

**Six Rivers CISMA Meeting Minutes**  
**21 July 2011**  
**Blackwater River SF, Bear Lake Pavilion, Munson, Florida**

**Attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Barbara Albrecht	UWF
Barbara Almario	Florida FWC
Mikela Anderson	FDACS
Vernon Compton	The Longleaf Alliance - GCPEP Director
Sheila Dunning	UF/IFAS Extension
Daryl Hatfield	Florida DEP/Recreation and Parks
Jason Hayford	USDA/NRCS
Craig Iversen	Florida DOF
Brent Jordan	Florida DOF
Sarah Kalinoski	Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance
Erica Laine	Eglin AFB
Andrew Lee	Florida FWC
Gordon Rothe	The Nature Conservancy - GCPEP
Brooke Saari	UF/IFAS
Arthur Stiles	Florida DEP/Recreation and Parks
Dennis Teague	Eglin AFB
Darryl Williams	USDA/NRCS

**Introduction:**

Gordon Rothe called the meeting to order at 1000 and provided an update on the departure of Justin Jones to a new TNC position in Oregon. He offered the following working agenda for today's meeting:

- Partner introductions and updates
- Work plan and sub-committee updates
- Update on CBA/NFWF grant proposal with Sarah Kalinoski
- Discuss nomination of new CISMA chairperson
- Distribute Six Rivers Invasive ID pocket guides
- New business

Barb Albrecht took meeting minutes.

## **Partner Introductions/Updates:**

- Eglin Air Force Base/Dennis Teague and Erica Laine:

Used the Ecosystem Support Team (EST) to treat East Bay flat woods, coastal restricted areas, and Eglin AFB buffer lands at NWFL State College/Fort Walton Beach campus. Approximately fifteen days of work. Will need to be resurveyed and retreated at least every 5 years. Still has as untreated climbing fern problem. Had one partner workday at East Bay Flatwoods.

Dennis is working with Mark Gibson (US Navy) on website updates on five top threats: Torpedo grass, Japanese climbing fern, Cogon grass, Chinese tallow, and Chinese privet. If possible would like partners to send in data on above.

Also, Dennis would like to see Turkey Creek (Niceville, FL) treated for Tallow and Kudzu as part of CISMA Phase III efforts. Echoed by Sheila Dunning and group proposed a Fall 2011 partner/volunteer workday at Turkey Creek, similar to City of Niceville reservoir efforts in the spring of 2011.

Erica Laine coordinates volunteers for many on-going projects at Eglin and has access to military volunteers. Please contact her if you might need help in Santa Rosa or Walton counties.

- UF-IFAS Okaloosa Co. Extension/Sheila Dunning:

City of Niceville workdays (see CBA comments below) very successful. Participation from approximately seventy-five Americorps and 'alternate' spring break volunteers from across the U.S. Celebrated National Invasive Species Week. Used as vehicle for public awareness. Again mentioned treating Turkey Creek this fall, some tallow survived previous treatments. Some questions fielded about liability: City of Niceville employees ran chainsaws. No volunteers used mechanical equipment or herbicide. EST responsible for herbicide application.

- UF-IFAS/ Brooke Saari:

Commented on the difficulty of standardizing definitions e.g. exotic vs. invasive, native. when teaching--compounded by whose doing the teaching--different agencies, different educational levels.

- Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance/Sarah Kalinoski:

CBA and IFAS coordinated two workdays at the City of Niceville reservoir removing hyacinth and tallow with 'alternate' spring break groups as mentioned above. CBA also attended partner workday at East Bay flat woods.

Sarah submitted an approximately \$ 75,000 proposal to NFWF to oversee/facilitate the Six River's CISMA from July 2011 through June of 2012 and treat priority landscapes. This includes a grant coordinator's salary but priority is Cogon grass and other invasives in the Choctawhatchee River watershed. Has partner support from Eglin AFB, Water Management, and Nokuse Plantation.

- Florida DOF - Blackwater River State Forest/Craig Iversen and Brent Jordan:

DOF lost funding for invasive crew. Brent Jordan is 'a one man show' now. Not able to keep up with invasive treatments as had been in the past. Contracting for spot treatments of Cogon grass and Japanese climbing fern. Thirty to forty acres treated to date--will do more as identified. ('Spot' defined as areas of less than one acre).

- Florida FWC/Andrew Lee and Barbara Almario:

Andrew gave details of a new coastal partnership that provides for stream restoration funding/reimbursement. Different than AHRES grant. Tallow trees found on island on Weaver River will be treated--likely seeds from trees killed in 2010.

- USDA NRCS/Jason Hayford and Darryl Williams:

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) NRCS costshare program is available for control of noxious weeds in partnership with Florida FWC. Cost-share for treatment on public and private lands (focus on agricultural lands). Currently it only funds initial treatment - not follow-ups. Update on current research using native plants (Broomsedge) to suppress Cogon grass--results not published yet but are promising.

