

# Wisconsin Recreation Best Management Practices for Invasive Species

## Advisory Committee

Marathon County – UW-Extension Office, Wausau

June 17, 2008

### MEMBER MINUTES

#### *Meeting Participants*

<b>Participant</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Bill Duncanson	WI Park & Recreation Association
Evan Miller	Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest
Gary Werner	Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter
John Jones	WI Donkey & Mule Society
Kelly Kearns	WDNR-Endangered Resources
Kimberly Currie	WDNR-Parks & Recreation
Kris Tiles	UW-Extension
Dean Bowe	WI County Forests Association
Kevin Thusius	Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation
Rolf Utegaard	Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin
Hank Wozniel	Wisconsin ATV Association
Bernie Williams	WDNR- Forestry Science & Recreation

## I. ADMINISTRATION

### **Introduction of New Project Lead**

Following up on Kimberly's email, Bernie Williams will be taking the place of Karen Sonnenblick as the project lead for the Recreational BMPs project.

## 2. OLD BUSINESS

### **Approval of February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes**

- ✓ Decision: Minutes approved, with the following corrections:
  - Page 3, we will change the wording the 'Kimberly will be attending WACO (Wisconsin Association of Campground Owners) to 'would like to attend'.
  - Clarify the assignment on page 5 under **Assignment**: the text that will be developed to define appropriate cleaning areas for Universal BMP 3 & 5.
  - Confirm changes on the Universal BMPs, check consistency of terminology within each spokes BMPs.

## Spoke Update Reports

### Motor Vehicles (Hank Wozniel)

Hank modeled the motor vehicle BMPs for a target audience. The Universals served as the template. The first questions to arise regarded **BMP M-3. A:** Visit a car wash or designated cleaning station. Rolf thought the car wash idea was questionable, and Kelly said; there was no other way to address or avoid the option. Rolf voiced concerns on the possibility of a car wash recycling and if there are sediment traps in place to filter invasive species. Kimberly recommends that we clarify **BMPs M-3: A through F.**

- **BMP M-3. C:** Do not clean your equipment, vehicles or trailers in or near waterways to prevent spreading invasive plants downstream. (near added)

Concerns surfaced on the opening of BMP M-4. When established and designated are used in terms of public lands the majority felt it was too vague. Hank stated that it did not address the individuals that simply ride on their own properties. Kimberly states with these corners we should be cautious of what we call a Universal BMP then.

- **BMP M-4:** ~~Stay on managed or established and designated trails or routes.~~  
Now reads: **Stay on established motorized routes or trails**
- **BMP M-4. D:** ~~Travel in areas open to motorized use.~~  
Now reads: **Do not create your own trails on public lands.**
- **BMP M-4. E:** If wet areas are encountered on established trails, go through them rather than around them, if possible.

Changes were also made to BMPs M-5 and M-6

- **BMP M-5:** ~~Report infestations of invasive species to the appropriate land manager or property owner.~~  
Now reads: **Avoid environmental degradation of the soil. Disturbed soils may create favorable conditions for the establishment and spread of invasive species.**
- **BMP M-5. A:** Avoid sudden stops and quick directional changes with acceleration or braking. Especially around the apex of a turn when climbing or brake-sliding during descent.
- **BMP M-5. B:** When you see repairable trail damage, stop and fix. Add a little tender loving care to the life of the trail.
- **BMP M-5. C:** By staying on the trail there is little or no compaction or impact.
- **BMP M-5. D:** In the winter ride only when there is adequate snow cover and when the trail is firm or frozen.
  
- **BMP M-6:** ~~Avoid environmental degradation of the soil.~~
- Now reads: **Report infestations of invasive species to the appropriate land manager or property owner.**
- **BMP M-6. A:** Provide as exact a location as possible; take a photo, GPS coordinates, and/or map the infestation.
- **BMP M-6. B:** Use diplomacy if contacting a private landowner.

After a great deal of discussion the above changes were made to the motorized vehicle BMPs. There were some suggestions that were left off which involved the term mudding

that is specific to ATVs, as well as the issue of dune-buggies and motorized wheelchairs. It was agreed that there would be some blending of terms when comparisons are drawn between motorized vehicles, land management, and pedestrian as they all share similar considerations. Hank agrees with the changes and Kimberly states that the Universals may need to be revamped in order to streamline the spokes.

- ✓ **Decision:** The committee accepts changes made.

