

## CCIT MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 2014

USFS Gunflint Station



### Members Present:

Angelique Edgerton – CCIT Coordinator  
Dave Betts – Cook County Highway Department (CCHD)  
Dave Tersteeg – City of Grand Marais, Parks and Rec  
Brandon Seitz – Grand Portage National Monument  
Amy Seitz – Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
Molly Thompson – Sugarloaf: the North Shore Stewardship Association  
Mike Hedlund – MNDOT  
Ken Graeve – MNDOT  
Jack Greenlee – USFS (via Teleconference)

### Additional Attendees:

Nanette Arands, CCHD

At 1:04pm, Angelique Edgerton called the CCIT meeting to order. She began with roundtable updates since the last meeting, and plans for the upcoming events.

Dave Betts began with no updates at this time, just busy with design and preparation of bids, etc for upcoming projects. Jack asked if Dave is a proctor for commercial application license. Dave replied no, he isn't.

Dave Tersteeg spoke about the upcoming boat launch project. Plans are available for viewing and comment on the Grand Marais Rec Area website.

Mike Hedlund said there will be no Vegetation Manager for District 1 until at least July. He and Ken will be the contacts until that person is hired. Ken asked Dave Betts if he'll be using a native species seed mix on the Gunflint Trail this year. Dave said that Scenic Byways has requested this. He's considering it but is still researching the cost of doing so. Jack suggested the "Cook County Seed Mix" prepared by Soil & Water.

Brandon Seitz said they'll be planting 8000 sweet grass plugs this year in prepared meadows. Treatments for *Vicia cracca* will continue to at least help keep in check. Jack suggested an alternative application for control and removal.

Amy Seitz said they'll continue their invasives mapping project this Spring/Summer, picking up where Tom (former Vegetation Manager for MNDOT) left off.

Jack said that they're in the process of doing their seasonal hiring, including temps for Grand Marais invasives. They were granted permission to treat invasives in the BWCA and will be doing so this

summer. They've prepared best management practices literature for firefighting personnel regarding weed spread. They are working on a treatment plan/priority for this year and are open to suggestions. Also, word is they're receiving a grant of \$28,000 from the Great Lakes Restoration. Lastly, Lake County will have an invasives team of their own, hopefully this summer.

Angelique began her updates with the news of a grant of \$13,200 they received from the Board of Water & Soil for CCM crews to treat invasives in local gravel pits. She will look at Mike Lynch's inventory and pick the best pits to treat. Dave B. suggested the MNDOT pit as a priority due to all the purple loosestrife there. They applied for funding from the Biodiversity Fund for another year of CCM crews to treat invasives on private land, for landowners who request it. Last year they worked for about 2 weeks. They've applied for funds from the Four Cedars Fund for the Community Shed for personalized training, gloves, etc for private landowners who'll be using herbicides from the shed. Sugarloaf and Cook County Soil & Water received funding from a Coastal Program annual grant. Soil & Water will use the money to host a series of workshops, trainings, community education by professionals – all on issues related to invasive species. Sugarloaf will use it for Lost Forest education and meetings on a variety of topics. In the pre-proposal stage is possible funding from the Sustain Our Great Lakes Grant which would be used for invasives removal, tree planting, and restoration in public (30%) and private (70%) lands.

Recently, they held a Forest Pest First Detection class which focused on detecting/identifying invasives. There were 15 attendees, which is a good number. Angelique did a presentation for the West End Garden Club. Tomorrow, Angelique's doing a children's outreach program at Birch Grove Charter School. She will speak at a Master Naturalist Program this weekend. She and Diane Booth are working on a web resource of all invasives which a person will be able to download from the Community Center and CCIT websites. Angelique said she is about a third of the way done. She'll be continuing her monthly informational spot on WTIP on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. On June 27<sup>th</sup>, they will be putting on an Invasives Blitz with the DNR. The purpose is to educate people who can volunteer to help control invasive in an area of their choosing in the community. They'll have printed materials available to take.

Along with the events mentioned in her update, Angelique will be participating in area community days, setting up education/info booths, specifically community days in Schroeder, helping with the MN Sea Grant booth at Fisherman's Picnic in Grand Marais, and possibly setting up something for the Wellness Fair in Grand Portage. The Community Shed will open this summer which means Angelique will need to make herself available at Sugarloaf one day a week for dispensing herbicides. Angelique and Molly are on the field trip committee for the Invasives Conference in Duluth. Molly asked if anyone has a good and/or bad example of how treatment worked on invasives in their area. She is looking for good field trips and believes they would travel even to Cook County. Just let her know. Lastly, Angelique has added maps of gravel pits on the CCIT website. Also, she has updated county maps of major invasives with 2012-13 info from a number of sources.

Regarding Dalmatian Toadflax, it's been identified in Lutsen near the Lockport Store and across the road from it. Angelique will request a crew from the Dept of Agriculture to do eradication early summer as MNDOT won't be available until later summer. Ken said, to assist, they can either carefully mow the area or not mow it at all. Other possible sites are on the Gunflint Trail and Cramer Rd. Angelique will follow up on these sites and inventory the situation.

Angelique asked if there are any requests for projects for her. Jack mentioned she should check the biocontrol at the Cook County Airport. Dave T. asked for assistance with removing Tansy from Artist's Point and the point across the bay and removing Knapweed from the Rec Park. Angelique added that an outreach for volunteers would be a good idea for this project as there is lots of interest.

Molly reminded all about the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual North Shore Landowner Workshop on June 6<sup>th</sup> at Wolf Ridge focusing on restoration and plantings.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm

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