



Texas Gulf Region
Cooperative Weed Management Area
Meeting Notes

Tuesday, February 18, 2020
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Location: Estuarine Research Center Meeting Room,
University of Texas Marine Science Institute Campus

Notes

Attending:

Steering Committee:

Kendal Keyes (TPWD), Hans Landel (Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center), Rosario Martinez (CBBEP), Rae Mooney (City of Port Aransas), Colleen Simpson (City of Port Aransas), Katie Swanson (MA-NERR)

Others:

Bill Behrens, (citizen) Leigh Perry (CBBEP), Christina Marconi (MA-NERR)

Unable to attend:

Steering Committee:

Bill Green (TAMFS), Scott Cross (Nueces County), Beau Hardegree (USFWS)

Began at 2:05 pm.

2:00 PM Welcome and Introductions

2:10 PM Updates/Discussions on Current Funding

- Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP) funded Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR), USWFS: "Brazilian Peppertree Treatments for the Texas Gulf Region Cooperative Weed Management Area", \$40,000.
 - o Outcomes accomplished – Rae/Rosario
 - mail-out card: good feedback.
 - put something interactive on next one, to gather information on engagement. Some kind of QR code, or a contest or a small gift?
 - chemicals purchased, so plenty available for anyone of our partners who may need it
 - city will get a backpack sprayer.
 - Project is complete.
 - CMP Cycle 22 report – Rosario
 - o Completed summer 2018
 - CMP Cycle 23 – we had no Cycle 23 funding
 - CMP Cycle 24
 - o ACE is currently the contractor and is working on treatments
 - o \$40,000

- Zones 1, 2 are retreatment; Zone 3 is new treatment
- Scott (Nueces Co.) providing \$5000 in match?
- CBBEP Habitat and Living Resource Implementation Team, \$25,000: used as match
- NFWF
 - \$100,000
 - Birding Center
 - Harvey recovery funds used to do some of the work, so that NFWF money was redirected to further invasives removal via an amendment
 - ACE is contractor

2:25 PM Update/discussions on Upcoming Funding

- CMP Cycle 25 – Rosario
 - Starts Oct.
 - \$75,000
 - Need \$30,000 in match
 - Katie providing \$8000
 - perhaps the TPWD funding (see below) can count? **YES**, but Rosario will need to determine how.
 - Katie: Can we use Scott's seed bank as match? Coastal dune restoration. Determine how much to use and how much that seed bank would be worth. **Who can look into this?**
 - How to use seed bank? Use mulch? Mulch BPT; can't cut and leave if restoring. Need to prevent guinea grass (GG) from coming in.
 - we didn't specify acreage, which makes things easier for us
 - Zone 4?
 - Need to develop plan
 - Katie:
 - Small area on MSI property
 - mowed, no raking; easier to pull after weed-whacking
 - treated with herbicide
 - wait 2 weeks
 - mulched
 - spot treated as GG came in
 - planted plugs; over-planted
 - continue spot treat; maybe weekly for a while, then once a month; can easily see the green against the mulch
 - sunflowers took over; will be pulling it
 - Colleen: seeing not as green in other places
 - Dan: spot treat with glyphosate
 - Kendal: at Goose Island, they weed-whack, so can get Imazapyr to the ground
 - Colleen: when did Native Dave restore?

- Katie:
 - winter removal, December
 - spring restoration
 - Mostly BPT; not much GG
 - Imazapyr: 6-8 months before can plant. But need to spot treat.
 - Rae: possible to plant with cover crop to hold soil in the meantime? What species would that be?
 - Hans: will get back with Dan and plan with Steering Committee
- TPWD Coastal Fisheries for Homeowner Tree Replacement Project – Hans
 - \$20,000
 - TPWD is working on contract
 - will contract through CBBEP
 - Hans needs to work with Rosario to get this going
 - is state \$\$, so can be used for match
 - funding runs through next fiscal year
- TPWD involvement
 - Questions arose as to why Coastal Fisheries was funding this. Hans' understanding is that CF had money to spend and felt that addressing coastal invasives could help coastal fisheries, and after discussions with us felt that this project was worthwhile for them.
 - Question was also asked why TPWD doesn't otherwise seem interested in terrestrial invasives other than riparian species such as *Arundo*. Only two tree species are on the TPWD regulated list. We couldn't come up with any good answer.
 - WRT BPT, could we argue to TPWD that coyotes and feral hogs use it, and hogs spread it, so managing it is in TPWD's interest? No decision made or action proposed on this.

