

WNY PRISM Steering Committee Minutes
Thursday, October 2nd 2014; 3:00 – 5:00 pm
Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper Office

In Attendance: Jennifer Tait (DEC), Kerrie Gallo (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper), Christopher Pennuto (Buffalo State College), Andrea Locke (WNY PRISM), Mike Goehle (USFWS), (on phone) Meg Janis (NYSOPRHP), Jim Berry, Paul Fuhrmann (Ecology and Environment)

Steering Committee Member Updates

Jennifer Tait – Spot application of herbicide was conducted on September 16th to address patches of hydrilla that remained after the initial treatment, done in July. The treatment went very well and appears to have been effective, but a follow-up survey will take place later this month. Kerrie Gallo – Riverkeeper wrapped up their Conservation Strategy Project, continued with their seed collection for the Niagara Greenway project, published a new Native Plant Guide and getting ready for the implementation phase of the Living Shorelines projects. Christopher Pennuto –Noted the increase in pale swallow-wort throughout the region and encouraged people to go out and map populations while they are easy to spot (seed pods) Mike Goehle – (representing USFWS for Steering Committee Member Sandy Keppner) Updates on electrofishing surveys and reported on round goby being found in a tributary to French Creek – currently outside of Great Lakes Basin, but moving closer. Paul Fuhrmann– USACE and ENE are looking at sites along the Niagara River for invasive species projects, but this is still in the beginning stages of developing objectives and deliverables. At Times Beach, ~35 species were found coming back from the areas that were treated for phragmites. Meg Janis –Seasonal crew was very busy with Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) surveys in Allegany SP and Letchworth SP. HWA was found at 6 sites in Allegany, but was light and not interior to the park. Letchworth has a more established infestation. EAB was found in a number of locations including Niagara Falls SP where selected trees will be treated – mostly within higher public use areas, addressing public safety. Jim Berry– No Updates.

PRISM Updates

- Seasonal Crew (Stewards (3) and Education & Outreach Assistant (1))
 - Finished in early September
 - Attended 22 events including farmer’s markets, county fairs, festivals and environmental events
 - >2500 observations into iMapInvasives, including 58 unique species, 6 counties and 19 sites
 - Assisted Partners with IS removal activities including Japanese knotweed and pale swallow-wort removal at Tiff Nature Preserve, water chestnut removal at Jamestown Audubon and brush removal at WNYLC Niagara Escarpment Preserve.
- GLRI/EPA RFA
 - Grant Proposal for “Lake Erie Watershed Invasive Species Control Program” was submitted by Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District with WNY PRISM as a sub-awardee
 - Focus of grant is on Japanese knotweed removal and building capacity
 - Should find out if funded sometime in November
- Grants
 - Boat US \$10,000 innovation grant
 - Northeastern IPM, multi-state grant (\$50,000)
 - WNY PRISM will continue to distribute grant opportunities through the Listserve as they come-up
- Upcoming Events

- Upcoming Meetings/Events included the PRISM Leader's Meeting and Alverna Heights IS Workshop on 10/8, EAB Taskforce Meeting (10/9), Oak Orchard Workshop (10/14) and NYSFOLA Western Region Annual Meeting on 10/18.
- WNY PRISM Full Partnership Meeting/Annual Meeting will be on Thursday, December 4th, at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, time TBA.
- Watercraft Inspection Stewardship Workshop sponsored by NYS Sea Grant and DEC will be held in spring 2015. This workshop is for all those interested in starting a boat launch/stewardship program.

Letters of Support

Letter of Support was received from New York Sea Grant and shortly after the meeting from NYS Department of Transportation and NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The importance of having letters of support for WNY PRISM was stressed by Paul Fuhrmann. There is a lot of power in having a more formalized partnership and having the letters of support on hand allows PRISM and all of the Partners the ability to show the regional cooperation.

Next Steps:

Steering Committee Member Organization will continue to work on providing Letters of Support to Andrea for WNY PRISM

Strategic Planning

Based on everyone's comments from our last Steering Committee Meeting, Andrea updated each of the Goals and respective Objectives, Outputs and Outcomes. There was general consensus that the goals and objectives were in good shape and that WNY PRISM can move forward. Jen Tait talked about the broad nature of the strategic plan and wanted to insure that greater detail as far as specific tasks would be included. These specifics will be developed and included in each of the annual work plans.

Next Steps:

Andrea will finalize the Goals, etc. and begin working on the body of the 5-year strategic plan over the winter (2014/2015)

2015 Work Plan

We had a short discussion on identifying High Probability Areas (HPA) (areas where new-to-the-region invasive species are most likely to show up first). Identified areas included fishing accesses, trail heads, boat launches, camping sites, new construction, municipal compost sites, roads/repair and construction projects.

Next Steps:

Andrea will develop a draft 2015 Work Plan and provide to the Steering Committee for comments. The 2015 Work Plan should be available during the Full Partnership Meeting in early December.

Working Groups/Committees

A number of the other PRISMs have various working groups, groups dedicated to specific core functions of the PRISM in question. At this point WNY PRISM doesn't have working groups, but as regional needs have become more apparent over the past year, it was important to talk about the possibility and/or need of these types of committees. Both Working Groups and Ad Hoc Committees were discussed for a number of topics. An Education and Outreach Working Group was strongly supported while others mentioned would be Agriculture, Aquatic/Terrestrial and EDRR. Other topics were considered better suited for Ad Hoc Committees. These would be the development of Invasive Species Prevention Zones,

identification of conservation targets, and early detection/prevention/approaching region lists. These groups would be open to all WNY PRISM Partners and not limited Steering Committee Members.

Next Steps:

Andrea will develop Working Groups and Committees for the Full Partnership Meeting and have sign-up sheets available for interested groups and individuals.

Other Topics

- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) was observed on a single tree within Zoar Valley MUA (TNC's Deer Lick Preserve). An effort is underway to quickly pull together volunteers to do a broader survey of Zoar Valley MUA, concentrating on the area with the highest probability of having HWA. The hope is that HWA was caught early enough that it can be treated this fall, before the ground freezes.
- New Rules and Regulations from DEC, 6 NYCRR Part 575 Prohibited and Regulated Invasive Species and 6 NYCRR Part 59.4 and 190.24 Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations at DEC Boat Launching and Fishing Sites. A document with all New York State Laws and Regulations regarding invasive species is now available on the [nyis.info](http://www.nyis.info/user_uploads/files/NYS%20Invasive%20Species%20Legislation%20and%20Regulations-short-2014.pdf) website under NYS Response.
(http://www.nyis.info/user_uploads/files/NYS%20Invasive%20Species%20Legislation%20and%20Regulations-short-2014.pdf)

Next Full Partnership Meeting:

Thursday, December 4th 2014; 1 - 3 PM; Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge