

Lower Hudson PRISM

Partners Meeting

November 28th, 2017 – 10:00 am-3:00 pm

Teatown Lake Reservation – Ossining, New York

DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. Discuss PRISM Partner, Project, and Species Updates
2. Edit and approve 2018 Action Plan
3. Edit and approve new mission statement

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Linda Rohleder, LH PRISM coordinator, began the meeting with a thank you to Teatown Lake Reservation for hosting us. She announced that partner metrics for the PRISM annual report were due by December, 15th, 2017 and were required through the partner agreement. Attendees are listed at the end of the report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- It was announced that Taro Ietaka was leaving Rye Nature Center and joining Westchester Parks, Recreation and Conservation. Dominique Biondi will be taking his place as Rye Nature Center's representative to the PRISM.
- Linda Rohleder requested high quality photos for the new PRISM website. She requested that scenic photos and general plant and animal photos be shared to develop an image database.
- Jen Stengle (CCE Putnam) got married and now changed her name to Jen Lerner.
- The meeting location and date for the January 2018 meeting will be emailed once it is finalized.
- Linda Rohleder asked on behalf of the DEC Invasive Control Unit for partners to provide species eligible for invasiveness ranking. Species with the possibility of or known to act invasively in our region should be submitted to the DEC.
- Linda Rohleder reported on a good representation from our PRISM at the annual Cornell Cooperative Extension conference in Ithaca. She noted several good presentations, especially one about the safety of Glyphosate which was recorded and will be shared with partners via the google group once it is posted online.

LHPRISM UPDATES: Communications Updates

Eric Stone presented on the progress of Goal 6 (Information Exchange), by expanding communication capacity of the PRISM. He discussed the objectives of the new website being created:

1. Create friendly and accessible format for users to receive relevant info
2. Provide user specific experience to both public and partners
3. Provide easy to navigate species portal with relevant info for all non-native species of concern in the region
4. Encourage users to participate in established programs
5. Provide easy avenue to partners to share relevant documents and discoveries

The new design by Back Office Thinking was shown to the partners.

Eric requested that partners submit the following content to build up the newsletter:

1. Removal/restoration projects
2. New Plant Discoveries
3. Endangered/Protect Plant Protection
4. Results of research or interesting finds

Social media presence is increasing as well; the goal is to use Facebook to increase traffic to the website and increase awareness of the LH PRISM

Blockbuster Desk Reference: Eric requested that partners share photos and content for blockbuster training materials

Landowner's Guide to Terrestrial Invasive Species Management is publication being developed to give landowners and small-scale land managers access to best management practices for common and widespread invasive species. It should be ready for release in March.

Photo Database: We are in the process of establishing a photo database for the use of all partners throughout the PRISM. Partners are encouraged to contribute photos of native or non-native plants or animals to the project.

MISSION STATEMENT

Eric Stone explained the process for adopting the new mission statement. The initial draft was released to the partners on October 17th, 2017 and received 22 comments. This draft was revised and a second draft was sent out on November 17th, 2017. The latest draft of the LH PRISM mission statement was presented:

"The mission of the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management is to protect the rich biodiversity and ecosystems of the Lower Hudson region through partnerships and collaborations that focus on controlling the introduction, spread, and harmful impact of invasive species."

Eric opened the floor for comments.

The following proposals for amendment were made:

1. Christopher Gow proposed that we should include/add the word “negative”/”adverse”/”harmful” before the word “impact”. Partners discussed, one partner noted that the word invasive in and of itself has a negative connotation. Many partners agreed that harmful is an appropriate addition to the mission statement. A vote was conducted and the results were too close to call. Further discussion between partners was necessary before a second vote. Upon the second vote, the vote was 16 for and 7 against. The motion was passed.
2. Karalyn Lamb proposed that the word “natural” be replaced with “native”. A compromise was proposed by Linda Rohleder to remove the word “natural” from the mission statement. The motion was passed.
3. Daniel Atha moved to replace the word “ecosystem” with “ecology”. This was discussed and it was decided that “ecology” would not be an appropriate word in the mission statement. The motion was opposed.

The final draft for a vote read as:

“The mission of the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management is to protect the rich biodiversity and ecosystems of the Lower Hudson region through partnerships and collaborations that focus on controlling the introduction, spread, and harmful impact of invasive species.”

A final vote was conducted. 22 partners voted yes, and 3 partners abstained.

Groundwork Hudson Valley – Green Team Youth Development Program

Victor Medina presented on the success of Groundwork Hudson Valley’s Youth Development Program. The program utilizes a 3 year DEC Rapid Response Invasive Species Grant to hire High School Students from Yonkers, NY to identify, report, and remove invasive species along with other projects. With 16 youth and 3 crew leaders, it is often the first job experience for many hires and offers exploration into jobs in the fields of biology, natural resources, and public interpretation. Victor noted working with multiple PRISM partners to develop the protocol for plant detection and care of removed plants. Future work includes gaining access to previously unavailable control sites for Kudzu and mile-a-minute.

Trillium Invasives – 2017 PRISM Kudzu Control

Tom Lewis of Trillium Invasive Species Management reported on the progress his crew has had in controlling Kudzu at 23 of the 43 known sites in the PRISM. Trillium, working under a LHPRISM contract, took over the project from a NYSDEC crew.

Tom noted that all 23 sites have been treated with some showing complete removal. Treatment was done via foliar treatment, root crown removal, or cut stump treatment. He noted the root crown seemed to be the most effective of the three options. He also noted that despite previous belief, the plant does have viable seeds this far north and although many of the sites were planted by people, some appear to have been begun from seed. He noted that sites on steep slopes present problems and proper management is complex and expensive at these sites.

Tom opened the floor to questions at the end of his talk:

Erik Kiviat of Hudsonia asked where we should look for new invasions of kudzu. Tom responded that there is no singular vector for introduction and dispersal and that many of the sites have been there for many years, even decades.

Linda Rohleder noted that most of the known sites were planted for erosion control.

Mike Young noted that he performed monitoring on kudzu sites in and around Nyack, NY after treatment. He noted that knotweed was taking over the treated sites and that it appeared gravity and water were moving seeds into roadside swales. 11 out of 12 sites monitored showed no reemergence at time of survey after 3 years of treatment.

Invasives Strike Force Crew Project Prioritization: NY-NJ Trail Conference

Mike Young, the Terrestrial Invasive Species Project Manager for the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference spoke about the changes to the seasonal removal crew. Previously, the crew was sent to projects that could contribute funds for their function. With the inception of the new PRISM contract, projects will be based on merit and fit with LHPRISM objectives. After several meetings with a working group and 4 separate drafts, the new format focuses the crew's work on:

1. Projects which allow the crew to use herbicide licenses
2. Reduced crew-led volunteer days
3. Acting as first responders for emerging species

Mike also shared the new mission statement for the crew.

ISF Trail Crew, as part of the NY-NJ Trail Conference and funded through the Lower Hudson PRISM, is a conservation-based crew devoted to the eradication, containment and preventing the establishment of emerging terrestrial invasive species within the Lower Hudson Valley in order to protect our high value habitat through the use of skilled labor within the region.

Mike also went through the form with which land managers can use to propose projects. The form will be available for interested users on the lhprism.com website and completed applications need to be submitted to invasives@nynjtc.org by January 5th, 2018 for the 2018 summer season.

Linda emphasized this is the pilot year, encouraged interested groups to fill in as much as possible but the form shouldn't discourage participation. Blank spaces can be filled in by LHPRISM staff. Crew will be allowed to work on any property with permission –public or private.

Walt Daniels asked if the January 5th deadline was hard and fast. Linda responded that an early deadline was necessary to allow applicants to have an answer about whether their project was accepted prior to the LHPRISM Request for Proposals for funding at the end of January. Walt's concern was with needing permission from town board which would not meet before then. Linda responded that he would need to have a reasonable expectation for land access before form submission as long as a signed form could be provided soon after the submission.

A question was asked about herbicide on wetland sites. Linda asked Tom Lewis about permitting for wetlands. Tom responded that the complexity dictated that it shouldn't be a possibility for the 2018 season.

A question was asked about the landowner's role in dictating the method of treatment. Linda responded that the crew will use the best method possible and while the landowner can approve or disapprove treatment, the disapproval may lead to a de-prioritization on the project.

A question was asked about insurance. The Trail conference maintains general liability and pesticide liability insurance.

A question was asked about monitoring protocol. The ISF crew will provide a guidance on how the land owners should to monitor the site after treatment.

Linda asked for a vote to approve the protocol for crew project prioritization.

A vote was passed with a 22 yays, no nays, and 2 abstentions

Spotted Lantern Fly

Linda Rohleder shared a species alert about the Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*). It is found in many counties in Pennsylvania and now has been found in Delaware state. It is a serious pest to grapes, walnuts, and stone fruits and is spreading aggressively. The LH PRISM will begin a volunteer based monitoring program involving sticky traps on the preferred host plant, Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*).

