



MINUTES
Phragmites Network Conference Call
June, 2018 @ 6:00 pm

Present were:

<i>Association</i>	<i>Name</i>
GBF	David Sweetnam Heather Sargeant
12 Mile Bay	Ray Boots
Bay of Islands	Michael Dewson
Blackstone Lake	Rob Moos
Sans Souci Copperhead	Tom Denune
Woods Bay	Sue McPhedran (Chair)
GBA Executive Director	Rupert Kindersley

Sue welcomed the participants in this first Phragmites Network call and noted that Kathryn Davis of Honey Harbour and Tom Pinkham of Manitou had submitted information on the 5 questions posed, as they were unable to make the call.

Mapping

David Sweetnam and Heather Sargeant provided some details on phragmites mapping. The Phrag Spotter app previously used is no longer working and it is recommended that mapping should now be done on EDDMapS Ontario: <https://www.eddmaps.org/ontario/>
There is a downloadable app available on Apple Store or Google Play which provides good resolution/demarcation and uploads information instantly to parties such as GBF for incorporation into their Georgian Bay mapping of phragmites locations. Some have been recording the GPS coordinates on Google Maps and sending them to GBF, which works too, but is less efficient.
GBF undertook to provide a guide on how to use the EDDMapS Ontario app as it is a little complicated to use.

Notes

The bulk of the call was devoted to completing information on the 5 questions posed by Sue as per the attached Notes.

Demarcation and Responsibility

It was noted that some phragmites patches are not always easily confirmed as lying within an association's borders, and there is therefore a need to agree who will be responsible for the cutting and monitoring of these patches. As the mapping of all patches is developed, such patches should be tagged with the relevant responsible party.

Students - Volunteers

GBF described the difficulty they have experienced getting sufficient students hired for the Massasauga Park work in 2018. GBF are paying \$16 per hour and require applicants to have a valid driving & PWC license. There will as a result be a greater dependency on volunteers to combat the large stands in the park.

Municipalities

The following was noted about some of the municipalities located on or near the Bay:

Espanola – not dealing with phragmites at all and there is a lot on the highways and other roads that should be cut – education and action needed.

Manitoulin – actively engaged on eradication with a good program in place.

ToA – Mike Kearns is licensed to spray land based stands – i.e. along roads and in dry ditches.

Actively engaged – good info on website – partnered with GBBR and GBF, but no disposal facilities.

Tools

Suggested tools for cutting phragmites discussed:

High powered hedge trimmers for larger patches – Michael.

Rupert – large hedge trimmer with extendable arms good for phrag growing in up to 4' of water:

<http://www2.fiskars.com/Products/Gardening-and-Yard-Care/Hedge-Shears>

available at Canadian Tire and Home Depot.

Sue – tarps that cut phrag can be loaded on to and then floated away to a better location for drying out.

Difficulty of cutting phrag low enough when it is growing in 6' + of water was discussed.

Disposal, Clothing and Equipment

The recommended disposal methods + clothing and equipment are set out at the GBF website:

<https://georgianbayforever.org/the-process-steps-for-invasive-phragmites-removal-in-georgian-bay-wetlands-2/#Planning>

In many locations leaving the cut stalks to dry and rot in situ is a good option, provided they are tied up with bio-degradable twine to prevent blowing away.

MTO – Ditch and Road Stands

Heather advised that the Ontario Phragmites Working Group and MTO have a plan to deal with phragmites in ditches and beside roads.