2:40 PM Marketing Intern for Homeowner Tree Replacement Project – Hans

- Name: Sateera Rumph. Marketing student from Texas State University San Marcos
- Kendal: will send news release materials to the intern; Hans will send Kendal Sateera's contact info.
- Hans: Follow up with Louie Bond, Editor of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine, about magazine article.
- Want to make the marketing interactive somehow; how do we know they've learned something or were engaged?
- Katie: issue is vacant lots, and in oleander. Colleen did identification on owners of vacant lots; development companies own, so City says "it will be developed, so why worry?" Someone asked, but why can't city force them to shred/mow; isn't there an ordinance that they must mow? Colleen would like to see them shred once a year. Would require new ordinance. Has noticed scraping to soil periodically (which is apparently required), which is where she got idea to ask property owners to clear.
 - No action proposed nor decision made on this

- Rae: a person pays landscaping company to landscape, but they don't remove BPT. Symptom of not knowing/ignorance. Something to address down the road?
 - o **Rae**: working on a plan for landscaping companies. How do we address?
 - o Oleanders with BPT growing within it is a problem.
 - o Katie: used to do workshops to landscaping companies; certified; Rockport; partners with AgriLife Extension. Do that here?

TAMFS loss of funding discussion

- The loss of funding from TAMFS came up. Not clear why that has dried up. We're fortunate that Bill Green is representing TAMFS. Can we explore how TAMFS could be more involved financially? **Hans** will touch bases with Shane Harrington to get clarification; perhaps Bill, who was unable to attend today, has some insight.

2:45 PM Future Funding Opportunities

- Proposition 5: sporting goods tax to Parks and Wildlife; TPWD in process of determining how to spend that money. Kendal: Parks Division is negotiating for invasives funding at state parks. **Kendal**: can you keep us updated?

2:50 PM Discussion on Current MOUs – Hans

- MOU is now expired.
 - o **Everyone** will look over and provide comments to Hans in time for him to collect and organize for the next phone conference, so by March 18.
 - o We will discuss the new MOU at the March teleconference, and hopefully finalize it then and get it out for signatures.
- The MOU requires us (the Steering Committee) to develop a plan each year for that year. There was some discussion about whether we need to do a yearly plan and if not, we should change the MOU. It was agreed that having a yearly plan would be good, to keep us on track and to be sure we all know what needs to be done. Hans proposed that we develop a plan at the beginning of the Fiscal Year, which for our purposes begins Sept. 1, then a yearly report could be presented at the Fall semiannual meeting. That would allow the public attending the meeting to understand what we had accomplished and would allow us to use the Fall Meeting to discuss plans for that new FY instead of spending much of the meeting reviewing accomplishments. We agreed we should implement this procedure.
 - o **Hans** proposed that he will develop as soon as possible a plan for the rest of this year for everyone's approval, with everyone's input, based on current funding and sponsor requirements. However, this plan will necessarily be shorter since it is only for the rest of the year.
 - o Hans (or his replacement – see below) will write up the year-end summary for the Fall Meeting.

3:00 PM Break and Refreshments (10 min.)

- Yum!

