

## **Partner Meeting**

September 30, 2015 – 10:00 am-3:00 pm Jay Heritage Center, 210 Boston Post Rd, Rye

#### **DESIRED OUTCOMES**

- 1. Get to know each other better
- 2. Begin planning 2016 activities
- 3. Vote on items recommended by the Steering Committee
- 4. Vote on election of Steering Committee members for term beginning 2016
- 5. Learn about aquatic invasive species regulations and programs at the state and local level

## WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, INTRODUCTIONS

Linda Rohleder welcomed all to the meeting, thanked the Jay Heritage Center for hosting, and made announcements:

- We would like to grow our active membership, and current partners were asked to encourage anyone who may be interested to attend the next meeting in Beacon.
- On October 14, Linda will be going to the PRISM leaders meeting, and they have asked that we provide a few highlights of our activities for the year. Partners were asked to communicate anything they would like to highlight to Linda.
- The Cornell Cooperative Extension In-Service Invasive Species Conference is November 3 5 (open to everyone).
- November 6 is The Lower Hudson PRISM Invasive Species Summit: Challenges, Strategies, and Perspectives. A link to registration has been emailed and is available on the Lower Hudson PRISM website. PRISM partners were encouraged to register.
- November 12 next Lower Hudson PRISM meeting in Beacon

All attendees introduced themselves and the organization that they represent, if any. A list of attendees is below.

## **OVERVIEW OF PRISM GOALS, HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015 PROGRESS, 2016 OBJECTIVES**

Linda gave an overview of our 2015 accomplishments and presented the Steering Committee's recommended 2016 objectives. See the attached PDF of Linda's slides for more details.

The meeting then broke into our specific goal groups. Each group was asked to review the objectives as recommended by the Steering Committee, and begin working on setting and assigning the tasks required for each objective. Linda noted that the Steering Committee will work on the capacity building goal, and members with comments on those objectives should direct them to her.

The groups then came together to present their review of objectives and tasks. The groups were in general agreement with the objectives recommended by the Steering Committee. Below is a summary of tasks where assistance or participation from partners was requested.

### **Goal 2: Conservation Targets**

- Draft Invasive Species Prevention Zones will be sent around, partners are asked to

review and give feedback.

### Goal 3: Strategic Management

- The group will be working on protocols for individual invasive species management, determining "emerging species," and listing "focal species." Members from other groups were invited to join the effort.
- The Blockbuster survey program will be continuing to fill data gaps and detect new introductions. All members are invited to participate.

### Goal 4: Education and Outreach

 The group will be hosting an education and outreach workshop for further planning and sharing of resources. The workshop will potentially be held in January, all will be invited to participate.

## Goal 5: Mitigate Pathways of Invasion

 Linda asked if any organizations would be interested in applying for funding to administer boat steward. Contact Linda if so.

### Goal 6: Information Exchange

- The group will be requesting help in communicating species alerts and seasonal management tips to constituents.
- The group added an objective to increase branding on social media (eg. adding logo on Facebook page
- If anyone is interested in helping with a pilot program to install boot brushes at trailheads, get in touch with Nate Nardi-Cyrus at Scenic Hudson.

### **VOTING ITEMS**

Linda referred to the materials that partners received via email prior to the meeting. She confirmed that we had a quorum of partners present, and presented three items for voting:

1. The Steering Committee recommends that the PRISM partners vote to change Exhibit B, clause J of the Partner Agreement as follows.

Current Wording: "J. The Steering Committee will make decisions on funding proposals under the guidance of proposal ranking criteria developed by the Partners. Steering Committee members are eligible to apply for funding but must recuse themselves from voting if applying. Members who must recuse themselves will be replaced by alternatives drawn from the Partners for the evaluation and selection of proposals."

Proposed Wording: ""J. The Steering Committee will make decisions on funding proposals under the guidance of proposal ranking criteria developed by the Partners. Steering Committee members are eligible to apply for funding but must recuse themselves from voting if applying. Members who must recuse themselves will be replaced by <u>alternates for the evaluation and selection of proposals drawn from the Partners or from a list of non-Partner experts approved by the Steering Committee. Non-Partner experts will not comprise more than 50% of the selection committee."</u>

Linda explained the reason for the Steering Committee's recommended change to the Partner Agreement, and added that the Steering Committee intends to put together criteria for selecting appropriate alternates.

