

North American Weed Management Association

Early Detection and Rapid Response Liaison Committee

Sheilah Kennedy and Randy Westbrooks, Co-Chairs

EDRR Training Workshop Conducted at the Annual Meeting of the Invasive Species Council of Manitoba in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, Canada.

On November 20, 2008, Dr. Randy Westbrooks, an invasive species prevention specialist with the U.S. Geological Survey, in Whiteville, Carolina, and the co-chair of the NAWMA EDRR Liaison Committee, conducted an Early Detection and Rapid Response Training Workshop in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, Canada, in cooperation with the Invasive Species Council of Manitoba (ISCM) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The overall objective of the workshop – which was attended by council members and land managers from around the province - was to assist the council in developing strategies for increasing



EDRR capacity through interagency partnering at the local, regional, and provincial levels. As part of the afternoon program, the Carolinas Beach Vitex Task Force was showcased as an example of the new trend in interagency partnering to address new and emerging invaders. Ms. Betsy Brabson, the South Carolina Coordinator of the Beach Vitex Task Force, who participated in the workshop via teleconference, provided an overview of the history of the task force, as well as ongoing efforts to eradicate Beach Vitex from the Carolinas. On November 21st, Dr. Westbrooks served as the keynote speaker at the annual general meeting of the ISCM, which was also held in Portage la Prairie.

The workshop was conducted as part of a larger effort by the EDRR Liaison Committee** of the North American Weed Management Association to support the development of new capacity for EDRR across the USA and Canada. The workshop is also part of an effort to develop a North American Early Warning System for Invasive Plants – which was initiated at the 2008 Weeds Across Borders Conference in Banff, Alberta, Canada, earlier this year.

**Sheilah Kennedy (SK Environmental, Inc., Okanogan, WA), and Dr. Randy Westbrooks, are the Co-chairs of the NAWMA EDRR Liaison Committee.

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