

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Lands and Forests

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The Mission of the NY Invasive Species Council is to foster collaboration and coordination among State agencies, the New York Invasive Species Advisory Committee, and stakeholders across the State to minimize the harm caused by invasive species to New York's environment, economy, and human health.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Invasive Species Council
FROM: Leslie Surprenant, Leader Invasive Species Coordination Unit
RE: NY IS Council Meeting # 27, January 20, 2016, NYS OPRHP Albany
DATE: March 31, 2016

Council met on January 20, 2016 from 10:00 – 3:00 pm at the DEC's headquarters in Albany. Eight of nine Council agencies were present, thereby meeting the 2/3 quorum for decision-making.

ISC Representatives Present:

Kathy Moser, DEC, Co-Chair
Christopher Logue, DAM
Mark Miller, CC
David Curtis, TA
Will Jaacks, SED
John Wimbush, DOS

Also Present from Council Agencies:

Leslie Surprenant, DEC (ISCU)
Peter Dunleavy, DOT
Cathy McGlynn, DEC (ISCU)
Megan Phillips, OPRHP
Aissa Feldmann, OPRHP
Pieter Bridge, DEC

Present from Invasive Species Advisory Committee:

Meredith Taylor, Chair (NYC Dept. Environmental Protection)

Present from Public:

Bernd Blossey, Cornell
Carrie Brown Lima, Cornell David Wong, SUNY Oneonta
Eric Davis, SUNY Oneonta

Meeting #26 Summary – Leslie Surprenant

ISC accepted summary.

ISAC Update – Meredith Taylor (2 Handouts – Annual Report and Meeting Report)

Provided update on meetings held on 10/7/15 (Meeting #22) and 12/16/15 (Meeting #23).

Highlights:

Distributed 2015 Annual Report

Meeting # 22 and #23 report: meeting

Education – how to get campaigns, iMapInvasives, etc. into schools

Feral Swine - Update from USDA

Implementing AIS Management Plan

Management plan gaps (Comprehensive IS Management Plan)

ISAC survey – would like more interaction with Council and joint annual objectives. ISAC wants to provide more guidance on specific topics and support ISC with initiatives.

□ ACTION: Council and ISAC will have joint meeting in early May (*scheduled 5/3/16; NYS DOT Albany*)

PRISM Report – Meredith Taylor (For Rob Williams) (*1 Handout*)

- PRISMs preparing Annual Reports and Work Plans
- PRISMs would like Council feedback on their progress
- Summarized 2016 focus for each PRISM

ISAW – All

Reports from 2015 – agency and partner events in 2015 included presentations on new Part 575 regulations and alternatives to invasive plants, invasive species / native plant information table at Thruway rest stop, information sharing/ training at DOT, online presentations on using native plants in landscaping, webinar on iMapInvasives, hemlock woolly adelgid survey, and more.

ISC Decision: ISAW 2016 will be July 10-16

Statewide 5-yr Education and Outreach Strategy – Leslie Surprenant (*1 Handout*)

DEC hired E-O coordinator on contract who will lead a small work group of ISC agency reps and an ISAC rep to recommend next 5-yr strategy to IS Council at Fall/Winter 2016 meeting. Presented draft team charge with table of what was learned from Cornell 3-phase study and experience since 2010. (*Ed. Note: Work group has DEC, DAM, OPRHP, APA, SED, and ISAC [Lk. Champlain Basin Program] participation*)

Regulatory and Legislative Updates – Chris Logue (*1 Handout*), Leslie Surprenant (*1 Handout*)

Part 575 Prohibited and Regulated Species - DAM inspectors reporting good compliance with regulations. Licensed growers are about 94% compliance for prohibited species; 75% compliance for regulated species and licensed dealers – 96% compliance for prohibited species; 85% compliance for regulated species. Most common prohibited species seen are porcelain berry, Oriental bittersweet, and Japanese barberry (prohibited 3/10/16); Aurea cultivar exempt. DAM will be contacting growers and dealers and retailers that were non-compliant as well as out of state growers and dealers shipping to NY.

