Texas Gulf Region Cooperative Weed Management Area Open House Notes
Thursday, October 2, 2014, 5:30-6:30 PM
Port Aransas Community Center, Port Aransas, Texas

Participants Present:
Justin Bush, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
Mike Murphrey, Texas A&M Forest Service
Carolyn Grosse, Volunteer Participant
Beau Hardegree, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Bill Behrens, UT Marine Science Institute Emeritus
David Hyde, City of Port Aransas
Katie Swanson, Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve
Ron Billings, Texas A&M Forest Service
Residents of Port Aransas

• 20 people were in attendance.
• Bill Behrens provided an introduction to the invasion and Justin Bush.
• It was asked who all had received door hangers- 3 people answered yes.
• Justin Bush did an introduction to the CWMA
• Beau Hardegree provided explanation of the USFWS role and Charlie’s Pasture
• Mike Murphrey provided background on the role of Texas A&M Forestry Service
• Justin provided explanation of funds and what we are looking to complete in the future
  o Private landowner replacement program
• Yard sign was revealed
  o Excited residents, and one was passed out

Questions and Discussions from Residents:

• What can residents do about neighbors’ trees taking over her yard?
• Can the City ever pass an ordinance? What are the current regulations?
• What are the methods for cutting it down?
• Pathfinder 2- a really good product, but kills everything
• What types of plants are good for replacements?
  o They need to be replaced with plants that can survive this environment (ex. Mexican Hibiscus)
• Eliminate only the female plants with berries (are there other ways to tell them apart)?
• Freezes keep plants in check more inland
• What the CWMS plans to do with the RESTORE ACT Funds with County (if funded)
  o Replacement
  o Removal
• Monitoring
• Are there funds for Brazilian Pepper Tree Free Ads in the paper?
• Problems caused by Brazilian Peppers
  o Foundation problems from roots
  o Poison ground below- reducing vegetation diversity
  o Reduces insect diversity
  o Very few birds actually eat the Brazilian Pepper Tree, lowering bird diversity
• Is there any way to include Paradise Pond in the CWMA treatment areas?
  o Slow process at Paradise Pond due to need for habitat
  o Apache Tree Grant is providing about 20 trees that will be planted at Paradise Pond in February