

## TEXAS GULF REGION WEED MANAGEMENT AREA

Full Biannual Meeting

February 22, 2017

UT-Marine Science Laboratory

**Attending:** Katie Swanson, Scott Cross, Melanie Hambrick (new), Beau Hardegree, Shane Harrington (by phone), Scott Holt, Kendal Keyes, Mark Kroeze, Hans Landel, Rosario Martinez, Mike Murphrey, Colleen Simpson, Miguel ?, Chad ?

[Name of grant?] Grant is closed

CBBP contract, FWS, \$40,000. What do we want to do with it?

- Zone 5. Near the airport. Roughly 130 acres. Olsen [who is this?] contacted owner of other half of island, who is willing to cooperative.
- Contractor coming back to salt island; may want to include them to schedule work on zone 5 at the same time.
- Colleen thinks burning first to open the BP to allow contractors to get to it.
- Burning doesn't need to be right before the contractors come
- **UT still needs to finish the rest of the paperwork**
- Concerns about the airstrip for the burn (smoke). Beau was worried about the private property.
- Access is not straightforward. Perhaps set down a boardwalk across the mud.
- **Colleen will get landowner's contact info to Katie.** Per Katie, the landowner will need to get paperwork with UT.

CMP 22 Bucket money. \$40,000. October 1. Requires community events.

- Katie proposes working on the Nueces County property as priority. Would like to burn. County judge has authority to close beach. County has no policy to prevent. Need to consider smoke blowing into town.
- Other priority is the MSI property next to school. MSI limited in time/personnel available to work on invasives/BP; they are working on including as part of regular maintenance work. Salvador Rojas is new grounds manager. MSI neighbors are now complaining about BP on MSI property. Working on acquiring more equipment to increase ability to manage the BP.
- PA grounds crew carry herbicide as a matter of practice now.
- Question about seeds in mulch. Some research and experience suggests that most seeds (98%) don't germinate. If composting, with enough heat of composting, will kill seeds.
- Don't want to cut and leave, because birds will roost, and hard to get into for retreating. However, removing/chipping will increase cost a lot. Scott Holt mentioned that several years ago that cut BP were piled and now you can't tell they were there.
- **We will come up with a few options,** and ask contractors to give costs for each option.

- We seem to agree that a grinder will likely not cause soil damage.
- Scott Holt has hired a contractor to use a grinder. \$180/hr.
- Checks every 6 mos. (Scott C.)
- Discussions on pulling trees out. Concerns with how to get rid of trees. Jack and Jill (Melanie). But pulling disturbs soil that can be invaded. Perhaps cover with mulch.
- City Council doesn't want to spend tax money on BP removal. Colleen's job to find \$\$ (As per Mike's contact with Dave Parsons today.)

\$4000 from FS.

Katie will put together a work plan budget.

RESTORE (Scott C.): \$7.5 million for park restoration. On short list.

- Public comment period. \$ may be available in June or July.
- The Ecological Enhancement proposal was not funded for some reason, even though it's holistic. Maybe scale back, or maybe not. Need to regroup and rethink.

Colleen will figure out a way for citizens to ask for BP removal

Scott discussed topics on funding; several grants submitted. We will continue to re-submit. Need to look at ecological components.

Colleen: how to use the money. Need to re-treat. \$6-7000 to retreat, with the current San Antonio company. Will look into contacting Jack and Jill. Shane says we can use the FS \$\$ however we see fit to control BP. Miguel will also contact ...

Shane: RCPP technical assistance (TA) money, financial assistance (FA) money.

- FA for ...?
- TA money goes to agencies, someone who is the "banker".
- Could include funding a manager.
- Itemize everything in the budget.
- April 21 is pre-proposal due. August 31 for final proposals.
- Agreed this is not for us.

Partnerships

- TexDOT. Chris Amy. Kendal is responsible for contacting TexDOT.
- Golf Course. Mike and Mark responsible for contacting.
  - [Subsequent to the meeting, Mike

Updates on work days.

- Today: planting willows, taking out BP.
- City did airport area, Colleen will give Katie acreage.
- MSI continuing to eliminate

- Some private property. Melanie - coordinated, has FB, etc. Had 43 volunteers at Redhead Pond, including trucks, front end loader, trailers. Amazing work! 2 hours. 360'x105'. City participated. Would like to reseed. Lots of local support. Melanie is here to learn more. Would like to have the CWMA expand to cover Flour Bluff. Discussed how Flour Bluff could get established, and what we would provide.

#### Fall community event

- End of Sept or early Oct. "Eat the Invasives".
- Include our meeting, work day, safety workshop.

#### New Business

- Katie needs to step down. Discussions about one person or a split position. Need to have a local person. Next steering meeting will discuss.

We presented Mike with gifts to thank him for his tremendous service to the TGR-CWMA. We recognized him for his dedication, insight, and camaraderie that have been instrumental in the establishment and growth of the CWMA. Thanks, Mike!