

NY-NJ Trail Conference/Lower Hudson PRISM
PLANNING FOR EFFECTIVE INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT IN OUR REGION
PLANNING WORKSHOP #2 – December 5, 2013
Carriage House, Teatown Lake Reservation

KEY RESULTS & AGREEMENTS

1. **PRISM PARTNERS AGREED ON PRIORITY ISSUES AND PRIORITY GOALS**
2. **FORMATION OF WORKING GROUPS FOR OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PLANNING**
 - a. 6 working groups were formed
 - b. HOMEWORK DUE January 17
3. **PARTNERSHIP AND STEERING COMMITTEE STRUCTURE will be voted on at next meeting.**
Feedback from partners is requested prior to the meeting. (Send to Linda)
4. **NEXT STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING** – Thursday January 30 at Teatown Lake Reservation.

DETAILED MEETING NOTES

As a large group, we began the meeting with a roundtable to identify ourselves and share one thing we love about IS management. This started the day by once again giving us an opportunity to get to know each other a little better.

Anne presented the following process to enable us to have a draft plan by the end of February. She also reviewed the definitions which were distributed to participants in advance.

Lower Hudson PRISM Planning

Process & Schedule

(Draft plan by February 28, 2014)



Definitions

- **Current Situation:** Overview of the current and emerging trends impacting the focus for planning (ie. IS mgmt in LH).
- **Priority Issues:** Key challenges identified based upon a shared understanding of the current situation.
- **Vision:** Image of the desired future – inspirational and achievable.
- **Goals:** High level results to be achieved in a specific timeframe.
 - **Strategies:** Prioritized methods defined by NYS for achieving the goals.
- **Objectives:** Specific measurable outcomes to be achieved on the way to realizing a goal.
- **Action Plan:** Outputs generated through specific activities, tasks and projects designed to achieve specific objective

Strategies

- Coordinating partners
- Volunteer recruitment & training
- Managing IS strategically (e.g. identify IS prevention zones, and/or priority species)
- Early detection monitoring network
- Rapid response capacity
- Education and outreach
- Eradication and control efforts
- Research through citizen science

- Public and local government engagement
- Funding development

Lower Hudson PRISM Priority Issues/Key Challenges

As a large group, we each shared our own 3-5 priority issues for the region based on the homework that was assigned prior to the meeting. This homework included reviewing the current situation as documented from the November meeting. We identified commonalities and bucketed suggestions to arrive at the following priority issues/key challenges.

The Lower Hudson PRISM recognizes the following as key challenges regarding its mission.

1. *Many invasive species are firmly established in the Lower Hudson PRISM. Many pathways serve to funnel aquatic and terrestrial invasive species into the Lower Hudson valley and beyond.*

The Lower Hudson as a concentrated/gateway for IS (eg vectors pathways)

- population density inc. propagule pressure
- deer population
- acidification

Many widespread, firmly established invasives

2. *Changing environmental conditions, such as global warming, favor invasive species.*

Environmental conditions are a 'moving target'

- changes

3. *Influencing and changing behaviors of the region's large and diverse populace demands multiple approaches.*

Diversity of stakeholders w/different priorities, behaviors

- eg control of land- private, public, etc
- political environment- legislation & regulations, lack of enforcement

4. *Preventing new infestations of IS and managing existing infestations is inherently complex. Success is dependent on a building a knowledge base specific to the needs of the lower Hudson valley.*

Lack of knowledge (diffusion of existing knowledge)

Professional/scientific level: what's where; what's most harmful, what works; effectiveness of mgmt. actions over long term

Public: lack of awareness

Commercial

Policy & government

5. *Present efforts to prevent and manage IS within the Lower Hudson valley are diffused and uncoordinated and limited by available funds and other resources.*

Lack of resources (financial + human info. Capacity

Lack of public + govt support

Lack of financial incentives

- Maximize resources available
 - how to build knowledge base
 - leverage resources
 - better use of existing resources

6. *Data is needed for many decisions regarding IS, from the identification of candidates for early detection/rapid response or eradication, to management plans. Meaningful measures are needed for the evaluation of success.*

Developing meaningful measures of success

Lower Hudson PRISM Priority Goals

Working in small groups, each group prepared a list of 3-5 priority goals for the region based on the questions:

What is the greatest systemic, region-wide impact LH PRISM can make on IS management over the next 5 years? How will we know we will be successful in December 2018?

The groups took turns presenting their lists to the larger group. In the end, we recognized many agreements and over lunch each list was cut apart into its separate goals and the goals bucketed together into the following 6 priority goal categories. Then, we were asked to decide which of the 6 goals personally inspired us the most, and each partner self-identified to work on one of these goals. In this way, 6 working groups were formed. The working groups then drafted a goal statement inspired by the list of separate proposed goals that had been bucketed together. The bulleted items listed below the goal statement are some of these proposed goal statements that were captured and were used to inspire the final goal statement.

G1- Capacity Building

Goal Statement: *In 5 years the Lower Hudson PRISM will have a strong identity and sustainable funding.*

- LH PRISM will have a strong identity and funding success
- Increased capacity to fund and support additional projects
- LH PRISM develops sustainable financial support from other resources
- Create a strategy for ensuring continued support e.g. leveraging funding, legislation.

