has. Some of these will almost certainly need invasive control and EQIP money may be available. The committee expressed an interest in conducting invasive control on a fee bases if it can be arrange.

V. Next Meeting: Monday, Jun 6, 2011 at 5:00
Karen Staub's Place – Parke County

Adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Minutes taken by Bev Pestel