

Habitat and Restoration Subcommittee Meeting - Spring 2026
March 12th, 2-4 PM

Meeting run by Murielle Garbarino, West Michigan CISMA Coordinator

Participants:

Name	Organization
Murielle Garbarino	Ottawa CD
Kelsey Bockelman	MSUE
Jessie Schulte	Kent County Parks
Katie McLaren	Muskegon County Parks
Sabrina Huizenga	Muskegon CD
Kenny McMahon	Fishbeck
Emma Wattii	Oceana CD
Jeanine Heibel	Cascade Twp.
Ari Henson	Allegan CD
Seth, Joel, Andrew	Roots Wild

Key points bolded

Notes highlighted in orange

Goals for this meeting:

- Recap of SOGL grant
- 2026 CISMA grants
- High-priority invasive species to watch for
- Talk about ideas for future funding opportunities
- Partner updates

Overview:

- WMCN has 3 subcommittees
 - Structure and Function
 - Learning and Engagement
 - Habitat and Restoration (CISMA is here)
- Once a quarter all-partner meetings (see the WMCN calendar), 3 will have a subcommittee focus
- WMCISMA provides funding to 3 invasive species strike teams
- Each strike team covers:
 - Ottawa Conservation District: Ottawa and Allegan
 - Kent CD: Kent and Montcalm
 - Muskegon CD: Muskegon and Oceana
 - All work together to cover Newaygo

- [Splitting along M-37](#), unsure who to direct Newaygo Landowners to? → CISMA Coordinator

Sustain Our Great Lakes - 2023 - 2025

- Re-treatments sites of Japanese knotweed, invasive bittersweet, and phragmites in the Lower Grand, Pere Marquette, and Muskegon watersheds. 2023 - 2025
- Treated 614 acres!
- Bid for continued funding was not successful

2026 STRIKE TEAM FUNDS

Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP) - 1 year grant

- Not yet executed

Total Award: \$77,000

CORE: \$70,000

For coordinator wages/fringe, mileage, training, and general operational costs

Survey and treatment objective (Excavation Companies): \$7,000 (Cut by 41%)

Working with excavation companies to manage watch list, PH, JK. Recommended to continue working with the companies we already work with and using cost-share to bridge the gap. We work with 6 excavation companies currently. - Divided by workload

Budget/Deliverables Split may change after entrance call with DNR

	Ottawa	Kent (under contractual	Muskegon (under contractual)
Wage	1660	1800	1800
Travel	130	220	220
Supply	130	220	220
“Contractual” Muskegon and Kent	4505		
Indirect	600		
Total	\$7,000		

Deliverables

	Ottawa	Kent	Muskegon
Acres Surveyed	5	6	6
Acres Treated	8	9	9

EPA Subaward from DNR - 1 year grant

Grant Scope: Survey for and treatment of stiltgrass and cinnamon vine in the WMCISMA service area. Also, design and printing of doorhangers for each species. (3,000 each)

Total award: \$16,393.67

Budget - To be split among strike teams based on workload

Wage + Fringe	\$11,263.54
Travel	\$954.8
Supplies	\$2685
Indirect	\$1,490.33
Total	\$16,393.67

Budget

	Ottawa	Kent	Muskegon
Wage	5370.50	4130.50	1762.54
Travel	590.8	168	196
Supply	1395	930	360
Indirect	1490.33		
Total	\$16,393.67		

Deliverables

Treatment and survey of CV	OCD Deliverable
Number of acres treated	2
Number of acres surveyed	27
Treatment and survey of cinnamon vine	KCD Deliverable
Number of acres treated	1
Number of acres surveyed	3
Treatment and survey of cinnamon vine	MCD Deliverable
Number of acres treated	2
Number of acres surveyed	20

Treatment and survey of stiltgrass - Kent	Deliverable
Acres treated	4
Acres survey	75

EPA-EFB-3

Not yet executed

Sub-award from EGLE for European frog-bit survey and treatment

Potentially \$40,567.52

Early Detection Species to Watch Out For:

[Invasive Species Watch List Viewer](#)

Watch List Species to Look For:

Stiltgrass
Cinnamon vine
Ludwigia sp.
Mile-a-minute
Kudzu
Hydrilla
Lesser celandine

[Porcelain berry \(Observations\)](#)

Funding Needs/Project Ideas:

- **Notes**
 - Ryan Wilemski talked with Kent County Parks managers about bittersweet during shoulder seasons - good to make sure municipalities are on the same page with invasive species best practices - good idea
 - PLM (private contractors) - what is our communication with them? Do they need additional training? Can they alert us to certain invasive species that you find? Can we communicate with them better as they are out doing invasive species treatments? What is their protocol for reporting? Can they loop us in? Typically large-scale work
 - iNaturalist - reports - should we check those
 - Ari Henson - Kudzu, how can we be ready - MISGP? Nearby to Allegan
 - Lea Sevigny - lesser celandine - in lawns - mowing spreads, early survey window (March through May), herbicide for large-scale infestations, digging up for small infestations, be careful with disposal

Partner Updates:

- **Notes**
- Ari Henson - Allegan Conservation District - focused on starting up a strike team, hiring seasonals right now, lots of workshops (native plant workshop tonight!), hoping to do some invasive species workdays in Allegan in collaboration with Allegan County Parks
- Jessie Schulte/Zoe - Kent County Parks - invasive species control days, educating the public, Home and Garden Show - interacted with the public, lots of interest from people
- Eric Piehl - getting back into the swing of things! Would love to survey for celadine with Kent County Parks
- Sabrina Huizenga - Muskegon Conservation District - moving around of staff into different positions (Sabrina is now Field Operations Supervisor) - restoration work with the DNR in SGAs, grant funding for restoration on MCD properties, Food Forest grant to plant native food trees in low-income areas in Muskegon, HWA programs and invasive species programs continuing along. Education focus too. Muskegon County Water Fest! Lots of workshops. Trout Unlimited - celery flat wetland restoration
- Katie McLaren - Muskegon County Parks - Hopefully going back this summer! Spring native plantings, trying to acquire permanent funding for the parks, maybe a millage with a revenue share system with other parks (other levels of parks too, twp. Parks etc.), community events this summer!
- Emma Waattii - Oceana Conservation District - final year of GLRI grant, planting trees in Critical Dune Area, prescribed burning of autumn olive, tree lab outreach. Oceana Community Foundation grant -hopes to manage Japanese knotweed, "Barberry Be-

Gone" through Community Foundation - partnering with Black Cap (hopefully will be funded!), working on Stony Creek nature preserve that opened up

- Roots Wild Folks - Andrew - native landscaping in Michigan. Planning for the upcoming years. Educating people on-site about native landscapes and invasive species, connected with LGROW, Plaster Creek Stewards, trying to improve partnerships, and get the work out on native plants. Specialize in rain gardens, erosion control, hardscaping, and permeable surfaces. Getting ready for spring. Public education
- Kenny McMahon - Fishbeck - Doing a lot of wetland permitting - getting ready to go out and do spring wetland delineation, planning Fishbeck campus spring workday
- Lea Sevigny - land stewardship for wildcrafting - areas that haven't been treated with herbicide - using those plants for medicinal or edible purposes - if you have properties like that - let Lea know! Garlic mustard - making food with it!
- Murielle Garbarino - West Michigan CISMA - Sabrina and I recently presented at SiteOne's landscaping conference to good reviews! Would like to do again!