Part 576 AIS Reasonable Precautions Regulations – Draft regulations were published December 16, 2015 and a 45-day public comment period will close on January 30, 2016 (Saturday,

therefore, public comments will be accepted until February 1). DEC anticipates the final regulations will be adopted in May, 2016.

Implementing updated AIS Management Plan – Cathy McGlynn

Cathy McGlynn, AIS Coordinator, presented on the Plan's top 10 priorities and ongoing implementation and planning. The goal of the Plan is to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS into and within the State. A suite of 49 actions were developed and the top ten priorities identified. Effort is currently focused on two priorities: expanding boat steward programs statewide and addressing Hydrilla.

- **Boat Steward Programs:** The Adirondack region is well-covered by boat stewards, most of New York lacks stewardship programs. A statewide boat steward program grant round funded by \$2,000,000 in Environmental Protection Fund is underway.
- **Hydrilla:** Two major infestations (Erie Canal in Tonawanda, Erie Co.; Cayuga Inlet, Tompkins Co.) are currently being controlled by herbicides under non-State agency leads. An infestation in a small water in Monroe Co. is being managed using triploid grass carp and benthic mats by the Finger Lakes PRISM.

A large Hydrilla infestation has been identified in the Croton River in Westchester Co. New York City's New Croton Reservoir upstream is also invaded by Hydrilla. DEC funded surveys of the Hudson River for Hydrilla (none found) and the Croton River for the extent of Hydrilla and also funded a dye study to inform a potential herbicide treatment. DEC helped train and equip volunteers for additional Hydrilla detection and delimiting in the Croton River. DEC is developing plans to initiate treatment in 2016 downstream from the Reservoir in 2016.

Research – Priorities and Recommendations for Funding in 2016 – Carrie Brown-Lima and Bernd Blossey

NY IS Research Institute has a new website that includes an Expert Database with 107 researchers.

Research Priorities – Carrie and Bernd worked with ISCU to select and clarify 3 priority research proposals from a total of 51 suggested projects/questions in 13 categories. Projects/questions were suggested by PRISMs, partners, and DEC Invasive Species Coordination Unit. NYISRI recommended 3 research projects and Council was asked to select two projects to be funded. Recommended projects:

1. Develop three-tier priority-setting model – builds on work underway to develop a strategic decision-making model to help managers and decision makers rank species, areas of focus, and projects. NYISRI convened 2 meetings and worked with PRISM leaders, partners, and a private contractor to develop a report. Model development under Cornell/NYISRI lead will require a new hire for about 1.5 to 2 years at Cornell to continue work. Estimated cost \$125,000 - \$150,000. (ISRI Priority)

2. Swallowwort (both Black and Pale) biological control agent research on a moth- (*Hypena opulenta*). Research would build on existing work by Richard Casagrande at University of Rhode Island. Biocontrol agent will soon be approved for release in NY. Needs include rearing cages. Project cost is estimated to be approximately \$85,000 over 2 years. (DOT and SLELO PRISM Priority)
3. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid biological control agent applied research (beetle native to Pacific NW - *Lariocobius nigrinis*) – builds on work by Mark Whitmore (Cornell University) in the Finger Lakes region under Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding and incorporates a statewide volunteer monitoring component. Project cost over two years is estimated at \$74,000.

ISC Decision – fund all 3 projects. EPF funding is insufficient to cover them. DOT will take lead on Project #2 and will seek Federal funds. DEC ISCU will take lead on Projects #2 and #3 and determine how to deliver the projects. (DOT is also managing Phragmites research at Cornell (Bernd Blossey) using federal State Planning and Research funds at \$750,000 over 5 years, per ISC decision in 2015.)