2018 Action Plan

Linda Rohleder proposed the action plan for 2018 based on the priorities set out in the September meeting. The plan was discussed point by point and limited changes were made. The plan was approved after a vote.

The full text of the 2018 Action Plan can be found at <http://www.lhprism.org/content/action-plan>

Mile-a-Minute Control in Esopus

Nate Nardi-Cyrus, the Land Stewardship Coordinator for Scenic Hudson, spoke about his organization's efforts to control mile-a-minute in Esopus. While mile-a-minute is fairly well established in our region, Esopus is at the northern edge of the plant's distribution and is close to the CRISP border. In the interest of protecting the Catskills, Scenic Hudson and Trillium ISM along with a private landowner have been working on containing the 100+ acre patch and its satellite sites. Scenic Hudson has been controlling by mowing while replanting as an oak forest while a landowners at the top edge and Trillium has been using glyphosate to contain the edge. The main mass has had the release of 2,500 biocontrol weevils to boost

and already established population. As a test plot, Tom Lewis used a backpack torch to treat mile-a-minute. He found it to be nearly as effective as herbicide but at a greater time and financial cost. During the course of these treatments, the leading edge of mile-a-minute has spread and pocket populations in the Catskills are now under treatment.

Jonathon Rosenthal asked about the efficacy of the biocontrol. Nate says it depends on the location. Meredith Taylor said that site level effects not fully known.

Daniel Atha asked about finding MaM on undisturbed areas. Nate said it shows up in even naturally disturbed areas like thinning canopy from EAB tree disease.

Monitoring and Managing Ash: A protocol for Conservation and Mitigation

Jonathon Rosenthal, the director of the Ecological Research Institute, presented on an initiative to retain the genetics of ash trees found to be resistant to Emerald Ash Borer attack. Applying to all species of ash, if a tree has a full canopy after 2 years of 95% EAB mortality around it or 4 years of 50% EAB mortality, a scion (cutting of tissue) of that tree can be professionally removed and its genetics crossed with another resistant ash. Labs in the mid-west have had success breeding resistant ash trees but this effort needs to be scaled up and more genetic material from other resistant ashes needs to be found to make the resulting breedings more diverse. Jonathan explained the necessity of monitoring ash trees at all stages of infestation – prior to EAB arrival, at the beginning of infestation, during and after.

Monitoring during infestation helps determine when the 95% or 50% mortality level mentioned above has been reached to set the clock for checking for resistant ash trees in subsequent years. Monitoring programs linked to iNaturalist may be found on monitoringash.org. Jonathan encouraged PRISM partners to get involved and participate in these efforts. Jonathon also called for information on Black Ash locations. Erik Kiviat offered to share that information.

CONCLUSION

The next meeting date and location will be shared through email once they are finalized. The next meeting will include Samantha Epstein's talk on the PRISM aquatic invasive programs. After the meeting's adjournment, the Species Tier Categorization working group met.

Notes written by: Eric Stone

ATTENDEES:

Anne Osborn	Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
Bob delTorto	Bronx River Parkway Reservation Conservancy
Bud Veverka	Mianus River Gorge
Christopher Gow	Village of Tuxedo Park
Daniel Atha	New York Botanical Garden
David Decker	Audubon NY
Diane Alden	Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct
Eric Stone	New York-New Jersey Trail Conference
Erik Kiviat	Hudsonia
Glenn Sungela	
Hillary Siener	Teatown Lake Reservation
Jonathan Rosenthal	Ecological Research Institute
John Mickelson	Winnekee Land Trust
Joyce Tomaselli	CCE Dutchess County
Julie Ruben	Three Arrows Cooperative
Karalyn Lamb	The Native Plant Center
Kate Terlizzi	Black Rock Forest Consortium
Krista Munger	Pound Ridge Land Conservancy
Linda Rohleder	Lower Hudson PRISM Coordinator
Lindsay Yoder	New York-New Jersey Trail Conference
Mary Rice	Friends of the Great Swamp
Mary Walsh	Westchester Land Trust
Meredith Taylor	NYC DEP
Mike Young	New York-New Jersey Trail Conference
Nate Nardi-Cyrus	Scenic Hudson
Nicole Wooten	Hudson Highlands Land Trust
Rebecca Policello	Teatown Lake Reservation
Samantha Epstein	Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
Steven DiFalco	Rockefeller State Park Preserve
Suzanne Clary	Jay Heritage Center
Tait Johansson	Bedford Audubon
Tim Wenskus	NYSDEC Region 2
Tom Lewis	Trillium Invasive Species Management
Victor Medina	Groundwork Hudson
Walt Daniels	New York – New Jersey Trail Conference