

Natural Areas/Wetlands Group
Meeting Notes
2/12/19

Members present: Mike Lynch, Alex Roth, James Calkins, Janice Gepner, Kari Christianson

First order was an official vote combining the two committees. Mike brought the motion to the table, Janice and Alex seconded, passed unanimously.

Our general structure will be to use Marcia's presentation to identify all the ways glyphosate is used in natural areas/wetlands and then propose alternatives for each.

If IPM is the strategy touted by MPRB, then elimination of one of the tools (herbicide) that is used safely is in violation of IPM. A recommendation could be that we say that MPRB staff should strengthen or codify the IPM policies. Annual revision of IPM to integrate the latest science. An option/recommendation could still be to end the moratorium if glyphosate is needed in an IPM strategy.

An option to follow up on IPM use of glyphosate is that there could be a Pesticide Oversight Committee (internal staff) that would review the use of glyphosate each time it came up to make sure everything was properly documented and tried before moving toward glyphosate.

Two other things: We'll need to list the pluses and minuses for each alternative to glyphosate so that the board has the info for what each alternative would mean for budgets and staff. We may also suggest that we do case studies or trials where areas are and are not treated with glyphosate. Then people could experience these and provide input (eg golf courses).

Loring Park Hybrid Cattail Removal Project –

Glyphosate used for the floating mat and in the bay on dry land.

Cutting and inundating greatly reduced bay population

Dredging is potential but very disruptive

An option would be to say to cease removal because costs outweigh the benefits.

But there will always be cattails so they need a management plan

Cultural rec: encourage diverse native vegetation for competition. Drain the pond.

Mechanical: pulling cattail seedlings as they come in

Goats could also deal with shoreline stuff. Repeated treatment for 3 years.

Fire would work on the shoreline

Increasing salinity of the water will kill cattail

All of that may require one more year of chemical application

Other wetlands/ponds:

Reed canary grass – less susceptible to being killed by fire, grazing, mowing etc.

Mechanical – pull out small clumps, wetland scrapes, combo treatments

Purple loosestrife – biocontrol – continue

Recommendation – increase surveillance of EDRR species (would increase staff costs significantly)

Prairies: Minnehaha Park Prairie – North Mississippi Park Prairie –

List of prairie species: Wild parsnip, poison ivy, burdock, Canada thistle, reed canary grass, leafy spurge, spotted knapweed

Canada thistle: clopyralid herbicide for multiple years, decade of pulling or other types of repeated mechanical removal

Burdock:

Cultural: Foraging (encourage removal)

Mechanical: remove burdock seeds yearly, dig/cut taproot. Flame weeding of seedlings has mixed results.

Use MIPN database for the alternative control techniques

Minnehaha Park Storm Water BMP –

West River Rd. at 36th –