Update on other biological control agent research - Bernd Blossey

- Water Chestnut control agent testing – beetle (*Galarucella birmanuca*) – research at Cornell (B. Blossey) is funded by NYS EPF, per ISC decision in 2015. Will hold agents for host-specificity testing for 2-3 years in quarantine prior to release.
- Phragmites control agent testing – DOT managed research work at Cornell. Host specificity testing underway. Organism (*Archanara geminipuncta* and *A. neurica*) has strong preference for non-native Phragmites.
- Japanese Knotweed control agent testing – Psyllid (plant lice) (*Aphalara itadori*) biological assessment required prior to importation and research is pending at APHIS.
- Hydrilla control agent testing (Al Cofrancesco, US Army Corps of Engineers) – collection and testing stalled due to their being native to politically unstable countries in southern Asia.

Presentation on Funded Research – Eric Davis

DEC funded research at SUNY Oneonta (\$63,000) to test efficacy of common chemicals (white vinegar, Vircon, potassium chloride, sodium chloride, and iodized sodium chloride) in killing zebra mussel (z.m.) adults and veligers. Vircon 0.5% killed adults and veligers in 10 minutes. Distilled vinegar at all solutions killed adults. 5% solution killed 100% adults in 1 hr and killed 25% of veligers in 4 hrs. Conducted pressure wash testing on metal panel; 25 to 200 seconds washing removed all attached z.m. Final report due 2016.

Agency Round Robin – I.S. “New Year’s Resolutions”

- DOT – Move forward on funding biological control research projects and update guidance for construction projects. Coordinate and work with Adirondack PRISM.
- SED – participate on ISC
- DAM – report on Part 575 Regulations compliance
- OPRHP – increase watercraft inspection program by 50% - focus on Finger Lakes and Saratoga Lake; have more ISAW events; focus on AIS regulatory consistency
- DEC ISCU – build team and maximize progress with new capacity (AIS coordinator and 2 contract coordinators to cover strategic education and outreach and response/management)
- ISAC – Identify what new direction is needed
- NYISRI – priority setting, align with federal level programs and initiatives, increase research network, increase accountability and leadership
- NYC DEP – address New Croton Reservoir Hydrilla

Public Comment – All

None.

Wrap Up – Kathy Moser

- ACTION – All - Send suggested agenda topics and possible host locations to Leslie.

IS Council Agency Abbreviations	
Adirondack Park Agency	APA
Agriculture and Markets	CC
Canals Corporation	DAM
Education	SED
Environmental Conservation	DEC
Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation	OPRHP
State	DOS
Thruway Authority	TA
Transportation	DOT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Invasive Species Council
FROM: Leslie Surprenant, Leader Invasive Species Coordination Unit
RE: Joint NY IS Council Meeting # 28 and NY IS Advisory Committee Meeting #24, May 3, 2016, NYS DOT Albany
DATE: May 13, 2016

Council and Advisory Committee met on May 3, 2016 from 10:00 – 3:00 pm at the DOT's headquarters in Albany. Seven of nine Council agencies were present, thereby meeting the 2/3 quorum for decision-making.

ISC Representatives Present:

Kathy Moser, DEC, Co-Chair
Christopher Logue, DAM
Leigh Walrath, APA
James Cordiloro, CC
Shelah LaDuc, DOT
Elizabeth Novak, TA
Ann Crotty, SED

Also Present from Council Agencies:

Leslie Surprenant, DEC (ISCS)
Dave Adams, DEC (ISCS)
Willow Eyres, DEC (ISCS)
Michele Stefanucci, DEC (Counsel)
Laura Savage, DOT
Peter Dunleavy, DOT
David Pohl, DOT
Nick Perry, DEC
Jerry Carlson, DEC
Meg Phillips, DEC

Present from Invasive Species Advisory Committee:

Meredith Taylor, Chair (NYC Dept. Environmental Protection)
Rob Williams (PRISM)
John Bartow (Empire State Forest Products Assoc)
Karl Shoeberl (Environmental Energy Alliance of NY)
Allen Gosser (USDA Wildlife Services)
David Decker (Audubon NY)
Richard Powell (NY Upstate Chapter Am. Soc. of Landscape Arch.)
Holly Cargill-Cramer (NY Nursery and Landscape Assoc)
D. J. Evans (Natural Heritage Program)

Present from Public:

Meg Wilkinson (Natural Heritage Program)



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Carrie Brown Lima, Cornell
(others present; did not sign in)

Meeting #27 Summary – Leslie Surprenant

ISC accepted summary with a minor edit from DOT to clarify research funding.