G2 - Conservation Targets

Goal Statement: *The PRISM will protect the rich, native biodiversity of the Lower Hudson Valley by focusing on priority targets for conservation.*

- <not available>

G3 - Strategic Management

Goal Statement: *The PRISM will support and optimize regional conservation through strategic invasive species management.*

- We are managing IS strategically using diverse resources.
- In 5 years we will be using technology and data to identify candidates for early detection and rapid response (iMap)
- We will be detecting, responding to, and preventing new introductions (ED/RR)
- Support best management practices and meaningful metrics to measure success.

- In 5 years we will be using data and technology to develop innovative methods and using existing methods strategically.

G4 - Stakeholder Engagement

Goal Statement: *The Lower Hudson PRISM will reach out to new audiences and deliver Invasive Species education that communicates clear steps for action on a personal and community level.*

- In 5 years, the public will be more engaged in stewardship.
- <etc.>

G5- Preventing Pathways of Invasion

Goal Statement: *In 5 years we will have a coordinated program for limiting the pathways of invasive species introductions through nursery sales, government construction projects (plantings for roads, public buildings, streetscapes, green infrastructure, stormwater control) and land disturbance (deer, vacant lots).*

- In 5 years we will have an increased and coordinated program for limiting pathways such as nurseries, deer, aquatic, and rights-of-way.
- Prevention! – prevent one invasion from becoming established
- <etc.>

G6 – Professional Network

Goal Statement: *The Lower Hudson PRISM will be an information sharing network of scientists, land managers, educators, and conservationists.*

- Collaborative marketplace of ideas/techniques/knowledge relating to invasive species management and ecosystem health.
- LH PRISM is a professional scientific information sharing network
 - develop strategies for most effective management
- Shared location support for knowledge
 - websites
 - workshops
- LH PRISM is the public/government/etc information resource for invasive spp.
 - including both active and passive

Each working group also identified and prioritized strategies for achieving their goal and began to draft objectives for years 1 and 2.

Homework was assigned to continue to draft objectives and associated action plans by January 17 in advance of the next meeting.

BUILDING THE LOWER HUDSON PRISM STRUCTURE & GOVERNANCE

The Governance and Structure Working Group (members of this work group are: Linda Rohleder, Ed McGowan, David Emerson, David Decker, Bob O'Brien, and Meredith Taylor) gave a summary of recommendations for partnerships and steering committee and asked participants for their written feedback.

The following read-out was provided as a handout to partners and reviewed briefly. Partners were asked to provide written feedback at that time.

Partnership Recommendation:

Only one level of partnership

Partners should need to sign an agreement with simple commitments

such as

- ? attend a certain number/percentage of PRISM meetings
- ? support the strategic plan and work cooperatively with other partners
- ? agree to file annual summaries of their activities for PRISM annual report

There should be some consequence of failing to meet agreed to commitments

such as

- ? loss of partnership status
- ? loss of eligibility for PRISM contract funds

There should be some benefits to partnership.

such as

- ? eligibility for PRISM contract funds
- ? support and sharing of PRISM resources among partners

Steering Committee Recommendation:

Composition:

A steering committee of 6 partner members would be elected by the PRISM partners with the PRISM coordinator being the 7th member and a permanent member of the committee.

Role:

The steering committee assists the PRISM coordinator with administrative decisions, partner outreach and coordination, implementation of the strategic plan, and the review of proposals for funding and the awarding of contracts.

Funding decisions:

The steering committee would make decisions on funding proposals but under the guidance of proposal ranking criteria developed by the partnership. Steering committee members would be eligible to apply for funding but must recuse themselves from voting. Members who must recuse themselves would be replaced by alternates drawn from the partnership for the proposal evaluations and selection.

Term:

Steering committee members would serve 3 year terms except for those elected in 2014. In order to introduce staggered terms, initially 2 members would serve 1 year, 2 members would serve 2 years, and 2 members would serve 3 years. At the end of this initial term, all members elected subsequently will serve a 3 year term.

A mechanism will be put in place to replace steering committee members who wish to end their term prior to its expiration.

Voting:

Within the steering committee, attempts would be made to reach consensus on decisions but if consensus could not be reached a 2/3 majority vote would be needed.

? Should the steering committee seats to be allocated to different categories to ensure a broad representation on the steering committee?

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: List of the Workshop participants

Linda Rohleder	NY-NJ Trail Conference (PRISM Coordinator)
Anne Gardon	Strategies for Change Now (Facilitator)
Hillary Siener	Teatown Lake Reservation
Dan Sorensen	Scenic Hudson
David Decker	Constitution Marsh Audubon Center
Jessica Schuler	New York Botanical Garden, Torrey Botanical Society, Sawmill River Coalition
Tom Lewis	Trillium Invasive Species Management
Walt Daniels	NY-NJ Trail Conference, Yorktown Conservation Board
Steve Ricker	Westmorland Sanctuary
Sarah Hoskinson	Mianus River Gorge
Carolynn Sears	The Invasives Project – Pound Ridge
George Profous	NYS DEC
Ethan Pierce	Mohonk Preserve
Marnie Miller-Keas	West Point US Military Academy
Erik Kiviat	Hudsonia
Kali Bird	Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
Ed McGowan	Palisades Interstate Park Commission / NYS OPRHP
Radka Wildova	Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
Daniel Atha	New York Botanical Garden
Bob DeTorto	Bronx River Conservancy
Heidi Cunnick	Housatonic Valley Association
Brenda Bates	Westchester County Parks and Recreation
Jen Stengle	Cornell Cooperative Extension – Putnam Co.
Diane Alden	Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct
Krista Munger	Pound Ridge Land Conservancy
Alyssa Reid	NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
Bob O'Brien	NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
Tait Johansson	Bedford Audubon Society