

**MINUTES OF THE
Noxious Weed (Wild Chervil) Management Meeting
County of Grey – Seminar Room
Tuesday, May 11, 2010 – 2:30 p.m.**

Present: Co-Chairs Sheila McKerroll and Mark Cronin, Bill Klingenberg, Al Barfoot, Bryan Russell, Chris Cornfield, Bill Elvidge, Frank Beirnes, Glenn Gibbons, Greg Miller, Blake for Jim McCannell, John Howard, Keith Copeland, Ken Campbell, Doug Kopp, Ron Parkin, Perry Ramsay, Ray Robertson, Rick Carefoot, Rob McInnis, Debbie Robertson, Wayne Dewitt

Recorder: Kathie Nunno

Sheila called the meeting to order and provided an overview of objectives for the meeting:

Education piece to be distributed to achieve the following objectives

- a. Consistent approach to educate residents on why this is a problem plant
- b. Encourage homeowners to proactively deal with this plant if they see it on their property
- c. Identify additional areas in the County where this plant is (through public spotting)
- d. Map confirmed locations

Management Research Site

- e. Objective 1: Identify appropriate herbicide options to manage along roadsides and rights of way
- f. Objective 2: Collect data to satisfy regulatory requirements so that the county has a labeled option
- g. Objective 3: To serve as a demonstration site for public workers to view if there is value in doing so

Next Steps

- h. By fall of 2010, understand the scope of the weed's distribution in Grey County

There followed a short Youtube video regarding Wild Chervil in Vermont. Sheila and Mark then led a PowerPoint presentation outlining next steps from the December 8, 2009 meeting followed by Outcomes to date.

1. Next Step from December 8 meeting: Develop a policy governing County property control of weeds in general.
Outcome to date: A draft policy will be presented at the May 20th Transportation and Public Safety Committee meeting
2. Next Step from December 8 meeting: Involve Grey County Public Works
Outcome to date: Road superintendents have been updated through Grey County Public Works and were invited to participate in today's session.

3. Next Step from December 8 meeting: Mark Cronin, Weed Inspector Grey County will introduce himself to the local weed inspectors to assist with moving forward
Outcome to date: Municipal weed inspectors were invited to participate in today's session
4. Next Step from December 8 meeting: Ms. McKerroll will coordinate a spring field meeting with Mr. Cowbrough and the lower tiers to identify Wild Chervil and map problem areas
Outcome to date: Field meeting to follow this meeting weather permitting; Maps and spreadsheets were sent to lower tiers for completion to be returned to the County to be mapped on one map along with County road data.
5. Next Step from December 8 meeting: Create an education plan to lead and show what can be done and then go to landowners/Mr. Cowbrough will develop a "so what" piece
Outcome to date: Mike Cowbrough supplied a "so what" piece which was used to develop postcards which will be mailed to the public later this week
6. Next Step from December 8 meeting: Mr. Cowbrough will provide products to use at test site
Outcome to date: Mike Cowbrough and Peter Smith (University of Guelph) are working on this with Mark Cronin
7. Next Step from December 8 meeting: Mr. Cowbrough can assist in having Wild Chervil added to the product label
Outcome to date: Can be facilitated once best product identified through site testing
8. Next Step from December 8 meeting: Mr. Cowbrough will send out material to municipalities and will distribute a University of Guelph research document about screening herbicides
Outcome to date: University of Guelph (Peter Smith) will utilize the Georgian Bluffs site to do this research
9. Next Step from December 8 meeting: Ms. McKinlay will provide numbers for hay crop – sowing to forage
Outcome to date: Ray Robertson gave a quick synopsis of opportunities for forage exports, identifying a demand for only relatively weed-free product. Grey County is the largest County in Ontario in forage export with a value in excess of \$1,000,000.
10. Next Step from December 8 meeting: Ms. McKinlay will direct outcomes from the annual agriculture meeting to Mrs. Vokes
Outcome to date: Motion approved at meeting:

That Grey County Soil & Crop Improvement Association supports the County of Grey in their efforts to control the spread of Wild Chervil. A number of producers spoke to the motion, applauding the county for their initiative and the decision was unanimous.