ISAC Update – Dave Adams (*4 Handouts – Meeting #24 brief summary, Meeting #24 notes, 2015 work report, 2016 work plan*)

Provided update on meetings held on 5/3/16 (Meeting #24)

Highlights:

Meeting #24 report:

- New contract hires in DEC's Invasive Species Coordination Section (Willow Eyres – Response and Management and Megan Phillips – Education and outreach)
- Chris Logue – update on compliance with 6NYCRR Part 575 Regulations – 1533 nurseries and 1077 growers inspected: 3.5% nurseries had prohibited species and 14.6% had improper labeling; 5.75% growers had prohibited species and 24.5% had improper labeling.
- Priority research projects – Carrie Brown Lima, Cornell U – priority setting model, swallowwort biological control and hemlock woolly adelgid initiative
- IS Awareness Week and Education and Outreach 5 –yr strategy – Meg Phillips
- DEC Draft Rapid Response Policy and Framework – in process – Willow Eyres
- ISAC Objectives – add restoration

□ **ACTION:** Rob Williams will work with ISCS (Willow Eyres) and small ISC / ISAC work group to deliver item 5 “Restoration” of ISC’s 2015 Action Plan. Charge:

- Identify two new restoration techniques for priority habitats
- Identify plant species appropriate for re-vegetation, restoration and mitigation

ISCS / ISC Update – Leslie Surprenant (*2 Handouts – 2015 Action Plan Accomplishments, 2016 Action Plan*)

Reported on Invasive Species Coordination Unit and ISC’s progress toward accomplishing the 2015 ISC Action Plan and presented 2016 Action Plan. All 2015 objectives were achieved except Restoration Objective was deferred (see “action” above). In addition, very high effort in ISCS was expended on un-planned directives (Adk Boat Steward Pilot Program, Statewide Boat Steward Grant). DEC’s “administrative cost” for delivering the invasive species program is very cost effective. ISCS staffing including fringe and indirect was 5.4% of the entire invasive species budget General Fund (salary, indirect, fringe) and EPF IS funding (projects) at \$5.7 M in state fiscal year 2015-16. ISCS all-expenses staffing including 2 contract employees will be approximately 4.1% of the entire invasive species budget General Fund (salary, indirect, fringe) and EPF IS funding (projects) at \$12.0 M in state fiscal year 2016-17.

No changes were suggested for the 2016 Action Plan at the meeting. Comments and suggestions welcome.

□ **ACTION:** All – review ISC’s 2016 Action Plan and provide any comments or suggested changes to Kathy Moser or Dave Adams by COB May 27.

Regulatory and Legislative Updates and Forest Health – Jerry Carlson (DEC Forest Health) provided an update on the distribution of emerald ash borer based on insect trapping and NY’s restricted zone “quarantines” surrounding EAB-infested areas which cover about 40% of the state’s area. (All of NY is under federal USDA quarantine) DOT raised issue of municipalities’ lack of funds to remove hazard trees.

DEC is identifying high value hemlock stands for potential treatment with pesticides. Long term approach is to expand biological control agent use. Project in Kaaterskill Falls (Greene Co) ravine to treat hemlocks. Balsam woolly adelgid is spreading in the Adirondacks.

□ **ACTION:** Jerry and Shelah LaDuc will follow up to identify potential federal funds to remove ash.