Walt Daniels made a motion to adopt the changes to Exhibit B as proposed. Bill Livingston seconded the motion and it was put to a vote by a show of hands by PRISM partners present. The results were: Ayes 23, Nays 0, Abstentions 1, and the motion passed.

2. The Steering Committee recommends that Partners vote to approve reserving no more than one quarter of our funds for the Steering Committee to contract for a program assistant.

Linda explained that PRISM activities have developed to a point where they are generating more work to coordinate than one person can manage. The members discussed the Steering Committee's recommendation, including the logistics of hiring someone. Contracting with SCA could be an option, but the allocation of funds would be up to the Steering Committee.

Helen Forgione made a motion to reserve up to one quarter of our funds for the Steering Committee to contract for a program assistant. Diane Alden seconded the motion and it was put to a vote of PRISM partners by a show of hands. The results were: Ayes 28, Nays 0, Abstentions 0, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Steering Committee members.

Linda asked members to vote for three out of the four candidates for the Steering Committee and passed around a ballot box. Statements by each candidate were emailed prior to the meeting and hard copies were circulated during the meeting. Only PRISM partners were issued ballots at the beginning of the meeting.

The results of voting were that the following members were elected to the Steering Committee: Jennifer Stengle, Thomas Lewis and Kali Bird

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

1. Samantha Epstein, invasive species coordinator for Clearwater, reported on the aquatic program. Watercraft inspection steward pilot program, Education and Outreach, and Volunteer Surveying Program

Watercraft inspection: Boat stewards were stationed at Staatsburg and Croton. Stewards at both the locations had multiple "saves" throughout the season, including hydrilla at the Croton location.

Education and Outreach: Samantha has held 35 events (including trainings, workshops, seminars, and tabling events), and reached approximately 900 people from a wide range of ages and knowledge bases. She gave an overview of outreach materials she has developed, and will be making them available to the PRISM.

Volunteer Surveying Program: Samantha has trained 20 new "Hydrilla Hunters" who are concentrating on the Croton River. She gave an identification tutorial on common aquatic invasives in the region including Hydrilla, Brittle Naiad, Curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, and water chestnut.

Contact Samantha with questions: <a href="mailto:Epstein@clearwater.org">Epstein@clearwater.org</a>, 845 265-8080 x 71142.

- 2. Dave Adams, NYS DEC, presented highlights on pertinent elements of the New York Conservation law regarding invasive species and regulations based on those laws. (2 Handouts) If anyone would like additional language summaries, feel free to get in touch with Dave: <a href="mailto:dave.adams@dec.ny.gov">dave.adams@dec.ny.gov</a>
- 3. Catherine McGlynn introduced herself as the new Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator with DEC's invasive species coordination unit. She highlighted the importance of the boat stewardship program and said that the DEC will be issuing RFPs for the boat stewardship program, and they will specifically invite Hudson River applicants. The most frequently used boat launches would be the best locations. They will also be hiring two new positions in their unit in January and February. She talked about ongoing and upcoming studies they are conducting. Chris Doyle from Allied Biological has been out on 45 sites on an 80 mile stretch doing aquatic invasive surveys focused on hydrilla. None has been found to date outside of the previously known Croton River location. Allied Biological will be submitting maps and data.

### **LIST OF ATTENDEES**

Bob DelTorto Native Plant Center; Bronx River Conservancy

Jason Klein Westchester County Parks

David Decker Constitution Marsh Audubon Society

Matt Aiello-Lammens Pace University

Chris Doyle Allied Biological

Sarah Hoskinson Mianus River Gorge
John Mickelson Geospatial and Ecological Services
Carrie Sears The Invasives Project- Pound Ridge
Matt Decker Hudson Highlands Land Trust
Steve Ricker Westmoreland Sanctuary

Kristen MacFarlane Wave Hill

Cathy McGlynn NYS DEC

Lauri Taylor Putnam County Soil & Water Nicole Laible Rockland County Soil & Water Helen Forgione Natural Areas Conservancy Nate Nardi-Cyrus Scenic Hudson

Jen Stengle CCE Putnam Co.

