

**WNY PRISM Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup> 2015; 1:00 – 3:00 pm**  
**WNY PRISM Office – Great Lakes Center**

**In Attendance:** Helen Domske (NY Sea Grant), Robert Haltner (USFWS), Sharon Bachman (CCE Invasive Species Program), Ba Zan Lin (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper), Jennifer Dunn (DEC), Andrea Locke (WNY PRISM), Lynn Greer (USACE)

**Steering Committee Partner Updates**

Helen Domske – Presented alongside Robert on a Teacher’s Workshop in July, Educators in the Erie Canal, exploring the Erie Canal as a vector for invasives. Ba Zan Lin – Boat Stewards in full-swing, partnering with Parks due to high volume of boats at small boat harbor, will have report available this year. Robbyn is surveying for water chestnut. Robert Haltner – Got results from eDNA for carp, negative, finished Ichthyoplankton sampling and will process/send out samples soon. Got benthic data back, but not enough DNA sequences available at the lab they used to provide adequate information (genus level only), so they are looking for a new lab – suggestions welcome. Recruiting for fall internship program, not paid, 1 8 hour day available, applications at their website. Found water chestnut on the Genesee River (FL-PRISM), rapid response scheduled for August 4<sup>th</sup>. Sampling will continue into the fall, moving from eDNA to other methods such as electrofishing. Sharon Bachman – Hours for IS have decreased due to ISP changes, potential giant hogweed injury to child is more likely a mugwort allergy because no hogweed was found on the site, gearing up for the EC Fair. Jennifer Dunn – Canal Fest of the Tonawandas was very successful, estimated 500 people directly contacted; hydrilla treatment earlier this week went well, number of DEC interns assisted, USFWS has hydrilla watch cards available. Lynn Greer – Stop Hydrilla WNY webpage has been updated (<http://erie.cce.cornell.edu/invasive-species/wny-hydrilla-project>). Hydrilla Demonstration Project in full swing – weather has been cooperating and USACE has been out since Monday. 2015 Treatment Summary expected before long, great newscast from Channel 4 (<http://wivb.com/2015/07/28/hydrilla-plant-inches-closer-to-great-lakes/>).

**PRISM Updates**

- Crew Update
  - Crew started June 1, 2015 – Mat Bilz, Lexy Wagner and Lucy Nuessle.
  - IS removal projects include Seneca Bluffs, Niagara Escarpment Preserve, Kenneglenn Preserve, Tiff, Jamestown Audubon, potentially Red Jacket Park.
  - IS Mapping projects include Chautauqua Lake, Stella Niagara Preserve, Amherst State Park, Jamestown Audubon, and Bergen Swamp.
  - Education and Outreach includes farmer’s markets, Canal Fest, Great Lakes Festival and upcoming Great Lakes Awareness Day.
- Energetics, INC.
  - Energetics, INC, is proposing to increase Commercial Canal Traffic (barges, agricultural commodities from the mid-west) and contacted WNY PRISM interested in invasive species and how this will impact their proposal.
  - Worked with FL-PRISM and iMapInvasives to provide a report on invasive species issues in the Erie Canal and NYS Canal System, including species of concerns.
  - DEC provided BMP for barges that are infrequently removed from water.
- Website
  - Launched, content is still being developed and updated.
  - Feedback has been very positive.
  - IS Profiles will include all priority species, will be updated throughout the fall/winter.

- Education and Outreach
  - County Fairs – WNY PRISM has provided materials and information to Partners having booths at Ch., Catt., Erie, Niagara, Orleans, & Genesee County Fairs. Partners include SWCDs, CCE, and SUNY Fredonia.
  - Education & Outreach Working Group Meeting earlier today
    - Potential Invasive Species Management/BMP Conference next year (2016.)
    - Identifying E&O needs for Priority Species.
  - Upcoming
    - Great Lakes Awareness Day – August 26
    - Genesee County Forest 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – August 29
    - Reinstein Woods Fall Festival – September 19
    - Buffalo Audubon Environmental Career Day – September 19
    - NYPA Wildlife Festival – September 26 - 27
    - Volunteer Program Training – TBA
- Regional Updates
  - NYS AIS Management Plan has been released and is available on DEC's website – Catherine McGlynn has been hired by DEC to assist with plan implementation.
  - Comments from the draft Invasive Species General Permit released earlier this year are under review and DEC hopes to release a final Permit this fall.
  - NYS AIS (Clean, Drain, Dry) draft regulations expected shortly with the intent of final regulations being in place this fall.
    - Helen spoke about other states and how they've successfully implemented Clean, Drain, Dry across their states, and example being MN – great resources for NYS.
    - Jennifer has some Clean, Drain, Dry signs, hoping to get more.
  - CCE ISP funding/contract expired June 30, 2015 – new contract is not expected in the short term.
- Other
  - HWA surveys WNY mostly came back as negative (HWA not found), but surveys in FL-PRISM surveys were mostly positive for HWA.
  - Sharon – mentioned HWA in Amherst area, one detection in area around Amherst State Park/nearby golf course and would like to see a survey conducted for HWA in this area.