11. Next Step from December 8 meeting: Mr. Shaw will request political support for budgetary consideration and requested the support of Councillor Pringle, Councillor Sullivan and Warden Wright. Mrs. Vokes will develop a report recommending proactive management of Wild Chervil.

Outcome to date: Resolutions endorsed by Grey County Council on January 5, 2010

WHEREAS Wild Chervil was declared a noxious weed by the County of Grey through the enactment of By-Law 3360 in 1992;

AND WHEREAS Wild Chervil continues to spread throughout Grey County threatening agricultural land;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report CCR-TAPS-63-09 recommending a framework for active weed control management of Wild Chervil be received;

AND THAT the Council of the County of Grey endorses proactive management of Wild Chervil rather than weed control being practiced on a complaint based system;

AND FURTHER THAT the lower tier municipalities within the County of Grey be requested to consider adopting a proactive approach to the management of Wild Chervil as well;

AND FURTHER THAT educational training opportunities be provided to local weed inspectors;

AND FURTHER THAT Transportation and Public Safety staff develop a policy on management of weed control for the Committee's consideration for implementation in 2010.

Discussion ensued.

- Budget amounts are required
- A product/spray cannot be recommended until testing at site completed by University of Guelph. University of Guelph attended the test site this morning and will return in four weeks, eight weeks and one year.
- The Weed Act specifies that an order can be issued if agricultural land is affected

- There are several other noxious weeds: wild carrot, giant hogweed, thistle, poison ivy etc.
- People who own the land have an obligation to maintain it for the betterment of everybody.
- Wild Chervil is a bi-annual weed. The recommendation is to spray in the fall.
- Health & safety: Wild chervil is not poisonous – no protective gear is required for cutting.

Questions/Next Steps

1. What is reasonable in issuing an order and location of weed in regards to agricultural land? Mark Cronin will contact Mike Cowbrough for a response.
2. Mark Cronin will forward a standardized script to the lower tiers to allow consistent messaging to the public.
3. If a response is received from someone living on a township road, will Mark be able to respond that the right-of-way will be cut?

Response from staff present:

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|-----------------|--|
| Meaford | will try to cut it. |
| MTO | will abide by the weed act: dig it out, mow it or treat it if an order is received. |
| Owen Sound | Will respond for anything that has to be cut |
| Grey County | Will respond |
| Grey Highlands | Will require an order to respond. Act on complaint basis. No budget. Will take to council to see how proactive they want to be |
| Blue Mountains | Will respond. Have been proactive regarding Giant Hogweed. Have not received direction for 2010. Will comply with orders. |
| Chatsworth | Assuming they will respond |
| Hanover | Does not have any at present |
| Georgian Bluffs | Anticipate response due to current support. Likely act on a call. |
| Southgate | Can't speak for roads, but assume action will be taken. |

4. Cutting involves using a weed whacker to the fence line.
5. Mark will tell the people once they have identified where it is, we will make the lower tier municipality aware and they will try to get out there and confirm its existence and hopefully cut it.
6. Everyone was requested to keep track of calls, their response to the calls and relay location identification to Grey County.
7. Frank Beirnes requested that each municipality include Giant Hogweed and Poison Ivy in their public standards by-law as a nuisance weed and that this be brought forth to County Council. He mentioned that the Health unit has expressed concern.
8. Refer calls on private property to Mark. Make sure you give extension 1289.

9. Participants agreed to a follow-up meeting in July to see what the response is, receive an update on the University of Guelph's findings to date and review locations identified.
10. Mark will communicate with the road superintendents with a copy to the weed inspectors.

Next Meeting – TBA.

We then adjourned.