

Hamilton County CISMA Meeting Notes

3.12.20

- 1) Welcome (15 attendees)
 - a) Intros (name, org)
 - b) One good thing

- 2) Meeting schedule 2020
The 2020 meeting schedule has been released and is available at <https://www.hamiltonswcd.org/cisma.html>

- 3) Weed Wrangle Updates
 - a) 6 events in Hamilton County – on Facebook and www.hamiltonswcd.org/weedwrangle
 - i) 4/22 - Potters Bridge – HC Parks
 - ii) 4/25 - Fishers Spring Service Day (Ritchey Woods)
Year 16 for this event- targeting garlic mustard but repeat volunteers will pull small honeysuckle. Danesa pots up some garlic mustard and honeysuckle that morning to display/for education.
 - iii) 5/1 - Teter Farm and Retreat
IWF is leading the planning for this effort. Outside volunteers not needed as Duke workers are volunteering. Will have a professional pesticide applicator.
 - iv) 5/2 - Fishers (Cheeney Creek NA)
Targeting most garlic mustard but trash as well. Volunteers sign their name to a release list and time in and out for tracking.
 - v) 5/2 - Carmel (Hazel Landing)
Focus on garlic mustard but some honeysuckle and pear too. Brittany and Joanna follow right behind volunteers to apply herbicide to cut stumps with small spray bottles and dye.
 - vi) 5/2 - Westfield (Midland Trace Trail)
Westfield Green Together is partnering with parks—parks will manage the herbicide application. WGT is working to involve adjacent shopping center stores into the effort.
 - vii) 5/2 – Noblesville (Dillon Park) – Master Gardeners and parks are collaborating. Most volunteers will be boy scouts with MG group leaders.
 - b) Weed Wrangle planners gave updates/summaries of their events and we discussed options for volunteer releases and herbicide application protocols.

- 4) Branding
 - a) Our CISMA's name – the group discussed Hamilton County Invasives Partnership (HIP) vs Hamilton Invasives Partnership and the 'county' was deemed critical, so **we are the Hamilton County Invasives Partnership (HIP)**. While we won't have CISMA in our name we *are* a CISMA.
 - b) Mission and Vision – the mission and vision were reintroduced and deemed final.
 - i) The Hamilton County Invasives Partnership is a coalition whose mission is to mobilize land stewards to manage and eliminate invasive species in Hamilton County. We will do this through education and encouraging action.
 - ii) The vision: That Hamilton County's ecology, economy, and public health will be unobstructed by invasive species.
 - c) Logo/branding development – Branding is a high priority as we seek to deliver a clear and consistent message across partners. Andrew will be working on drafting up several logo options for our next meeting.
 - d) Website /url - a discussion was held concerning options for our url.
 - i) A meeting idea was selected-- **hcinvasives.org**. This url currently forwards to www.hamiltonswcd.org/cisma until/if we develop our own site.

5) Legislative/III/SICIM updates

- a) Terrestrial Plant Rule (TPR) – Claire has finished the press release and will send it out to media contacts next week. As previously discussed, we'd like to have a unified message across all partners. Claire solicited feedback on what would be most useful for everyone and it was agreed that social media posts would be helpful. Claire will develop and send out. Partners can post on org social media and individual locations (nextdoor, facebook, etc.).

6) Partner updates

a) SWCD

- i) Statewide Conference—postponed from March 26th August 20th. No need to re-register. If you can't attend there is a two-week window where you can request a refund. Check your emails or contact me with questions.
- ii) SWCD Tool Loan Boxes – We've added puller bars to our tool loan program, so we are up to 13 in varying sizes. I am also finishing up 4 "tool boxes/buckets" for check out. 2 will be for group work and 2 will be for individuals. They include folding saws, hand pruners, medium and large loppers, safety glasses, and educational info. *This is delayed a bit due to remote work/covid 19).
- iii) SWCD Invasives Workshop on April 18th is still on (for now at least).
- iv) Hiring graphic design intern – we are advertising for a graphic design intern (paid) for the summer to help with urban conservation publications AND to work a lot on development of HIP branded materials for the cismas use. Info is on our website—please share (or share from our social media) if you can!

7) Committee work

- a) There were not a ton of responses to the survey asking for committee work interest. Claire gave a review of where our initial committees arose from (the November needs/priorities assessment and December goals/objectives meeting). Claire again shared the summary charts that show goals, objectives, and strategies noting that some of these will be the foundation for committee work and for others there might be a other priorities. Claire noted that **the committees will be about advising the larger group and ACTION**. Committees will be where the programs, planning, initiatives, and HIP action comes from. With the attendees at the meeting we divided into committee groups based on primary interest to identify 2-4 main goals for 2020 and to discuss who we are missing in the committees and larger group and how/where we can attract more committee members.

