

WNY PRISM Full Partnership Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 5th 2014; 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Cornell Cooperative Extension Office/Farm & Home Center

WNY PRISM Updates

Chris Pennuto (WNY PRISM Director) started off the meeting describing the history of WNY PRISM and making special acknowledgement of Paul Fuhrmann's efforts to getting WNY PRISM up-and-running. Andrea Locke (WNY PRISM Coordinator) then updated the group on what has been accomplished during the first 5 months of 2014 and what can be expected for the rest of the year. Accomplishments included finalizing the operational guidelines and steering committee, attending PRISM Leaders Boot Camp, updating www.nyis.info WNY PRISM webpage, developing the 2014 Annual Work Plan, assisting with drafting the letter to business owners for the Water Chestnut Initiative – Chautauqua County, holding iMapInvasives Trainings in Jamestown and Lockport, beginning the 5-year strategic planning, creating the WNY PRISM logo, hiring 1 Education and Outreach Assistant, hiring 3 Stewardship Assistants and holding an Aquatic Invasive Species Management Workshop with visiting presenter Dr. Frances Lucy (Sligo, Ireland). We also discussed some of the results of the Listserve survey sent out early in 2014, which provided important baseline information for WNY PRISM.

Looking forward, WNY PRISM will complete the 5-year strategic planning, participate in Education and Outreach Events including attending festivals and presenting at workshops, expand invasive species presence and infestation data for the region through targeted surveys and iMapInvasives, develop volunteer program to assist with invasive species surveys, education and outreach and boat launch stewardship, develop invasive species priorities including prevention and early detection lists, assist partners with ongoing invasive species removal projects, distribute information, promote best management practices and promote Invasive Species Awareness Week (July 6 – 12).

Panel Discussion

Project: Times Beach Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Demonstration Project

Primary Partners: US Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District; ERDC Innovative Solutions; Great Lakes Restoration Initiative; Times Beach Nature Preserve; Ecology & Environment, Inc.; Friends of Times Beach Nature Preserve

Presenter(s): Paul Fuhrmann, Ecology & Environment Inc.

Discussion: Times Beach, 56 acres located along Buffalo's Outer Harbor, was originally a confined disposal facility for dredged material. The CDF was in operation from 1972 – 1976 when it was partially filled and returned to the City of Buffalo for use as a nature preserve. Times Beach is an important migratory bird site and it sees great use as a bird-watching site and has remained open for such use. Invasive species are extensive on the site and include phragmites, Japanese knotweed, mugwort and common buckthorn. The purpose of the project was to demonstrate site-specific measures for invasive species management and encourage the participation of many partners and stakeholders. Initial treatments have already occurred on site and additional treatments/follow-up will take place over the next couple of years.

Project: Emerald Ash Borer Task Force

Primary Partners: Erie County; Ecology & Environment, Inc.; Cornell Cooperative Extension; USDA APHIS, Buffalo State College; NYS DOT; NYS DEC

Presenter(s): Sharon Bachman, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Bob Smith, NYS Nursery & Landscapers Association

Discussion: Sharon provided an update on the many things the Emerald Ash Borer Task Force has accomplished. They hosted a 1st Detector Training at Reinstein Woods this winter and will be following-up shortly with a second training. They have produced an updated brochure which includes an updated

map of confirmed infestations and participated in Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week events and educational activities. The discussion focused on the expansive list of partners involved with the EAB Task Force (agencies, municipalities, forestry professionals, business, citizen groups, universities) and how their success has created a more informed public, one that is more able to understand the impacts of invasive species. Questions about the use of trap trees and timing of when to start treating healthy trees were presented and will be brought to next Task Force Meeting.

Project: Water Chestnut Initiative – Chautauqua County

Primary Partners: Jamestown Audubon Society; Conewango Creek Watershed Association; Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission; Chautauqua County

Presenter(s): Jeff Diers, Conewango Creek Watershed Association; Ruth Lundin, Jamestown Audubon Society

Discussion: Jeff began by discussing the discovery of water chestnut in Chautauqua Lake in 2012 and the quick response that included removing the known plants. At that point they were unaware of other populations in the County. Water chestnut had been discovered at the Jamestown Audubon property earlier, however since they were unaware of other populations or the primary method of spread, they weren't actively removing the plant. After the two groups became aware of one another and the ability of birds to spread water chestnut, they began to work together to get a better idea of the expanse of water chestnut in the area (Chautauqua County and nearby natural areas in Pennsylvania). They have also been working to get information out to citizens and local business owners about the harmful impacts of water chestnut and how to report sightings. Jamestown Audubon has taken advantage of their ability to moderate the water level in their big pond to assist with access and removing water chestnut plants. Hand removal will begin shortly with a volunteer kick-off on June 21st.