Darryl noted problems coordinating public lands treatment with adjacent private parcels and vice-versa. Many attendees followed up with concerns about migration across property lines (e.g. Hwy. 87 and 331 Cogon grass infestation, Hwy. 87 South expansion project, DOT easements across conservation lands. Discussed need for better coordination with FL DOT. Has been attempted in the past. Gordon offered to try and line up DOT speaker for next meeting--hopefully can address some of these issues.

- Longleaf Alliance - GCPEP/Vernon Compton:

GCPEP added Westervelt Ecological Services as a new partner and is still planning transition of EST from TNC to Longleaf Alliance. EST will remain active in invasives and prescribed fire. Vernon is still working on post-June 2012 funding.

- Florida DEP - Recreation and Parks/Jason Tritt and Arthur Stiles:

Discussed Weed Risk Assessments (WRA's) and specifically a paper by Doria Gordon, et.al. *Predicting Invasive Plants in Florida Using the Australian Weed Risk Assessment* which noted the success of the Australian WRA in correctly identifying potential invaders. Suggested a link from the Hawaiian Ecosystems at Risk project (HEAR) which presents the use of the Australian model in Florida:

<http://www.hear.org/wra/tncflwra/>

Gordon will ask Christa Barlow to post a link on our CISMA Website.

- Florida Dept of Agricultural and Consumer Services (FDACS)/Mikela Anderson:

Mikela supported earlier member comments about getting FDOT to the table. Has been conducting inspections at local nurseries, etc..Has quarantined pine-straw with Cogon grass infestations. Mention of "Adopt Your Backyard Creek" program with focus on urban streams. Can conduct initial inspections and consult on treatments and replanting with natives.

- TNC Ecosystem Support Team/Gordon:

115 acres treated under Phase II of the DoD Cisma grant. Have received Phase III monies for Cisma coordination, oversight of 75 acres of treatment on a DoD buffer land. This will probably be Japanese Climbing Fern/Privet treatment at the Fort Walton Beach campus of NWF State College. Recently been treating Chinese Tallow and Cogongrass at the Hutton WMA.

Gordon took over EST lead from J. Jones--please contact Gordon if you need assistance. Also will have one new fulltime opening this month.

- Florida Native Plant Society/Cisma Scenic Highway Bluffs Park Workday (Barb Albrecht):

The Native Plant Society (NPS) and Cisma Members met Sat, 7 May 2011 in a collaborative effort to spot check and treat invasive species along the Scenic Highway Bluffs. The main invasives along that area are popcorn trees, cogon grass, and several foreign species (pindo palms) which were likely transported by run off or past storm events. The site was revisited in August where it was determined that the area will require another coordinated field event to remove the remaining stand of invasives. Cisma help would be very much appreciated.

### Discussion Items/New Business:

- Cisma Chair:

Discussion on Gordon or someone else taking over Cisma Chair until June 2012, when it will hopefully transition to CBA. Cisma group affirmed Gordon as Chair, with Brooke Saari as co-chair. Gordon will work on Cisma grant deliverables including updating 2011 work plan, beginning 2012 work plan, scheduling workdays, and monitoring sub-committees.

- 2011 Workplan Updates:

Gordon asked group for updates on person who the lead for each sub-committee. After list is updated, would ask each lead to review their actions items and update Gordon within thirty days if possible.

New sub-committee leads:

Prevention: Arthur Stiles w/ members Jason Hayford, and Brooke Saari

ED/RR: Craig Iversen with Brook Saari and Barb Albrecht

Control: Dennis Teague w/ Sheila Dunning

Data: Sarah Kalinoski

Outreach: Shelia Dunning w/ Vernon Compton.

- EDDMaps/Verifiers:

Sarah Kalinoski talked about the need for EDDMaps verifiers. She will re-check the process for credentialing as a verifier--other questions such as need for photo of each sighting? Potential verifiers should contact Chuck Bergeron. Sarah will forward credentialing information.

- Florida Native Plant Society:

Would like more integration with FNPS. Barb Albrecht will facilitate.

- Chemical supplier information for Public:

Brent Jordan asked about possibly making recommendations for low-cost suppliers to general public--local outlets usually very expensive. Some agencies prohibited from making specific recommendations, but suggested having interested parties contact IFAS or possibly 'Google' for low-cost providers.

- Potential for future CISMA Workdays:

Partners discussed opportunities for upcoming CISMA workdays. Possibilities include:

- Turkey Creek (City of Niceville). Sheila Dunning will be lead.
- Blackwater Heritage Trail (Milton). Could be a educational outreach. Gerard is contact--ask Vernon Compton for help reaching him.
- Pond Creek and Blackwater SF.
- Mattie Kelly Park (City of Destin)
- Bay Bluffs Park (City of Pensacola). FNPS members Barb Albrecht and Mikela Anderson will facilitate when weather cools a bit.

- Fall Six Rivers CISMA meeting:

Members generally thought mid-morning start time effective for travel. Sarah Kalinoski offered to host next meeting in late October/early November near Fort Walton Beach.

- Weed ID Decks:

Gordon distributed invasive species ID pocket guides to members. These were purchased with DoD CISMA funds.

Meeting adjourned at 1230.