Hillary Siener Teatown Lake Reservation
Lisa Milazzo Master Forest Owner volunteer

Mike Fargione Cary Institute Bill Livingston BioBoat

Karalyn Lamb Saw Mill River Audubon
Carol Capobianco Native Plant Center

Andy Thompson Roosevelt State Park Preserve volunteer

Krista Munger Pound Ridge Land Conservancy
Diane Alden Friends of Old Croton Aqueduct

Kali Bird Hike NY

Walt Daniels

Daniel Atha NY Botanical Garden Annie Christian-Reuter CCE Rockland Co.

Erik Kiviat Hudsonia

Samantha Epstein Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

Suzanne Clary Jay Heritage Center

John Thompson Mohonk Preserve

Meredith Taylor NYC DEP

Linda Rohleder NY-NJ Trail Conference

Tom Lewis Trillium Invasive Species Management

Tate Bushell Westchester Land Trust Barbara Specht Jay Heritage Center

# Lower Hudson PRISM Goals 1: Capacity Building

- ► The Lower Hudson PRISM has a robust public identity, strong internal structure and a sustainable resource base to continue its mission.
- ▶ 2015 Highlights:
  - Creation and adoption of a <u>logo</u>
  - ► Issued <u>multiple press releases</u> resulting in a number of press mentions
  - <u>Training sessions</u> for partners



# Lower Hudson PRISM Goals 1: Capacity Building

- 2016 Objectives
- Grow our <u>active membership</u>
- Sustain membership and enable partners to be more fully engaged
- Increase our <u>public visibility</u> to have the LHPRISM be known as the go-to place for regional invasive species information
- Create <u>metrics collection</u> mechanism for partners to facilitate collection of information to enable advertising our accomplishments



# Lower Hudson PRISM Goals 2: Conservation Targets

- ► The Lower Hudson PRISM protects the rich, native biodiversity of the Lower Hudson Valley by focusing on priority targets for conservation.
- ▶ 2015 Highlights:
  - Funded project to <u>identify invasive species threats</u> to rare and endangered plants in Hudson River tidal marshes
  - Began to <u>fill data gaps</u> in knowledge of invasive species distribution using Targeted Alerts, BlockBuster survey



# Lower Hudson PRISM Goals 2: Conservation Targets

- 2016 Objectives
- Target projects where IS management is likely to benefit SGCN species
- Begin to <u>identify candidate Invasive Species Prevention</u>
  Zones
- Further elaborate our <u>methods for Prioritizing IS</u> <u>management projects</u> with respect to conservation targets



# Lower Hudson PRISM Goals 3: Strategic Management

- ► The Lower Hudson PRISM supports and optimizes regional conservation through strategic invasive species management.
- ▶ 2015 Highlights
  - Many <u>Emerging species control</u> efforts
    - ► Mile-a-minute control in Esopus
    - Corydalis incisa pilot control in Bronx
    - Hardy kiwi control projects in Westchester
  - Better <u>reporting</u>: Targeted Alerts, <u>BlockBuster</u>
  - Obtained <u>2ee recommendations</u> for multiple species
  - Removal projects in candidate ISPZ parks



# Lower Hudson PRISM Goals 3: Strategic Management

- 2016 Objectives
- Develop a <u>protocol for rapid response</u> to a new introduction
- Adopt <u>focal invasive species list(s)</u>
- Use Highly probable areas (HPA) information to <u>target</u> <u>surveys for early detection</u> species
- Continue to <u>build BlockBuster survey program</u> to fill data gaps and detect new introductions
- Conduct management projects according to our prioritization guidelines



## Lower Hudson PRISM Goals 4: Education and Outreach

► The Lower Hudson PRISM reaches out to new audiences and delivers education that communicates the positive impacts of invasive species management on ecosystems. The Lower Hudson PRISM offers clear steps for action on personal and community levels.



