

**WNY PRISM Steering Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> 2015; 1:00 – 3:00 pm**  
**Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper Office**

**In Attendance:** Alisia Vilonen (DOT), Bob Smith (NYS Nursery & Landscape Assoc.), Chris Pennuto (SUNY Buffalo State, WNY PRISM), Helen Domske (NY Sea Grant), Jeff Diers (SUNY Fredonia), Jennifer Tait (DEC), Lynn Greer (USACE), Meg Janis (OPRHP), Paul Fuhrmann (E&E), Robert Haltner (USFWS), Sharon Bachman (CCE Invasive Species Program), Carri Marschner (CCE Invasive Species Program), Andrea Locke (WNY PRISM)

**Steering Committee Partner Updates**

Alisia Vilonen/DOT - Phragmites and Japanese knotweed removal projects continue along roadways – asked for any available information on more effective means of removal and long-term control. Robert Haltner/USFWS - Currently working with lab samples from their early detection and monitoring program for aquatic invasive species and benthic sampling, and sent samples to EPA. Jeff Diers/SUNY Fredonia - Hemlock Woolly Adelgid was found at the SUNY Fredonia campus woodlot/lodge and response options are currently being looked into. Jeff also reported on the water chestnut effort, being led by CCWA and Jamestown Audubon, which includes a finalized brochure to provide early detection and reporting information for the public. Helen Domske/Sea Grant – Currently working on two education and Outreach grants. One grant involves working with High School Teachers and requires them to include stewardship activities and the second involves college students who are required to complete 10 hours of service. Helen asked that if opportunities come-up that would appropriate for either group, to please let her know. Projects would need to be completed before they finish their school year. Bob Smith/NYS Nursery & Landscape Assoc. – Provided Steering Committee with approved language for labeling regulated invasive species sold at Nurseries in New York State, in response to the NYCRR Part 575 Prohibited and Regulated Species legislation that will go into effect in March. Sharon Bachman/CCE ISP – Attended Master Gardener’s Regional Meeting on Late Blight and session on Spotted-Wing Drosophila, both significant agricultural invasive species. Also working on a brochure on landscape alternatives for NYS Prohibited and Regulated Species. A working draft is available on the IPM website. Paul Fuhrmann/E&E – Work continues on many restoration projects around Buffalo, including Times Beach. Paul is also interested in bringing a workshop or conference to WNY that will provide an opportunity to share information on project challenges, successes, lessons learned, and to allow for technology transfer. Jennifer Tait/DEC – Looking to hire an intern for 2015, similar to the position filled last year. 2014 hydrilla treatment went well and it is expected that future treatments will be spot treatments, rather than a second broadcast treatment. Work will begin on restoration efforts, including invasive species removals, at Red Jacket and Seneca Bluff Parks along the Buffalo River and within Buffalo Area of Concern. Lynn Greer/USACE – Working with Sharon Bachman to finalize the hydrilla website and will upload the final 2014 Hydrilla Demonstration Project Report to the website shortly. Lynn also added her support for the workshop Paul Fuhrmann discussed and offered suggestions to look into. Chris Pennuto/SUNY Buffalo State, WNY PRISM – Announced the 2015 WNY PRISM Job Openings are posted (Education and Outreach Assistant and 3 Invasive Species Management Assistants) and updated the Steering Committee on the crayfish/bait vendor survey which included non-native crayfish species but not rusty crayfish. Rusty crayfish were seen in WNY bait shops in previous years. Helen Domske brought up the possibility of teachers releasing rusty crayfish and/or other non-native species as part of a crayfish unit taught in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Meg Janis/OPRHP – Hemlock Woolly Adelgid volunteer trainings will be held in Letchworth SP (2/7) and Allegany SP (2/8). HWA was treated in Letchworth SP (300 trees) in areas of high usage and old growth. OPRHP will hire Invasive Species Strike Teams in 2015, but they will look a little different from those in 2014. Rather than many teams across the state hired for a short time in the summer, 2 teams will be hired for a longer 5-6 month time period.