Nursery and Landscape Industry – Holly Cargill-Cramer

Holly reported on the nursery and landscape industry’s adjustment to the Part 575 Prohibited and Regulated Invasive Species Regulations. The cooperative relationship between DAM, DEC, and the industry has helped the industry. The NYNLA posted tag templates for regulated species on its website for download and printing. DAM and DEC are conducting outreach to industry through local chapters’ education and outreach days. NYNLA is developing an information sheet and checklist for landscape industry to inform clients and homeowners about regulated plants, tagging, and maintenance and suggest alternative plants. Work is underway to develop sterile cultivars for barberry. NYNLA published a brief article on alternatives to *Miscanthus sinensis* (Chinese silvergrass; regulated).

Budget – Leslie Surprenant (*1 handout – SFY 2016-17 EPF Invasive Species Line*)

The Enacted State Fiscal Year FY 2016-17 has \$12M in the EPF Invasive Species line and carves out \$450K for Lake George and \$5.5M for invasive species eradication. The proposed spending plan for the \$12M presented to the ISC for approval includes costs to cover current contracts, commitments, and carveouts and proposes competitive rapid response/eradication grants and a second round of boat steward grants. ISC consents to the expenditures proposed.

Statewide 5-yr Education and Outreach Strategy – Meg Phillips (*1 Handout – PPT slides*)

Meg leads a work group that will present its strategic education and outreach recommendations for 2017 – 2021 at the Fall/Winter ISC meeting. Updated ISC and ISAC on progress toward achieving the prior ISAC’s recommended Education and Outreach Objectives and presented the results to date on a 15-question survey sent to stakeholders including all ISAC reps. Survey results suggest lowest outreach occurs to municipalities, aquarium owners and water gardeners and most outreach is to students, gardeners, foresters, and landowners. Survey respondents indicate their most effective E/O efforts are citizen science survey and monitoring and webinars.

Update on ISAW 7/10 – 16 – Events on all topics are encouraged; would like some focus on prohibited and regulated species alternatives and on new AIS spread prevention regs – getting out Clean, Drain, Treat/Dry message. Meg is updating www.nyis.info/blog/ and working with a planning team and PRISM coordinators. Council agencies and Advisory Committee organizations can work with PRISM coordinators on events. Metrics to measure success and participation are being developed. Albany events planned include screening of hemlock woolly adelgid short documentary with content experts and q/a, tabling at the Farmers Market, and mini iMapInvasives training and invasives walk.

NOTE: NYS Department of Education's Science learning standards for Preschool through Grade 12 may be accessed at:
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/mst/sci/nys-p12-science-ls-intro.html>.

DEC Draft Policy - Rapid Response Framework for Invasive Species - Willow Eyres

Draft Rapid Response Framework for Invasive Species was published in the 4/27/16 Environmental Notice Bulletin. Summarized content of DEC's draft policy providing a framework and guidance for rapid responses to invasive species and invited organizations to submit comments during the public comment period that closes on 5/27/16.

Boat Steward Program Grants – Nick Perry

DEC's first round of statewide grants to support boat steward programs resulted in 24 grants totaling \$2.092M that will support 3-year projects.

ISCS Leader Retirement – Kathy Moser announced Leslie Surprenant will retire in May. She crowned the ISCS leader as "*Invasive Species Warrior Goddess*" and ISCS presented a retirement cake for all to enjoy. Editor's note – thanks to all for the opportunity to work on such a critical issue with great staff, agency and NGOs, and partners.

Public Comment – All

Shelah LaDuc (DOT) - reported an increase in letters from the public regarding loss of pollinators, indicating an increase in awareness of the issue.

Rob Williams (PRISMs) PRISMs develop annual work plans; a diversity of very good work is occurring across NYS

Carrie Brown-Lima (NYISRI) NYISRI is working on a project to assess where resource managers and policy makers people get their information to inform invasive species management

Wrap Up – Kathy Moser

Next ISC meeting will be delayed until fall due to ISCS leader retirement (Oct/Nov TBA)

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