- i) Technical committee – Group identified 3 main areas where clarity is needed.

- (1) Herbicide application restrictions through the state/how someone can get certified. The group wants to create a white paper about how to get the certification, who can apply what and where, etc.
- (2) EDDmapS – EDDmapS (online reporting system for reporting invasive species/tracking— used in the state evaluations to add/move priorities on invasive species lists, TPR, etc.), while critical, is not a management tool. The group wants to explore how we can create a county wide management tool. Carmel has a system they have implemented using GIS tools – this may be a good starting point. The group wants to bring in HAGTAG (county GIS group) to advise. The importance of EDDmapS was noted due to its policy implications.
- (3) Education – Need to define our target audience (developers, HOA's, big box stores, golf courses, landscape groups, city planners). A lot of materials/resources already exist so working with other CISMAs (especially Marion) makes sense.

- ii) Volunteer committee- Previously defined goal of 12 organizations to target seems like a lot. Where can we reach out to other departments/municipalities—for example a representative from Cicero- perhaps parks. ****Can one of our parks reps bring the invite to HAMP A?*** For volunteers there are a lot of businesses/organizations that can be contacted like environmental companies, northface, rei, local nurseries, etc. The county fair is also an opportunity for attracting volunteers—we could perhaps have people at the SWCD/MG booths? There is a lot of opportunity for volunteers from

- recent Master Naturalist graduates who need hours to get their certificate. Developing a shared platform (facebook or a webpage) for volunteers seems like a win as we have so many entities.
- iii) Organizational – we’re on track with the needs created in the initial meetings. Claire noted that it has been harder than she expected to create organizational documents. She thought other CISMA’s would have these developed we could adopt but in reality, it appears as though others have focused more on education and less on strategic development. Our group agrees that setting a strong organizational structure is important so Claire will try to keep working on that. Branding/logo development is a priority as well as potentially creating a private page for members to get materials on the website. The need for a secretary for notetaking and possibly other roles was discussed.
 - iv) Funding- Not a lot of interest shown here yet. Claire is working on an app for boot brushing stations but largely, this committee will work to fund needs requested through other committee work. It was asked how we are currently being funded—Claire reported that the SWCD built some money into its 2020 budget to get things going but that will not be ongoing. We will need grants, commercial support, etc. for ongoing operations. We may want to pursue cities, parks departments, partners paying into the CISMA. We do need to get grants to show the county we can bring in programming money.
 - v) Policy – Based on group discussion, the previously identified policy goals are likely longer term. Initial work will likely be working to build power through success of the CISMA so we can advocate successfully as needs arise. We can work on improving relationships with developers, and provide trainings to developers, planning commissions, and administration level decision makers at cities as well as elected officials. This would be through/in coordination with the education committee.
 - (1) Instead of trying to push our own policy initiatives, Dorrie had the great idea of trying to implement initiatives (such as natives only in new developments, no subs without permission) as part of other city/community wide green or sustainability initiatives that are already well received or priorities for local decision makers (climate plans, “green” initiatives).
 - b) Claire solicited feedback as to our next steps with committee work—how do we translate goals into action. Separate meetings will likely need to be held and organized via committee leaders.
 - i) It was decided that Claire will send an email asking the full list who wants to help organize ___ committee (with my support) and from there we can try to set up initial committee meetings.
 - ii) * this is complicated by covid-19.
- 8) Who are we missing, how do we build our partnership?
- a) CILTI came up repeatedly as consistent HC parks and INPS representation. Claire will send out the full mailing list so people can see who they have contacts with who are on the list but not attending and/or not on the list at all.

Next meeting - April 1st, 2020 - Noon-? Will be a ZOOM online meeting. Claire will send more details!

Attendees:

Claire Lane, HC SWCD	Brittany McAdams – CCPR
Taylor Wilson- HC SWCD	Kim Gauen
Andrew Fritz – HC SWCD	Todd Gillian – Carmel UF
Amanda Egler	
Danesa Stolz – Fishers Parks	
Phil Flannagan	
Rosie Taylor – Spring Green Garden Club	
Shelly Brown- WGT	
Craig Wind – Blatchley	
Nick Bonnet	
Laura McCloughan – HCMGA	
Dorrie Keyes	
Joanna Woodruff – CCPR	