

Terrestrial Invasive Species Program 2021 through September, 2023

Pam, Kitty and I met this week to discuss the pros and cons of keeping with our current USFWS grant for 2021/2022 which would require us to hire two interns for this summer. Due to the delays associated with COVID and other factors, we had two grants competing for the same time frame and deliverables.

- CAKE CISMA had applied for a DNR grant for 2019/2020 which had been pushed back due to COVID
- CAKE CISMA had also applied for a grant for 2021/2022 with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) which was in jeopardy because CAKE funding was removed due to COVID.

The original intent of these two grants is that they would run back-to-back thus providing a three-year program of interns working in the Archipelago and focus brought to the issues of invasive species in the islands.

In mid-2020, St. James Township was approached to take on the role of fiduciary of the 2021/2022 USFWS grant and we agreed to do that and much time was expended in completing all the budgets, federal data base forms and narratives for this grant opportunity to be funded.

In early 2021, CAKE was refunded and they obtained approval of the 2019 DNR grant which now would be worked in 2021. This was good, but it put the DNR grant in the same time frame as the beginning of the USFWS grant which would mean four interns working the islands in the summer of 2021. Issues with CMU being partially open and trouble finding vehicles contributed to an unclear notion of how to meet match on the USFWS grant. St. James continued to work the USFWS grant as originally proposed.

St. James applied for and received approval of \$7,000 from the DNR Wildlife Division for the treatment of invasive species during 2021 – and signed an MOA for those funds.

In February, technical difficulties with the Federal data base used by USFWS to administer grants meant that St. James had to resubmit the original grant paperwork for re-consideration. That paperwork was submitted February 11, 2021. Subsequent difficulties arose with this system in late March and unexpected delays in processing this grant occurred – jeopardizing St. James ability to hire interns in the time frame originally intended (April).

Our choices were to proceed with the 2021/22 USFWS grant and try to hire interns and hope that the funding would come through for us or to go back to the original concept of a three-year program and fund for 2022 and 2023.

**After discussing the pros and cons, St. James has decided to NOT fund this summer work program with the 2021/2022 USFWS grant. We will NOT be hiring interns for the summer. We will ask Shelby instead to work with the CAKE interns and staff to assist them in their efforts

and to start working our new TIS ordinances in St. James and Peaine. St. James will work with the USFWS to submit for a new grant for 2022/2023.

2022/2023 USFWS GRANT

As of April 9, 2021, St. James has submitted new paperwork for the USFWS grant and is working with Christie Deloria to facilitate this new submission. She is supportive of our efforts to have a three-year program as originally intended.

This new grant will go in effect in the June 2021 time frame and end September, 2023. This will mean the following:

- Portions of the MNFI work will be funded in 2021. St. James will work with Phyliss Higman of MNFI to ensure that we are all in understanding of which deliverables can be funded and when. **ACTION: CP**
- The new Grant will increase Shelby's hours (20 hr/week) to 36 hours per week for the 2022 and 2023 13-week field seasons. She will be working with the two 40/hr per week interns. Funding for this increase will come from 8 hours/week by Peaine and St. James and another 8 hours/week by USFWS. **ACTION: Supervisors need to agree on 8 hour/week increase during field season of 2022/2023 to be used as match in the grant.**

IMPACT: \$1,144 per year per township for 52 hours/year additional

- All grant match dollars need to be verified with grant partners: BIA, CMU, PABI, Little Traverse Conservancy, etc. for 2022 and 2023. **ACTION: Shelby**

2021 FIELD SEASON

Shelby is scheduled to begin her job 4/19/21. 20 hours per week through October 2021.

She will be working on the following:

- Obtaining her license and certification for species eradication
- Working with TIS Advisory Council, CAKE, Tribes, etc in planning for 2021 field season
- Begin work with the DNR interns and CAKE staff on May 14th
- Begin work with private landowners in the obtaining permission to survey properties for invasives
- Begin the TIS administrative process

St. James would recommend adding at least 8 hours per week to Shelby's 20 hours/week for the 13-week field season of 2021. This would allow her to spend time with the CAKE crew and to also pursue township private landowner issues. At \$20/hr – an 8 hr/wk increase would amount to \$2,080 or \$1,040 per township share of her salary. **ACTION: Supervisors**

The \$7,000 given to St. James for 2021 season will be used as needed for treatment in the Archipelago. Working with our partners – CAKE, Tribes and others – funding needs will be determined and allocated as needed. **ACTION: Shelby/TIS Advisory**

We feel this is a WIN-WIN for the Archipelago having a three-year funded program and giving Shelby a real opportunity to learn the job/area/function of TIS before running the program grant in 2022 and supervising her own crew for an additional two years of Terrestrial Invasive Species work in our islands.