Participant Updates

Bill Des Jardin (Bergen Swamp Preservation Society) – Continuing targeted phragmites treatment and assessing additional invasive species present on properties including known *Brachypodium slyvaticum* infestation.

Meg Janis (NYS Parks) – Seasonal crews including a 4 person mapping and treatment crew, boat stewards and 2 person crew focusing on the HWA surveying in Allegany State Park have started up. Parks is looking for any additional help or volunteers interested in surveying for HWA in Allegany SP.

Jeff Diers (SUNY Fredonia/Conewango Creek Watershed Assoc.) – Working to identify additional populations of water chestnut to target for removal, getting word out about the impacts and identification of the plant.

Paul Fuhrmann (E&E) – Many ongoing projects involving native plant restoration and invasive species management. Paul stressed the importance of sharing knowledge and working with a team of partners.

Sharon Bachman (CCE) – Continuing work with Emerald Ash Borer Taskforce (next meeting Thursday, June 12th @ Ecology and Environment annex @ 9:00am) and further developing/expanding the Wasp Watchers Program.

John Whitney (USDA NRCS) – NRCS not currently involved with invasive species management, but there are programs that are being used to address IS issues in other states – would like to see similar things in NY and is looking toward ways of implementing programs here.

Doug Conroe (Chautauqua County Institute) – Doug is working on creating wetlands, involved in habitat restoration and interested in shoreline sustainability/management projects.

Jane Conroe (Chautauqua Co./Jamestown Audubon Society) – Currently working with Ruth Lundin and others involved with the water chestnut initiative in Chautauqua County. As part of the Chautauqua Lake Association (name?), Jane has been encouraging landowners to install aquatic buffers of native plants to restore lakeshore, but has had some difficulty with landowners being willing to give-up their manicured lawns and neat gardens for the more natural look.

Jim Berry (RTPI) – Jim talked about Jamestown Preservation documenting WNY Biodiversity and mentioned a Naturalist Gathering he is putting together for June 19th (6 pm @ Bemus Point). The intent

of this gathering is to share knowledge, present an opportunity for field biologists to network and to identify ways to get young people interested in Field Biology. Contact Jim for more information.

Lynn Greer (USACE) – Lynn provided information about the Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal Hydrilla Demonstration Project and the Springville Dam project to increase fish passage while continuing to block potential movement of sea lamprey up river. There will be an announcement soon for a public meeting for those interested in the Springville Dam Project.

Bob Smith (NYS Nursery & Landscape Assn.) – discussed the importance of landscapers in both the spread of some invasive species, but also the potential for change and education about the spread of cultivars and horticultural species.

Dave Spiering (Tiff Nature Preserve) – Has successfully eradicated 5 acres of once solid phragmites on Tiff Nature Preserve and Dave is looking for a seed mix (20+) species to restore treated acres. Invasive species removal (phragmites, Japanese knotweed, buckthorn, honeysuckle) is continuing.

Nicole Dimond (NYS DEC) – Updates on the Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal Hydrilla Demonstration Project include potential dates for treatment (mid - late July). The final dates are weather dependent. There is also going to be a Hydrilla Hunt webinar (late July/early Aug) with more information coming later.

Joseph Gould (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeepers) – A number of projects are coming together involving the Greenway and Niagara River Strategies.

Ba Zan Lin (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeepers) –Working on projects involving the water quality in the Buffalo River and outreach to the communities using the Buffalo River for fishing. There are also a number of groups/agencies running boat steward programs this summer and Lin is looking to have a meeting of all those groups, to ensure everyone is working together and covering different/important boat launches.

Vicki Haas (Erie County DEP) – Vicki is the Buffalo River AOC Project Manager and as these projects continue to progress, she expects to reach out to Partners for information, advice and assistance to ensure restorations are successful in the long term.

Clara Holmes (NYS Parks) – Clara provided information about an Ash Seed Collection Project for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank. She is looking for volunteers interested in scouting or collecting ash seed. If interested, please contact Clara (clara.holmes@parks.nyc.gov).

Next Meeting:

Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 31st

Time: 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Location: Great Lakes Center Field Station/WNY PRISM Office