## Lower Hudson PRISM Goals 4: Education and Outreach

- 2015 Highlights:
  - Strong and widespread participation in <u>Invasive</u> <u>Species Awareness Week</u> (more than 25 events across the region)
  - ► Inception of our <u>aquatic program</u>
  - Multiple talks and <u>symposia on Part 575</u> Prohibited and Regulated list and native alternatives to invasive plants
  - Outreach to <u>local highway departments</u>



## Lower Hudson PRISM Goals 4: Education and Outreach

- 2016 Objectives
- Hold an <u>Education and Outreach workshop</u> for planning purposes
- Continue or increase our involvement in <u>NY's Invasive</u> <u>Species Awareness Week</u>
- Identify materials needed to teach about the <u>PRISMs</u> focal species
- Get more professionals trained on emerging species (early detection)
- Offer training to the average person on <u>removal</u> <u>techniques</u>
- Offer training to support BlockBuster surveys
- Issue seasonal, timed alerts (e.g. lesser celandine) for early detection species (and underreported?)
- Prepare <u>templates</u> for outreach materials for use with early detection species (e.g. mailings, door hangers, factsheets)



## Lower Hudson PRISM Goals 5: Mitigate Pathways of Invasion

- PRISM has a coordinated program to prevent species introduction by focusing on pathways.
- ▶ 2015 Highlights:
  - Inception of our <u>Watercraft Inspection Stewards</u> program
  - Education in <u>support of Part 575</u>



## Lower Hudson PRISM Goals 5: Mitigate Pathways of Invasion

- 2016 Objectives
- Increase compliance with <u>new regulations prohibiting</u> and <u>regulating the sale of invasive species</u> among living industry points of sale
- Continue a <u>watercraft inspection steward program</u> to mitigate the spread of aquatic invasive species by boaters
- Pilot bootbrush stations at trailheads to mitigate the spread of invasive plants along trails
- Support the <u>"don't move firewood"</u> program to mitigate the spread of forest pests
- ► Participate in the <u>southern pine beetle task force</u>



## Lower Hudson PRISM Goals 6: Information Exchange

➤ The establishment of an information exchange allows Lower Hudson PRISM partners and other professionals to strategically manage and integrate information relevant to the management of invasive species and offer that information to any person, group, agency (partner and non-partner alike).



# Lower Hudson PRISM Goals 6: Information Exchange

- ▶ 2015 Highlights:
  - Web site work:
    - Species information for Part 575 species added to web site
    - ► Maps and Data section on web site
    - ▶ Partner Portal area established on web site
  - ► Lower Hudson PRISM Symposium (Nov 6)



# Lower Hudson PRISM Goals 6: Information Exchange

- 2016 Objectives
- Continue work on our website improving usability and design
- Make <u>information avenues</u> available (e.g. Speakers Bureau, hotlines, species information)
- Continue gathering information and progressing with development of Best Management Practices (BMPs)



## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1994 the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, a multi-agency federal body co-chaired by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, approved New York's *Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Comprehensive Management Plan*. That plan identified goals and supporting actions aimed at reducing the potential for the introduction and spread of nonindigenous aquatic species, hereafter referred to as aquatic invasive species (AIS) into New York waters, minimizing harmful impacts from those organisms, and educating the public on the importance of preventing future introductions. In addition, that plan recommended creation of a Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Prevention and Control Unit to implement selected actions identified in the plan. While some elements of the 1994 plan have been enacted, it was not possible to implement all of them, and the introduction and spread of AIS continue to be serious concerns. Thus, an updated plan has been developed to further address the AIS issue, with a focus on the state's fresh waters and recommend actions.

New York is a water-rich state with an abundance of lakes, ponds, rivers, and marine waters. The construction of numerous canals created artificial waterway connections which increased the opportunity for AIS to be transported into and from New York. Historically, AIS of particular concern included zebra and quagga mussels, sea lamprey, Eurasian watermilfoil, water chestnut, and hydrilla. More recently, extensive efforts are underway to prevent the spread of one or more species of Asian carp from the Mississippi River watershed to the Great Lakes Basin.