### **Pedestrian-Based Recreation (Kevin Thusius)**

The first questions involved BMP P-6: Unless gathering natural foods or other permitted material, don't pick plants. Though this is a straight forward statement there are levels of knowledge that may influence the pedestrian. It was decided that a consideration would be added to address this issue.

- **BMP P-6. C:** When processing gathered materials, remove invasive plants and dispose of them properly.

~~**BMP P-8:** For strollers, stroller joggers, wheelchairs, and other assistive devices with wheels, follow BMP 13 (?) for cleaning vehicles and treads.~~

**Now reads:** Prior to moving equipment, such as strollers, stroller joggers, wheelchairs, and other assistive devices with wheels, onto and off of an activity area, spray, scrape or brush soil and debris from exterior surfaces, to the extent practical, to minimize the risk of transporting soils, seeds, plant parts, or invertebrates. Carefully dispose of soil, seeds, plant parts or invertebrates found during inspection and cleaning.

**Essentially we have moved BMP P-13 and it is now become BMP P-8.**

- **BMP P-8. A:** If traveled to the site via vehicle, visit a car wash or designated cleaning station; be sure to spray the undercarriage.
- **BMP P-8. B:** Preferred locations for equipment cleaning areas are those where:
  - Equipment is unloaded or loaded.
  - Invasive species are already established.
- **BMP P-8. C:** Do not clean equipment in or near waterways – it may promote the spread of invasive species downstream.
- **BMP P-8. D:** do not dispose of soils, seeds, debris or invertebrates in your yard, compost pile or down a storm drain; place in a plastic bag in the trash, or incinerate.

~~**BMP P-9:** When processing gathered materials, remove invasive plants and dispose of them properly.~~

**Now reads:** When feasible, incorporate invasive species prevention into planning for special events such as cross-country races, organized hikes/walks, ski events, and other occasions.

- **BMP P-9. A:** Place shoe/equipment cleaning stations at entrance and exit points.
- **BMP P-9. B:** Plan travel routes to avoid areas of heavy infestation.
- **BMP P-9. C:** Provide participants with informational brochures and other educational materials related to invasive species prevention.
- **BMP P-9. D:** Identify species in the field to educate participants.
- **BMP P-9. E:** Consider adding a component of removal and proper disposal of invasive species as part of the event.

**NOTE:** BMP P-10 was restructured to form BMP P-8

**BMP P-10:** Now reads: Report infestations of invasive species to the appropriate land manager or property owner.

- **BMP P-10. A:** Provide as exact location as possible; take a photo, GPS coordinates, and/or map of the infestation.
- **BMP P-10. B:** Use diplomacy if contacting a private landowner.

NOTE: BMP P-11 summarizes and allows for the deletion of P-12 & P-13

**BMP P-11:** Volunteer to help control invasive species.

- **BMP P-11. A:** Contact public and private landowners, agencies, and nonprofit organizations to find out about volunteer opportunities.
- **BMP P-11. B:** When appropriate, knowledgeable visitors can help by pulling and properly disposing invasive species.
- **BMP P-11. C:** Dispose of plant materials by burning on site (if permissible) or by bagging for trash; do not compost.
- **BMP P-11. D:** **Spread the word- help educate others about invasive species and their effects on our environment, economy, and recreational opportunities.**

Several changes were made to the pedestrian BMPs.

- ✓ **Assignment:** Kris Tiles will send changes to Kevin after the meeting.
- ✓ **Assignment:** Bernie Williams will note changes in the minutes should there be any discrepancy.
- ✓ **Assignment:** Kevin will share changes with members of the pedestrian spoke and provide us with follow-up comments and changes.
- ✓ **Assignment:** Bernie Williams will craft examples of call-out boxes that may be formatted into the pedestrian BMPs. Examples such as Oriental Bittersweet, and Garlic Mustard.
- ✓ **Assignment:** Bernie Williams will follow-up on providing links that would access invasive species via the web.
- ✓ **Decision:** Kevin accepts changes made, though will need to seek approval of the other members of the pedestrian spoke before finalizing the changes.

Kelly Kearns pointed out that several of the BMPs overlap, and thought it is repetitive; they are individualized for each spoke. It was decided that even though fishing can be construed as a pedestrian activity that it will be addressed under the Hunting and Trapping BMPs.