## **PRISM Updates**

- Education and Outreach
  - Presented to Buffalo Area Teachers (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades) about using iMapInvasives in the classroom
  - Attended and spoke at an Erie County Water Quality Committee Meeting
  - Setting-up iMapInvasives Spring Trainings and Management Planning workshop
  - National Invasive Species Awareness Week (February 22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>)
    - HWA volunteer training at RTPI (2/23)
    - Forest Pest Early Detectors at Genesee Co. CCE (2/24)
    - Bond Lake Park Presentation (2/28)
  - Looking for information and/or brochure to provide Best Management Practices and suggestions for Invasive Species actions to Local Governments.
- Working Groups
  - Encouraging people to sign-up for a Working Group. We have a solid number signed up for Aquatics and Education and Outreach, but could use more people for Terrestrial and Conservation Targets
  - We haven't had anyone sign-up for the Agriculture Working Group, which shows that WNY PRISM has not successfully reached the agriculture community as of yet – increased effort to reach this demographic will take place this year.
- Strategic Plan
  - Strategic Goals, Objectives, Strategies, etc. were adopted in 2014.
  - Work on writing our strategic plan will start back up after the 2014 Annual Report and other year end documents are completed.
- Letters of Support
  - Reminder to those Steering Committee Members who have not yet submitted a Letter of Support to please do so.
- PRISM Leader's Meeting Updates
  - NYS has new logos, this includes DEC, DOT, and OPRHP. We are asked to use the new logos, but are allowed to use printed materials that still have old logos
  - Meredith Taylor is the new Invasive Species Advisory Council Chair and Rob Williams (SLELO PRISM) is the PRISM representative
  - iMapInvasives has offered GIS assistance to PRISM Leaders
  - General Permit for hand pulling of aquatic invasive species is working its way through DEC and is expected before the summer season.
  - Invasive Species Awareness Week is July 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 2015.

## **Annual Report**

The 2014 Annual Report was provided to the Steering Committee prior to the meeting for review. Paul suggested adding a map that depicts either the watersheds or high value conservation areas to the report, in addition to the county map that is already present. Other comments were positive and a few corrections and edits were made to the report. Carri Marschner offered to provide help with proofreading documents.

### **Next Steps:**

Andrea will finalize the 2014 Annual Report, submit to DEC and post on website

## **Work Plan**

The 2015 Annual Work Plan was completed in December, but Andrea wanted to make sure that all Steering Committee Members were able to provide any last comments before it was finalized and submitted to DEC. Members present were happy with the plan and made no changes. Paul and Andrea touched on the nature of the plan, which has a number of elements that depend upon Partners and

other entities outside of WNY PRISM to fully realize. This is inherent in a program that is a partnership network and while the work plan is very ambitious, we feel that it is doable.

Next Steps:

Andrea submit 2015 Work Plan to DEC and post on website

### **WNY PRISM Website**

We reviewed the website template, as designed by My Digital Nature, and comments/suggestions were discussed. Topic discussed included terminology (Macrophyte vs. Plants), desire to see community or county specific information, and if there was a single unifying image that represents all of WNY.

Andrea requested photos, specifically any photos that are good as identification photos for invasive species and photos of volunteers working. We also discussed creating a tagline, based on our mission. Six tagline options were provided to the Steering Committee to select from. We are just starting with the development of the site, which is expected to be live in early May.

Next Steps:

Andrea will continue to work with MDN on development of the website and discuss options for inclusion of community/county specific information.

Steering Committee will provide photos and images that can be used on the site.

Andrea will review potential tagline selections and select the one WNY PRISM will use.

### **2015 WNY PRISM Crew**

Four job openings (1-Education and Outreach Assistant, 3 – Invasive Species Management Assistants) with WNY PRISM were posted on the RF website (<https://www.rfhiring.com/jobs.asp>), and we asked that Partners help to spread the word about the positions. We are also looking for opportunities to partner on invasive species removal and survey efforts and ask Partners to submit projects for consideration.

Next Steps:

Andrea will continue to post and distribute the job descriptions and reach out to Partners about the opportunity to work on removal and survey projects together.

### **Next Steering Committee Meeting:**

Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> 2015, location TBA