



# Marin/Sonoma Weed Management Area

*Putting the 'we' in weed management!*

## MINUTES

April 13, 2009

9:30 am to 12:30 pm

City of Petaluma Offices

11 English Street

Petaluma, CA 94953

Laurel Thomassin	Marin Co. Ag.	Sue Ostrom	Sonoma Co. Ag.
Shawn Casteel	Caltrans	Jen Jordan	NPS
Dan Gluesankamp	ACR	Beau Miller	Dow Agrosiences
Mischon Martin	Marin Co. Open Space	Kathryn Taylor	Dow Agrosiences
Pete Frye	Marin Co. Open Space	Sarah Bailly	SCAPOSD
Noelle Johnson	Gold Ridge RCD	Mark Neuhouser	SEC
M. L. Carle	Milo Baker CNPS	Ellen Hamingson	Point Reyes NS
Andrea Williams	NPS		

Chair: Sue Ostrom

Secretary: Noelle Johnson

### **Discussion Items:**

#### Review of Rapid Response Coordinator Scope of Work

Noelle J. had developed a SOW for the new role and submitted it to the group for review. All WMA members will receive the CalFlora spreadsheet to begin to report sightings for ranking. Noelle will compile the reports for the BAEDN, which will then provide a prioritized list. This will be used to develop a treatment action plan, that will be approved by subcommittee, and submitted to the group for advice. Dan G. will lead the subcommittee, which will meet as necessary.

Information of weed infestations are anticipated to come from a variety of sources, although the RR Coordinator needs to do outreach so people in both counties are aware of the position. Dan G. has set up a website for the MSWMA, and CalFlora should be available soon as a reporting mechanism. The MSWMA website should also include a mechanism to track in-kind funding. Mark N. emphasized the importance of organizing volunteers for removal efforts, the need to develop a priority species list to distribute, and the role the RR Coordinator should play in assisting with acquisition of additional funding. Sue O. emphasized that efforts should focus on on-the-ground progress, as the funding is at risk and we need to show success. Invoices to the CDFA must now be submitted monthly.

Due to access constraints, eradication efforts will focus on partner organization properties, private properties with participating landowners, public lands, and roadways. Shawn is able to facilitate no fee encroachment permits through Caltrans.

The following species were discussed as possible targets:

Common reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
?	<i>Pennisetum (sp?)</i>
?	<i>Sesbania (sp?)</i>
Skeleton weed	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>
Iberian starthistle	<i>Centaurea iberica</i>
Giant reed	<i>Arundo donax</i> (in Marin)
Salt cedar	<i>Tamarisk spp.</i>
Sweet vernal grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
Canary Island St. John's wort	<i>Hypericum canariense</i>
Mayten tree	<i>Maytenus boaria</i> (near Tiberon)

#### Discussion of meeting logistics and position roles

The group clarified responsibilities of positions in regards to WMA meetings:

Chair:	facilitates meetings, arranges venue, arranges for guest speakers.
Secretary:	takes and distributes minutes
Coordinator:	puts out meeting reminder and call for agenda items, develops and distributes agenda, provides update on RR project progress

NOTE: Refreshments at meetings can only be made available through member donations, as there is no funding for this.

#### 2009 Meeting Schedule

The group decided to have meetings quarterly rather than bimonthly. The next meeting will be at the same venue on Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 – 12:00. The following meeting will be Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### WMA listserv

Dan G. has put together a listserv for WMA members. This should facilitate sharing information, maintaining a current email list and new members joining. NPS email addresses may continue to be problematic. Information about the listserv can be found at:

[http://mail.marinsonomaweedmanagement.org/mailman/listinfo/mswmapartners\\_marinsonomaweedmanagement.org](http://mail.marinsonomaweedmanagement.org/mailman/listinfo/mswmapartners_marinsonomaweedmanagement.org)

#### Rancher outreach

The WMA would like to have a meeting in western Marin/southwestern Sonoma County to target ranchers, possibly in combination with a weed workshop. A workshop previously held in Tomales proved an effective outreach tool. The Gold Ridge RCD plans to have a workshop on gorse removal through a FWS grant. It has not yet been scheduled. CNGA also does weed-focused workshops. Laurel T. also hopes to include information about the MSWMA in the crop report. Fred is planning to meet with Nancy Scolari of the Marin RCD.

#### Calendar year planning

Elaborating proposals for yearly WMA funding will be added to the October agenda. Marin and Sonoma RCDs may be able to assist with the process.

#### Review of algorithm due to inavailability

The Algorithm still needs to be reworked to correct duplicity. Kate Symonds may not be available to be secretary during the next meeting. Laurel T. will work with Fred to devise an improved system for assuring each meeting will have a secretary and chair.

#### Phragmites australis

M.L. Carle questioned whether any infestations are known in the Bay Area. There is one site at Pepperwood Preserve and another along 101 north of Novato. Andrea W. agreed to contact the Invasive Spartina Project

#### CNPS donation

M.L. Carle announced that the Milo Baker CNPS chapter is contributing \$500 to the MSWMA.

#### In memory of Bob Soost

Bob died on March 8<sup>th</sup> at the age of 88. He had been a plant geneticist at UC-Riverside, was a leader in rare plant monitoring for NPS, and had received multiple awards for his efforts. He was very active in the WMA. A memorial was held April 4<sup>th</sup>. The WMA plans to send a card.

#### Marin County IPM Ordinance

The Marin County Open Space District is starting a vegetation management plan, which will be affected by the IPM ordinance going before the Board of Supervisors, as it may severely restrict pesticide use due to actions by advocacy groups. Mishon requests the WMA members get involved in the public hearing.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JULY 14, PETALUMA CITY OFFICES, 9:30-12:00

Meeting adjourned.