NOTE: Anglers has been added to Hunters & Trappers

### **Hunters, Trappers and Anglers (Dean Bowe)**

The first changes that the advisory committee recommended be made to the BMPs were the restructuring of HT-2 through HT-6 and the addition of BMPs HT-7 through HT-9. Many of the concerns arose over not being specific enough to being too vague on the issues that hunters, trappers, and anglers may encounter. It was also decided that addressing the issue of non-native earthworms was necessary when approaching anglers who discard their bait.

BMP H-2 through H-6 now reads:

**BMP HT-2.** Wear clothing and footwear that are not “seed friendly”

- **BMP HT-2. A:** In Appropriate areas wear low-tread footwear that doesn't hold soil, seeds and other debris.
- **BMP HT-2. B:** Consider dedicating a pair of shoes or boots for use only on infested properties.
- **BMP HT-2. C:** Wear ankle gaiters over socks and shoe laces.
- **BMP HT-2. D:** Avoid wearing bulky knits (e.g., wool, fleece) pants with cuffs, and other fabrics or clothing styles, to hunting sites, that may carry seeds.

**BMP HT-3:** Prior to moving hunting or trapping equipment, vehicles or trailers into or out of an area; spray scrape or brush soil and debris from exterior surfaces (to the extend practical) to minimize the risk of transporting soils, seeds, plant parts, or invertebrates.

- **BMP HT-3. A:** Visit a car wash or designated cleaning station; be sure to spray the undercarriage of the vehicles.
- **BMP HT-3. B:** Preferred locations for equipment cleaning areas are those where: Equipment is unloaded and loaded, and where Invasive species are already established.
- **BMP HT-3. C:** Do not clean equipment, vehicles or trailers in or near waterways-it may promote the spread of invasive species downstream. Wet traps should be rinsed free of mud and/or debris when removing them from the location of a set trap. Dry set traps should be scrapped free of dirt and debris when removing them from a location set trap.
- **BMP HT-3. D:** Do not dispose of soils, seeds, debris or invertebrates in your yard, compost pile or down a storm drain; incinerate or place in a plastic bag in the trash.

**BMP HT-4:** Inspect and clean hair, clothing, footwear and gear for soils, seeds, plant parts, or invertebrates before and after recreating. Carefully dispose of soil, seeds, plant [arts or invertebrates found during the inspection and cleaning

- **BMP HT-4. A:** Carry a wire brush or small screwdriver to help remove soil, plant parts, and seeds and insects.
- **BMP HT-4. B:** Do not clean clothing, footwear or gear in or near waterways-it may promote the spread of invasive species downstream.
- **BMP HT-5. C:** Do not dispose of soil, seeds, debris, or invertebrates in your yard, compost pile, or down a storm drain; incinerate or place them in a plastic bag for the trash.

**BMP HT-5:** Inspect the coat and feet of companion animals (hunting dogs) before and after recreating. Carefully remove and dispose of soil, seeds, plant parts or invertebrates found during inspection.

- **BMP HT-5. A:** Carry a brush, shedding blade, small scissors, ect, to help remove invasive seeds and animals.
- **BMP HT-5. B:** Do not clean animals in or near waterways-it may promote the spread of invasive species downstream
- **BMP HT-5. C:** Do not dispose of soils, seeds, debris, or invertebrates in your yard, compost pile or storm drains; incinerate or place in a plastic bag for the trash.

**BMP HT-6:** Stay on designated trails and other developed areas with motorized vehicles

- **BMP HT-6. A:** Minimize soil disturbance; it may promote weed germination and establishment.
- **BMP HT-6. B:** Destruction of native plants favors invasive species.
- **BMP HT-6. C:** By venturing into uninfected areas, you may introduce invasive species by carrying plant fragments or seeds.
- **BMP HT-6. D:** Avoid trails that are wet and muddy. If wet areas are encountered, go through them rather than around, if possible.

**BMP HT-7:** When off trail, avoid areas that appear to be infested with invasive species; “When in doubt, stay out!”

- **BMP HT-7. A:** The chances of transporting seeds, plant fragments, and other debris increase in the areas of heavy infestation.
- **BMP HT-7. B:** Direct contact with some invasive species can effect human and animal health, including skin and eye irritation.

- **BMP HT-7. C:** Minimize soil disturbance if traveling off trail and on stream banks. Disturbed soils can create favorable conditions for the establishment and spread of invasive plants.

**BMP HT- 8: Dispose of unused live bait (worms) in garbage container or your home compost.**

**BMP HT-9: Report infestations of invasive species to the appropriate land manager or property owner.**

- **BMP HT-9. A:** Provide as exact a location as possible; take a photo, GPS coordinates, and/or map of the infestation.
- **BMP HT-9. B:** Use diplomacy if contacting a private landowner.