- 3:10 PM Updates on Treatment Areas/Today's Workday – Rae
- Port Aransas Nature Preserves – Rae
 - o NFWF
 - ACE has been doing; Rae can determine area treated with ACE's help, and get that into the appropriate document in Google Docs. Katie: reminded us that there are two acreages to determine, acres impacted and acres actually treated.
 - 67 acres: How to address. City is not likely to do anything because at some time in the future it will be converted to a marina. In the meantime, it remains a source of seed. Rae proposed that we foliar spray, then burn. Burning presents hurdles. No decision made, but everyone agrees this is a good idea.
 - Next to transfer station: BPT, GG, castor bean; 2 follow-up treatments.
 - o ACE and Gulf Corps on Clay's Hill, now white lead and GG. (**Can be match**)
 - Update on IB Magee area BP Removal (CMP Cycle 24) – Leigh/Rosario
 - o ACE; on Beach Street. Looks good. Leigh: how many acres?
 - o UT and County property
 - Report on today's workday
 - o 3 private properties, Charlies pasture, MSI 0.1 acre; 23 people. Maybe 0.15 acre total.
 - Mustang Island SP – Kendal
 - o Staff found and removed 3 small trees (resprout); nice example of learning because they did this on their own!
 - Redhead Pond: BPT removal coming up next weekend.
 - Katie: Good news! Jasmine Lopez, grad student with Dr. Mike Starek, will be working on drone imagery of BPT. Will meet with her in a couple of weeks. This is follow up to discussions we had last year on getting aerial photography of area to census how much BPT there is now (how much we have removed). Katie will update us either by email or at the March teleconference.
- 3:25 PM Other new/old business
- Hans will be leaving the CWMA at the end of this FY, when he will assume a new position at the LBJWC.
 - o At that time, Texasinvasives.org will transition to Sam Houston State University and the Texas Invasive Species Institute (TISI).
 - o Hans will work with TISI to hire a replacement, who will be expected to remain involved in the CWMA.
 - o Hans expects to remain involved in one way or another in the CWMA.
 - Colleen will reduce her commitment to the CWMA, since Rae is her replacement.
- 3:30 PM Prepare/plan for Whooping Crane Festival activities - Rae
- banner at Paradise Pond, with us talking to people

- hand out flyers
- Civic Center: table with main focus on invasives. Volunteers needed.
- Make this the outreach for CBBEP; take photos
- Us volunteering: talk to Rae about where she need you.
- Some ACE participants want to volunteer

3:50 PM Schedule March Steering Committee phone conference
 - March 26, 2:00 pm

3:55 PM Wrap up

4:00 PM Depart

Ended at 3:55 pm.

Notes taken by HL.

ACTION ITEMS

Everyone

- Review the MOU and send comments/revisions/questions to Hans by March 18

Dan

- Work with Rae and Leigh to determine # acres treated, with details on methods/chemicals

Hans

- Develop annual plan with everyone's help
- Work with Rosario to get the Coastal Fisheries grant to CBBEP
- Send intern Sateera Rumph's contact info to Kendal
- Follow up with Louis Bond about magazine article
- Contact Shane about TAMFS' future involvement/commitment to CWMA
- Develop annual plan

Katie

- Meet with Jasmine Lopez on drone work. Update us either by email or at the next phone teleconference
- Please provide me a short description of the restoration methods at MSI to get rid of the guinea grass, and of how well it's doing.

Kendal

- Send new release to marketing intern Sateera Rumph
- Keep abreast of how TPWD is spending Prop5 \$\$ as it pertains to invasives; be prepared to update us at the March teleconference

Leigh

- Work with Dan on determining acreage treated; enter into appropriate document in Google Docs

Rae

- Work with Dan on determining acreage treated; enter into appropriate document in Google Docs
- Continue work on training plan for landscapers; update us at the March teleconference

Rosario

- Look through these notes to look for sources of matching funds

Callan, Leigh, Katie, Rosario, Rae

- Work together to look into using Scott's seed bank for restoration that could be used as match for Rosario. Get back to Hans so he can work it into the annual plan if necessary.