**Next Steps:**

Andrea will look into NYPA Wildlife Festival and see if WNY PRISM may have a presence there.

Andrea will work with Sharon on potential HWA survey near Amherst observation.

**WNY PRISM Priorities**

- Terrestrial
  - Management Priorities – mostly Asset Based Management.
  - List provides a framework for WNY PRISM to prioritize potential projects, this is not intended to imply that WNY PRISM will work to eliminate all occurrences of these species or ignore species not on the lists. Projects will be prioritized based on invasive species priorities combined with Conservation Targets as well as long-term outlook (how likely is the work to be successful long-term or maintained by Partners).
  - Jennifer – asked why swallow-worts were separated and knotweeds were grouped, Andrea – management methods for knotweeds are similar, but differ for swallow-wort, pale is more strongly rhizominous and will resprout more readily where black can be more effectively hand-pulled or dug, but will consider combining.

- Sharon – asked about why wild parsnip was not included and if giant hogweed needs to be a priority because there is already a statewide/DEC program and funding for management, Andrea – wild parsnip was a candidate species, and simply didn't make the final cut and we tried to get the list to 10 species. This was discussed in Working Group and it came down to a decision between WNY PRISM's goal/purpose to be non-redundant (work on issues that are not already being addressed by partners) vs. the significant human impacts and DEC's requests for assistance. We sided on the later because the current program isn't sufficient to address WNY needs. But, will reconsider.
- Jennifer – asked about a plan to address emerging issues, Andrea – this list will be reviewed periodically and updated as needed.
- Jennifer – what about European black alder – do we need more information or is it only a problem in certain habitats.
- Aquatic
  - Aquatic priorities are less management and much more focused on education, outreach, and prevention.
  - Helen – priorities should be linked to potential action items, species like spiny water flea, Eurasian water-milfoil, and dreissenid mussels may not be good priorities because actions are so limited and/or ineffectual. At least remove quagga mussel because more common in WNY. Action items may be education, prevention or management.
  - Robert – removal of dreissenid mussels from the list doesn't mean that WNY PRISM doesn't acknowledge the species and need to provide information and education – this will still be provided – what is the purpose...management? Prevention?
  - Andrea – priority lists also will provide weight to these species for NYS Research Institute and funding entities.
  - Jennifer – place spiny water flea under 'need more information', Andrea – need more information can be for research needs, management strategies, distribution.
  - Other species to add/consider rudd (well established in Lakes Erie, Buffalo Harbor, but not throughout the region), bloody red shrimp and rusty crayfish.
- Early Detection
  - Species included here are approaching region or strictly early detection (<3 known occurrences in WNY).
  - Robert – Silver and Bighead Carp could be moved to Early Detection List
  - Consider adding starry stonewort.
  - Species on this list will require rapid response protocols, plans – this will be the next step for our Working Groups.
  - Helen – NYS DEC has a rapid response protocol for Northern Snakehead downstate, would be beneficial to check with them.

**Next Steps:**

Andrea will review priority lists and provide final lists to Steering Committee and Working Groups, along with purpose/description and justification.

Working Groups will identify species in need of Early Detection/Rapid Response protocols and begin work on protocol development.

**NFWF – Pulling Together Initiative Pre-proposal**

WNY PRISM is submitting a pre-proposal to NFWF Pulling Together Initiative, due August 3, 2015. This is a small grant (asking for \$125,000) that will fund the creation of an Invasive Species Strike Team (ISST),

mostly a truck, stewardship equipment and a full time ISST Leader, filling an identified need in WNY. Matching funds are being provided by Partners identified in the grant, most of which is coming as land value match for the purchase value of Stella Niagara.

If invited for a full-proposal, there is a quick turn-around and likely won't be time to gather input from the Steering Committee before it's due, so Andrea asked that SC members review the pre-proposal and send comments as soon as possible.

Next Steps:

Andrea will submit Pre-Proposal, expected date for Full-Proposal invitation is August 24<sup>th</sup> and submit Full-Proposal if invited to do so.

**Next Steering Committee Meeting:**

Thursday September 24, 2015; 1:00 – 3:00 pm; location: WNY PRISM Office

**Next Full Partnership Meeting:**

Thursday November 19, 2015; 1:00 – 3:00 pm location: SUNY Fredonia