It was decided that Anglers would be added to the hunting spoke and a paragraph would need to be drafted and added to the introduction. The changes made were agreed upon by Dean Bowe and the committee. Though it was noted that again there would be some overlapping of the spokes, particularly with land management and hunting.

- ✓ **Assignment:** Dean Bowe will write a paragraph addressing terrestrial anglers to be added to the introduction.
- ✓ **Decision:** The committee accepts changes made.

### **Land Management (Bill Duncanson)**

Bill gave an update on the land management spoke. The last meeting was April 1<sup>st</sup> and they had been working with Karen Sonnenblick on the draft. There is still some fine tuning that will need to take place and Bernie Williams will step in where Karen had off.

- ✓ **Assignment:** Bernie Williams will follow up with Bill Duncanson on further revisions to the draft.
- ✓ **Assignment:** Bernie Williams will send out revised, and cleaned up version of the land management draft.

### **Updates on the remaining spokes**

**Bicycling-** Brigit was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior obligation. She did provide a rough draft that was sent to Kris Tiles, Kimberly Currie, and Bernie Williams. It was not ready to be commented on, and it was decided that it would be sent to the rest of the committee.

- ✓ **Assignment:** Bernie Williams will send the Bicycling draft to the advisory committee.

**Animals-** Mindy Krolick was unable to attend the meeting due to an automobile accident. Bernie Williams had spoken to her the week before and she was working on the draft. John Jones had also spoken to her as well and she was not hurt in the accident just disappointed that she was unable to attend.

- ✓ **Assignment:** Bernie Williams will call Mindy and work with her by phone.

**Camping-** Kimberly Currie stated that it was far too early in the process to comment, and though she had hoped to have a progress update, with an overly busy time at the DNR this never came to be.

### **3. New Business:**

Kimberly opened the discussion on the formatting of the BMPs, asking the committee how they envisioned the final product being packaged. The committee was given draft copies of the Forestry BMPs as an example of a nearly complete product.

Bill Duncanson asked when the Recreational BMPs would be ready for public comment.

Thought the Forestry BMPs are gearing up for public listening sessions, Kimberly said Recreation was not quite ready for the public arena, and cautioned sharing the draft when internal stakeholders should be the first to be contacted. It was decided that we should follow a timeline:

- Once each spoke has a completed draft, the original stakeholders invited to take part in the drafting of the BMPs should be contacted and asked for their input.
- DNR employees who work directly with recreation should be provided drafts prior to finalizing the product.
- FILT (Forestry Invasive Leadership Team) will be provided drafts and asked for their support.
- We would then share drafts with The Forestry Council, and The Invasive Council prior to public listening sessions.
- Prior to sharing the draft with the public a short intro on the formation of the BMPs will be written.
- Public listening sessions will begin with select focus groups in targeted areas.
- The draft will be posted on a website open for public comment.
- Public comments will be compiled and summarized seeking a 50 / 50 split from public meetings and web comments.
- ✓ **Assignment:** Bernie Williams will compile a spread sheet to compile comments once they the draft is posted.
- ✓ **Assignment:** Bernie Williams will follow up with IT on posting the draft to the web and formatting a blog for the BMPs.

### **Phase II of BMPs (Educational Materials)**

Kimberly asked the committee if they planned to stay on board with the BMPs as we near closer to Phase II. Stating there will be changes on the committee as we seek further involvement from educational resources. Though if you consider leaving, please find a replacement.

- ✓ **Decision:** The committee decided that each spoke would provide a final draft by the morning of July 14<sup>th</sup>. (sent to Bernie Williams – bernadette.williams@wisconsin.gov)
- ✓ **Decision:** There would be a 2 hour conference call the following Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup> from 9am to 11am.
- ✓ **Decision:** A follow-up meeting will be held Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup> from 9am to noon at UW Hancock Station.
- ✓ **Decision:** The last Advisory Committee meeting for Phase I will be held Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 3pm in Wausau.
- ✓ **Assignment:** Bernie Williams will create an excel spread sheet calendar to track meetings and input for each spoke.
- ✓ **Assignment:** Bernie Williams will arrange for a web conference call on July 21<sup>st</sup>, and provide directions on how to log in and listen.
- ✓ **HOMEWORK:** Please provide your updated draft by Monday July 14, 2008.

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