There is no single law or regulation that can be broadly used to prevent AIS from entering waters in New York or from being spread once present. New York State enacted two pieces of legislation and adopted regulations in 2014 intended to prevent the spread of AIS through recreational watercraft use. Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) was amended to add a new ECL § 9-1710 that requires operators of watercraft launching in a public waterbody to take "reasonable precautions" to prevent the spread of AIS. NYSDEC is drafting regulations prescribing a suite of reasonable precautions that may be taken. Article 3 of Navigation Law was amended to add a new § 35-d requiring NYSDEC to develop a universal, downloadable AIS spread-prevention sign and requiring all owners of public boat launches to conspicuously display the sign. In 2014, NYSDEC adopted regulations requiring watercraft launched at or retrieved from its access sites to be drained, and the watercraft, trailer, and associated equipment to be free of visible plant or animal matter (6 NYCRR §§ 59.4 & 190.24). The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, & Historic Preservation adopted a similar regulation at its sites, recorded in New York Codes Rules and Regulations (9 NYCRR § 377.1 (i)).

In 2013, NYSDEC adopted regulations intended to slow the spread of invasive species through commerce by establishing the state's first lists of prohibited and regulated species (6 NYCRR § 575). Other NYSDEC regulations that help prevent the spread of AIS require authorization via permit for fish to be stocked into waters of the state (ECL § 11-0507), and for such fish to be free of specified fish pathogens. NYSDEC also regulates the use of baitfish (6 NYCRR § 19.2) and requires that they be certified as pathogen free (6 NYCRR §§ 188.1 & 188.2).

The updated *AIS Plan* was initially drafted by staff from DEC before being provided to outside reviewers for additional input. It is focused on the state's fresh waters although, if implemented, the plan has elements that will aid efforts to limit the proliferation of AIS in marine and coastal portions of the state. To support the overall goal of stopping the introduction and spread of AIS into and within New York State's waters, four objectives were identified: Prevention, Detection, Response, and Capacity. For the first three objectives, strategies incorporating actions to foster attainment were further categorized as Education and Outreach, Leadership and Coordination, Research and Information, and Regulatory and Legislative. The Capacity objective was focused solely on securing adequate funding and resources to support AIS programs in New York; thus, it did not lend itself to the categories described above.

A suite of more than 50 actions needed to fully implement the plan was identified, and these actions are summarized in an implementation table. Recognizing the challenge in implementing all of the plan's recommendations within the five-year span of this plan, ten high-priority actions were identified and briefly described below. All are considered to be very important; thus, they do not appear in priority order. The codes preceding each action link to the Implementation Table (pp. 37) and the text of this plan.

- 1A1. Expand the boat launch steward program and ensure consistency of these programs statewide
- **3B1**. Develop an AIS response framework to guide decision making when AIS are detected, and communicate the reasoning for the response selected
- **4X1**. Within available resources, NYSDEC will implement and maintain a statewide, coordinated AIS management program.
- 1A2. Implement an AIS public awareness campaign and evaluate its effectiveness in reaching target audiences
- **1B1**. Provide Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) leadership for the AIS program to achieve productive and coordinated actions
- **3D1**. Identify legal, regulatory, and institutional barriers that could impede a rapid response to an AIS introduction
- 1A3. Expand the use of AIS disposal stations at waterway access sites
- 3B2. Create regional "first responder" AIS teams to incorporate local expertise in planning and implementing appropriate responses to AIS

- 1B2. Continue to coordinate NYSDEC activities within the New York Invasive Species Council
- 1C1. Identify and evaluate risks associated with pathways for AIS introduction to and movement within New York

Annual evaluation and monitoring will be used to gauge progress toward meeting the objectives of the plan. Pending the outcome of efforts to secure adequate resources to implement elements of the plan, progress will be measured and reported by either the *AIS Plan* team or by personnel assigned to work on the overall AIS management program.

