

MCL Invasive Plant Subcommittee

Meeting of April 20, 2016

Agenda

Location: the Muir Woods Conf. Room across the corridor from the MCL offices at
175 North Redwood Drive, Suite 135, San Rafael

Announcements/Calendar Items/Info Sharing:

-Expanding our email list. Members are reminded to be on the lookout for people interested in our work who we can add to our email list.

-Request for guest speakers and topics. Another reminder to members to be on the lookout for speakers and topics of interest to our group.

-Priscilla Bull sent the Cal-IPC Herbicide BMP report to all MMWD directors. Paul sent it to Supervisors Rice and Sears with an explanatory note.

-Paul will be preparing an analysis of New York's new invasive plant rules for the Cal-IPC newsletter, comparing them with California's invasive plant regulations.

-IPM Commission meeting 9:00 Friday April 22 in BOS chambers. Paul has arranged for Joel Trumbo, Senior Scientist and Statewide Integrated Pest Management Coordinator for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, to present the Cal-IPC Herbicide BMPs for Wildlife to the IPM Commission at one of their meetings later this year. Paul: presentation to the IPM Commission regarding its narrow focus on herbicide use.

-Paul: Plant Right's current list of invasive plants being sold in nurseries is down to five, with 15 plants having been removed from the list as a result of their activities (see website). Paul suggested five new additions: helichrysum, pink and white rockrose, echium, and forget-me-nots.

-Stefan Parnay's draft invasive plant ordinance; comments on version 2 are due April 29. Best outside source for use as a model: Boulder County's 2004 Noxious Weed Management Plan. Eva comparing state's noxious weed list with Cal-IPC list and local agency lists. Paul will circulate further comments.

Agenda Items

Recent Events & Updates

-Betsy and Paul: report on their tour of the Redwood Landfill composting facility, with an emphasis on the technique they use to sterilize seeds (maintaining compost pile temperature at 131 degrees).

-Followup to Eva's power point presentation on the Canalways site. The results of 18 months of monitoring the site following goat grazing of pampas grass and other invasives show that the pampas grass had substantially recovered from the grazing in six months and was completely recovered in 12 months. Eva also confirmed that both pampas grass and jubata grass are present at the site and noted the effects of grazing on fennel and Himalayan blackberries. Paul contacted Larry Luckham of the San Rafael Fire Commission re how best to use this information. He suggested presenting the conclusions of Eva's report to the San Raphael Fire Dept.'s new Vegetation Management Specialist, Jared McDaniel, and the new Deputy Fire Chief Bob Sinnott.

-Presentation of coalition letter to the Board of Supervisors at their recent meeting asking them to shift their focus from reducing glyphosate use in the parks to launching a campaign of education and information to reduce use of glyphosate and other landscape chemicals county-wide. Assent by 4 supervisors.

Current/New Items

-Herbicide use as a BOS campaign issue and MCL's position and approach to candidates.

-Should we search for a consultant for local agencies who can better explain risk science to lay people?

Deferred/Back Burner Items

-Paul: Review of Tao Orion's Beyond Invasive Species, a Permaculture Approach to Ecosystem Restoration and Fred Pearce's The New Wild: Why Invasive Species Will Be Nature's Salvation.

-Jude/Paul: Presentation and discussion re the Open Standards for Conservation Practice

Mission Statement

The mission of the Invasive Plant Subcommittee of the Parks and Open Space Committee is to educate and inform the citizens of Marin County about the threat to our open spaces posed by invasive plants and to mobilize the human, financial, governmental and institutional resources of our county to take effective action to restore our open space habitats to their natural condition to the maxim extent reasonably feasible.