

## CISMA STEERING COMMITTEE

May 31, 2022

Call to Order: 10:00

In person:

- Hope Abercrombie- City of Winter Haven **(new)**
- Tabitha Biehl- Polk County Parks and Natural Resources
- Charlie Browning – FWC, Lake Wales Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area **(new)**
- Brooke Coulter- Polk County Parks and Natural Resources
- Candice Knothe – Polk County Parks and Natural Resources, Environmental Lands Stewardship Coordinator
- Cheryl Millett – TNC, Tiger Creek Preserve Manager
- Mona Neville – FFS, Polk county forester
- Mike Sowinski- FWC, invasive plant management
- Savannah Sutherland- Bok Tower Garden **(new)**
- Savannah Winstanley – City of Winter Haven, Parks, Recreation, and Culture

On phone:

- Mike McMillian – Highlands County Natural Resources, Natural Resources Specialist
- Jackson Moseley- Polk County Mosquito Control

**Agenda Item 1:** Combining the Lake Wales Ridge Working Group and the Heartland CISMA tabled, though still interest in idea of working on combined activities.

New chairs proposed for each group:

- Julie Vogel (City of Winter Haven) and Shannon Carnevale (UF/IFAS Polk Natural Resources Extension) offered to be cochairs of Heartland CISMA (and Mona Neville offered to assist)- more under Agenda Item #2
- Candice Knothe offered to chair Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Working Group

Cheryl Millett met with Heartland Longleaf Local Implementation Team steering committee and they are interested in doing combined activities.

**Agenda Item 2:** Heartland CISMA leadership transition: reiterated Julie and Shannon interested in **cochairing for two year period.**

Asked for others interested in chair position- none.

Tabitha nominated Julie Vogel and Shannon Carnevale as cochairs. Unanimous vote in favor.

Mona reiterated interest in assisting. All agreed to continue being the village that makes this team productive and successful.

### **Agenda Item 3.** 10<sup>th</sup> annual Central Florida Invasive Species Workshop After Action Review

Those present thought it was successful.

Attendee survey results from Shannon (Heartland CISMA Workshop Evaluation Report 2022.pdf to be attached):

- Overall very positive feedback about the value and information, with lots of glowing quotes
- Increase in rating of networking opportunities: because was outdoors?
- Biggest negative was that the outdoor amphitheater seating was uncomfortable
- Second biggest negative was that glare on the TV screen outdoors made it difficult to see
- People from 8 counties attended-
  - used nominal charge (\$10) for out-of-CISMA attendees and ½ of survey respondents were from outside CISMA
  - some Polk County staff didn't attend because was full by the time they signed up (late)
  - a couple of people asked if fee could be waived (couldn't)- at least one paid and attended anyway
- some attendees who were new staff said some of the content was too advanced and would like more introductory info- more in #5 below

Proposed changes for future:

- Mike needs to change timing for Garden of Evil due to job change.
  - He will ask boss, Linda King, if last week of May possible (#1)
  - Or beginning to middle of October (but not until 2023)
- Possibility of making shorter, more frequent mini-workshops: everyone says no because set-up/planning/travel time makes full-day ones most efficient in person
  - Shorter ones could be virtual

### **Agenda Item 4:** FNAI Workshop After Action Review

FNAI training the following day used plants from the Garden of Evil.

26 signed in but Dexter Sowell (FNAI) thinks 30-34 attended. Mike said mostly agency folks.

Format: longer presentations delineating differences between invasive and native lookalikes in classroom, then shorter time in Garden of Evil (25 minutes vs. 50 minutes during CFISW)

Dexter had handout listing confusing species- Cheryl to get from Mike to share/post on website

### **Agenda Item 5:** Next?

- Idea of 101 presentations/in person trainings/mentoring for new staff
  - Most orgs do 1-on-1 orientation training but don't necessarily have a set training, so could be helpful
  - Polk County created a virtual library of short trainings (e.g., 10 aquatic invasive plants to ID)- willing to share
  
- Idea of returning to more specific workshops to complement annual
  - Aquatic
  - Grasses
  - Field
  
- New & improved Cisma websites- Heartland meeting is scheduled for Tue., June 14, 2-3:30pm
  - Julie, Savannah, Mike, Cheryl were to attend (Mike & Cheryl N/A)
  - Will provide opportunity to update and freshen up website with new materials (info from recent activities like pdfs from workshop presenters, Polk County virtual trainings)
  
- NAISMA (North American Invasive Species Management Area) PlayCleanGo Week is June 4-11
  - Cheryl to send email info with these notes
  - They have great decontamination info for boats, vehicles, equipment, etc. and well-designed graphics, social media

#### NEXT MEETING

Your new cochairs will be reaching out to set up the next meeting. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to be your chair and we're fortunate to have new capable hands taking the Heartland Cisma forward.

Adjourn – 11:15