## **New York State Laws and Regulations Regarding Invasive Species**

September 2015

## **Department of Environmental Conservation:**

NY Environmental Conservation Law Article 3 General functions, powers, duties and jurisdictions Title 3 General functions, powers, duties and jurisdictions

3-0301 General functions, powers and duties of the department and the commissioner.

(1) (j) Promote control of pests...(k) Promote control of weeds and aquatic growth...(w) "Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force" comprehensive management plans...

### NY Environmental Conservation Law Article 9 Lands and Forests

Title 13 Forest insect and disease control.

9-1301. White pine blister rust and currant rust.

9-1303. Forest insects and other forest tree diseases.

Title 17 New York Invasive Species Council

9-1701 Legislative findings.

9-1703 Definitions.

9-1705 New York invasive species council.

9-1707 New York Invasive species advisory committee.

9-1709 General powers and duties.

9-1710 Aquatic invasive species spread prevention.

### NY Environmental Conservation Law Article 11 Fish and Wildlife

Title 5 Fish and Wildlife Management

11-0507 Liberation of fish, shellfish and wildlife. (4) Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*).

11-0509 Water chestnut.

11-0514 Eurasian boar.

Title 17 Importation and Sale of Fish, Wildlife and Game

11-1703 Importation, possession and sale of fish without license or permit

## Regulations:

6 NYCRR part 10.1 (c) (3) Round Goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*)

6 NYCRR part 19 Use of Bait

6 NYCRR part 44.11 Chinese Mitten Crabs (*Eriocheir sinensis*).

6 NYCRR part 59.4 State Boat Launching Sites & 190.24 Boat Launching Sites

6 NYCRR part 180.9 Fish Dangerous to Indigenous Fish Populations

6 NYCRR part 180.12 Eurasian Boar

6 NYCRR part 188 Fish Health Inspection Requirements

6 NYCRR part 192 Forest Insect Disease Control

6 NYCRR part 575 Invasive Species

## Navigation Law:

Article 3 35-d Aquatic Invasive Species Signs at Public Boat Launches

## Department of Agriculture and Markets:

NY Agriculture and Markets Law Article 9: Inspection and Sale of Seed

136 Definitions.

137 Label requirements of all seeds, including lawn-seeding.

- 138 Prohibitions.
- 139 Exemptions.
- 140 Samples; publication of results of tests.
- 141 Certification.
- 142 Implementation.

## NY Agriculture and Markets Law Article 11: Integrated Pest Management Program

- 148 Establishment of integrated pest management program.
- 149 Enactment of compact.

NY Agriculture and Markets Law Article 14: Prevention and Control of Disease in Trees and Plants; Insect Pests; Sales of Fruit Bearing Trees.

- 161 Definitions.
- 162 Nursery stock; common carriers.
- 163 Prevention of introduction of injurious insects, noxious weeds, and plant diseases.
- 164 Control and eradication of injurious insects, noxious weeds, and plant diseases.
- 165 Damage for property destroyed.
- 166 Examination and certification of nurseries and nursery stock.
- 167 Access to premises; quarantines; rules and regulations.
- 168 Sale of fruit-bearing trees and grapevines; labels; damages.
- 169 Delegation of powers and immunities in regard to Dutch elm disease in municipalities.

## Regulations:

1 NYCRR Chapter II Animal and Industry

Subchapter A Diseases of Domestic Animals

1 NYCRR Chapter III Plant Industry

Subchapter A Inspection and Sale of Seeds

Subchapter C Prevention and Control of Disease in Trees and Plants; Insect Pests; Sale of Fruit-Bearing Trees

## Soil and Water Conservation Districts:

Section 9 subdivision 16 Prevention and control of prohibited and regulated invasive species.

## <u>Department of Health:</u>

NY Public Health Law Article 32 Live Pathogenic Microorganisms or Viruses

- 3200 Handling; registration required; exceptions.
- 3201 Sale or other disposal; permission required.
- 3202 Sale or other disposal; labeling containers.
- 3202 Violations; penalties.

## Regulations:

10 NYCRR Chapter II Administrative Rules and Regulations

Subchapter E Food and Drug Products; Research

Subpart 61-1 Recombinant DNA Research and Activities