

WNY PRISM Steering Committee Meeting Summary
Thursday, March 26th 2015; 1:00 – 3:00 pm
WNY PRISM Office – Great Lakes Center

In Attendance: Alisia Vilonen (DOT), Bob Smith (NYS CNLP, Chestnut Ridge Nursery), Chris Pennuto (SUNY Buffalo State, WNY PRISM), Helen Domske (NY Sea Grant), Robert Haltner (USFWS), Sharon Bachman (CCE Invasive Species Program), Ba Zan Lin (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper), Andrea Locke (WNY PRISM)

Steering Committee Partner Updates

Alisia Vilonen/DOT – Work is set to continue on invasive species (phragmites and reed canarygrass) removal at wetland mitigation sites including at site near Ellicottville/Hinman Valley. Bob Smith/NYS CNLP, Chestnut Ridge Nursery – Working with out-of-state suppliers and Department of Ag and Markets in response to the Part 575 Prohibited and Regulated Species requirements for labeling and other compliance. Questions have been raised about who is responsible for labeling – the NYS commercial business or the suppliers. Chris Pennuto/SUNY Buffalo State, WNY PRISM – Scheduling the 2015 Spring Semester Great Lakes Center Seminar Series, which may be of interest to the Partnership, he will provide the list of remaining topics for Andrea to distribute. A couple of second and third hand reports of possible invasive species were brought up in recent conversations – the possibility of hydrilla at Braddock Bay and Snakehead in Oak Orchard Creek. Both are considered unlikely due to unknown sources, but mentioned to the group in case follow-up is necessary. Helen Domske/Sea Grant – Worked on a number of teacher workshops/trainings through the winter. State of Lake Erie Meeting is being held on Thursday April 9th and will feature a number of great speakers including Dave MacNeill, who will be speaking about potential new fish invaders. Ba Zan Lin/Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper – BNR will continue with their Boat Stewards Outreach Program this year and will be hiring interns for this. Data from last summer is still being organized, but will hopefully be available soon. Robert Haltner/USFWS – Currently hiring for 2 Fish Biologist GS-11 and 2 Seasonal Technicians GS-05 – job announcements can be found at USAJOBS. Ichthyoplankton results from the 2014 field season are back from EPA, and no new invasive species were detected. Work on benthic samples is continuing. An upcoming eDNA/Asian Carp meeting is being held in Illinois, which will determine the level of eDNA testing that will be done in 2015. Sharon Bachman/CCE ISP – Judged the Evirothon competition, which consisted of an Emerald Ash Borer scenario in which EAB was discovered in an urban/suburban park. Additional confirmed infestations of EAB include Alden and Newstead. The next WNY EAB taskforce meeting will take place at the CCE office in East Aurora on April 9th.

PRISM Updates

- Working Groups (WG)
 - Education and Outreach WG was held just prior to this meeting
 - Terrestrial, Aquatic, and Conservation Targets WG will be held tomorrow at Tiff Nature Preserve
 - Agriculture WG will be on hold for now, due to low interest – this will require increased effort to reach out to the agriculture community
- Website
 - Design and coding has been completed
 - Next Steps include being trained on how to use the site and then we will focus on content
- Events
 - Display at PLANT WNY
 - Presented as part of GLC Seminar
 - National Invasive Species Awareness Week

- Forest Pest Trainings at Roger Tory Peterson Institute and CCE of Genesee County
 - Bond Lake Invasive Species Management Presentation
 - 2 the Outdoors Environmental Forum
 - Rural Landowners Workshop
 - Upcoming
 - HWA Survey Deer Lick Nature Preserve/Zoar Valley
 - iMap Training at Buffalo Audubon
 - Buffalo State Arbor Day
 - NYSFOLA Boat Stewards Full-Day Workshop
 - Silver Lake Association Presentation
- Regional Updates
 - Number of HWA surveys have been completed in/around Jamestown – no new infestations.
 - WNY EAB Taskforce meeting – this winter has seen an increase in the number of new infestations.
 - Meetings continue to discuss a regional protocol (survey & response) for Water Chestnut in the Southern Tier.
- Other
 - Talked with DEC about assisting with aspects of their Giant Hogweed program – due to the significant number of sites/plants within WNY and our current capacity, we will look to help with select survey work, but removal efforts will continue as part of DEC’s program.
 - Part 575 Prohibited and Regulated Species Regulations are now in place. For information on the permit required to transport IS for education and research purposes, head to: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/100696.html>.
 - Andrea is looking into the possibility of establishing a fund for WNY PRISM through the GLC.
 - Jim Berry, Roger Tory Peterson Institute, Ret. has decided to step down from his position as a member of the WNY PRISM Steering Committee. With the addition of Sharon Bachman at the beginning of this year, and participation from others within Chautauqua County here and within our Working Groups, we will not move to fill his position this year.

Seasonal Hires

- Education and Outreach Assistant
 - E&O Assistant will start on May 4th, 2015 and continue through the end of September
 - Tasks will include developing educational materials, creating website (& social media) content, coordinating our volunteer program, and assisting with trainings, workshops, and presentations
- Invasive Species Management Assistants (Crew)
 - Positions close March 31st
 - Term of employment is 6/1/2015 – 8/28/2015
 - Tasks will be divided between outreach, IS surveys, and Partner IS removal projects. At this point their schedule is mostly full, but there is a little space to fill additional Partner requests for time.

Invasive Species Awareness Week

Andrea mentioned New York State’s Invasive Species Awareness Week (July 12 – 18) and asked Partners to start thinking about events and other ideas for celebrating this year. The NYIS ISAW site is up and running for this year, and we (PRISM Leaders) are already able to add events. Our Education and

Outreach Assistant will be taking the lead on regional coordination this year and will be reaching out to Partners.

Invasive Species Guidelines for Municipalities

At our last meeting, Andrea asked for examples of invasive species guidelines or recommendations specifically targeting government officials, township supervisors, and other municipalities. The desired outcome is to develop a simple brochure that can be provided to government officials that describes the types of actions they may take to help mitigate the threat of invasive species. Alisia Villonen provided NYS DOT's document on IS control methods for maintenance and construction, which address related Best Management Practices surrounding soil disturbance, erosion control, and specific mowing considerations, and Andrea provided a factsheet developed by the Long Island Weed Management Area and TNC called "Invasive Plant Facts for Public Officials", as well as a list of actions municipalities may take that she developed after the last meeting. Suggestions included adding information on 'why you should care', encouraging the target audience to join the WNY PRISM listserve, and determining how different government officials, offices and departments are getting their information. Ba Zan Lin agreed to talk with BNR about the messaging they use to talk with government officials and share that with the group. Orchard Park and Grand Island were offered as communities that serve as good examples of how invasive species management can be part of green space planning.

Next Steps:

WNY PRISM will develop text for a flyer/brochure and share with the Steering Committee for comment

Full Partnership Meeting

Our next Full Partnership Meeting will be held in May and will include 2 guest speakers. Richard Ruby (USACE) will present on the Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal Hydrilla Demonstration Project and Ken Parker (SNI) will talk about the Seneca Nation of Indian's New Native Plant Policy. WNY PRISM will also provide Partnership Updates.

Next Steps:

Andrea will determine the location for the Full Partnership Meeting

Next Steering Committee Meeting:

Thursday May 28th 2015, 6:00 – 8:00 pm; location TBA