

CISM Steering Committee Meeting

May 15, 2015
Conference Call

Steering Committee Participants: Dave Burch, Gina Ramos, Andrew Canham

CISM/MSU Participants: Tracy Sterling, Scott Bockness, Kim Goodwin, Emily Rindos

Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction, *Tracy Sterling, CISM Interim Director*
2. New CIG grant proposal, *Scott Bockness*
3. Outreach pub and sage grouse report update, *Kim Goodwin*
4. Finalizing CISM projects, grants, website, and other materials, *Emily Rindos*
5. CISM end date: June 30, 2015

Welcome

Tracy: Thank you all for joining us today. This will be the last Steering Committee meeting. Thank you all for your support and dedication to the Center.

Emily is currently the only staff member on payroll. Gina Ramos (BLM) generously provided \$5,000 to the Center in March and we have been using that to make updates to CISM's website and prepare it for archival.

New CIG Grant Proposal

Scott: Tracy and I just submitted a new NRCS CIG proposal (submitted a pre-proposal in April and was invited to submit a full proposal). The proposal was submitted through NMSU and the lead on the grant is Dr. Amy Ganguli (who was a partner on the last CIG project). MSU would be a subcontract on the grant; as with the last CIG project, there will be match from Montana and Wyoming. We expect to hear back from NRCS in June. A major component of new project is utilizing parallel adaptive management of woody invasive species in MT, WY, SD but with a twist...we're hoping to investigate pyrolysis (do biomass conversion on-site in a controlled oxygen burn process...burning the biomass gets rid of transportation cost but allows us to do control burns on-site, convert it into bio char, and incorporate that into soil amendment process. Looks like it will be a great fit for us. We think it can lead the way for NRCS to develop a new conservation practice for land owners, etc.

See Attachment A: CIG Project Proposal 2015

Outreach Pub

Kim: The project I am working on is an inventory of invasive species public education/outreach programs (essentially an index) throughout the western US. My initial finding is that there are over 250 groups doing outreach/education in the western US.

Focusing on public awareness; public support and engagement are essential. My research didn't include programs that did formal invasive species education through Extension; instead, I looked at informal education and outreach activities that support it. I have a seven page table of these programs that are organized by scale (national, regional, state) and also by type of organization, which includes government, NGOs, universities. Then I looked at the extent of public engagement in each of the programs, and determined if the program was strictly informational (true outreach: one-directional information; putting out brochures, etc.). True education is collaborative efforts with the public, such as weed pulls, community action projects, field days, etc. (true education: where the information is bi-directional).

Gina: What would be useful is a list of those products and such that is available, sort of a guide that we can distribute. One of the bills that was introduced by Bishop over two years ago included a provision that federal agencies could not spend more than 15% of their budget on education/outreach. One of the comments we made was that education/outreach is an extremely important component of invasive species because it's a still a relatively unknown thing to the American public. Limiting the amount we could spend would limit our ability to spread awareness. The info Kim is compiling would be very useful to us. The DOI also has a task force that would find it very useful. The feds, NISC, etc. would also find it useful.

Regarding the WAFWA sage grouse report, I have been working on this for Mike Ielmini.

Gina: There will be a summit for federal agencies in September and I'd like to present this.

Dave: I'd like to distribute this report to my staff.

See Attachment B: Invasive Plant Management and Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Report

Finalizing CISM Projects and Materials

Emily: I am currently wrapping up all of CISM's loose ends, including: grant reports, the website and listserv transfers, mapping pub, outreach products, and other odds and ends.

Regarding the website: I have been preparing the website to be archived (that is, removing sections which will no longer be updated, such as events calendars, news, and so forth). The site will continue to be hosted by MSU indefinitely. This includes all of the other websites that CISM hosts: the Missouri River Watershed Coalition, Conservation Innovation Grant project, Fight Five outreach project, Weed Prevention Areas program, past Weeds Across Borders conference, etc. Once this transfer is completed, the LRES front desk staff will have access to the websites and will be able to make changes and/or updates as needed.

CISM's listservs will be converted to Google Groups (that is, no longer hosted by MSU) so that they may continue to exist, free of charge, indefinitely. I will share this information with all of the relevant groups.

I am also working on archiving all of CISM's projects. For example, all of the MRWC files -- logos, printed materials and products, etc.-- will be archived on USB drives and sent to various individuals so that they may be used, reprinted, and updated in the future. I will do the same for the CIG project, Fight Five project, and so on.

I will also submit CISM's remaining grant reports before the Center shuts its doors.

CISM End Date

Tracy: The Center will officially close on June 30, 2015. Thank you all for your service and dedication to the Center. We sincerely appreciate all you have done over the past several years.