



Partner Meeting

November 12, 2015 – 10:00 am-3:00 pm

Scenic Hudson's River Center, 8 Long Dock Road, Beacon

DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. Get to know each other better
2. Gather feedback on Invasive Species Summit
3. Finalize 2016 Action Plan
4. Vote on modifications to Proposal Selection Criteria recommended by the Steering Committee
5. Learn about invasive species impacts to tidal wetland plants, mile-a-minute control in Esopus
6. Vote on other items put forward by Steering Committee

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, INTRODUCTIONS

Linda Rohleder welcomed all to the meeting, went over the agenda, and made announcements:

- The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum is having an event in May and they need a speaker to talk about invasive plants. The event will be either the 14th or 15th of May, 2016. Anyone who might be interested should contact Linda.
- Our next meeting will be January 19th at CCE Rockland. It will be an education and outreach planning session.
- Linda will be asking PRISM partners for reports and metrics for our annual report. Our annual report will be ready by the end of January.
- The Steering Committee is looking at issuing the RFP for funding in early January
- Linda relayed some notes from the Cornell Cooperative Extension In-Service Invasive Species Conference:
 - o European Fire Ant has been found in Maine and upstate New York. These ants wipe out all of the native ants. They stay fairly localized but are spread through nursery trade
 - o There are four quarantined counties in Pennsylvania where the spotted lantern fly has been found. Tree of Heaven is its preferred food, but later in the larval stage, it eats other plants including grapes.
 - o New invasive plants that were discussed include: Japanese tree lilac, Japanese walnut, memorial rose, Hardy Kiwi, aquatic water hyacinth, water lettuce, water wheel. All on this list have been found in NY in small locations.

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

FEEDBACK ON INVASIVE SPECIES SUMMIT

The group took 10 minutes for everyone to talk in small groups about the Invasive Species Summit, which took place on November 6. The group shared their thoughts and recommendations for the next summit. Most thought that we could have used larger spaces for breakout sessions, given how well attended the event was. There was general agreement that addressing IS management successes, failures, and the process of IS management more directly would be useful for the next summit. All were in agreement that the New York Botanical Garden did a great job as host.

WAYS TO MAKE MEETINGS MORE VALUABLE

The attendees turned back to their small groups for to discuss how to make PRISM meetings more valuable to partners and potential partners. Each group again shared their thoughts. Some general themes emerged:

- Include short, informal presentations about the work we are doing, case studies
- Make meetings shorter, more focused, and conveniently timed.
- Add an option for remote participation
- Serve food
- Invite speakers from other PRISMs
- Focus meetings on practical work sessions, increase sense of accomplishment

REVIEW OF 2016 ACTION PLAN

The group then reviewed the draft action plan for 2016, which Linda had circulated via email prior to the meeting. For each action item, attendees were asked to consider whether it should be on the list for 2016, and sign up for checking on progress and reporting. The attendees discussed each item and make minor changes to the previously circulated action plan.

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 two items for voting. She reiterated that only partners may vote on these items:

1. *The Steering Committee recommends the following change in wording to the Proposal Selection Criteria.*

Current Wording:

“A1. Importance (0-10 points)

Does the proposal address an important invasive species, an important process (like vector management), an important impact, or an important audience (in the case of education/outreach)?

A2. Priority Objectives (0-10 points)

Does the proposal address one or more priority objectives in the PRISM’s Action Plan?”

Proposed Wording:

“A1. Importance (0-10 points)

How well does the proposal address an important invasive species, an important process (like vector management), or an important audience or address invasive species threats to systems or species of conservation concern?

A2. PRISM Priorities (0-10 points)

How well does the proposal address one or more priority objectives in the PRISM’s Action Plan?”

Other similar changes to the wording of the Proposal Selection Criteria were discussed for criteria B and C. Each of these changes were for clarification, and not substantial. Erik Kiviat made a motion to make these changes. Nate Nardi-Cyrus seconded. 24 were in favor, 1 was opposed, and the motion passed.

2. Vote to approve the 2016 Action Plan as reviewed and edited at this meeting.

John Mickelson made a motion to approve the action plan, as edited earlier at this meeting. John Thompson seconded the motion. 24 were in favor, 1 was opposed, and the motion passed.

The group then broke into groups to discuss the Outreach and Education workshop planning, focal species, and the website.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Tom Lewis of Trillium Invasive Species Management, presented on two 2015 Control Projects:

- Hardy Kiwi (*Actinidia arguta*): classic early detection/rapid response species. There are few reports in our PRISM region according to iMapinvasives. Sites include: Bedford (no control efforts yet); Pound Ridge (control history 2014-2015) no growth at this time; and Croton-on-Hudson (control history 2015) where there is a major infestation involving several organizations. Management has included targeted spraying in some areas, and mechanical cutting in others. Through these control efforts, we are learning about the impacts of cutting alone (brush hog) and impact of mid-season cutting. Will return in 2016.
- Mile-a-Minute (*Persicaria perfoliata*): Esopus, Ulster County. This was the first site where M-A-M was observed in the county. It was found in 2014, and the area was surveyed – there are 14 acres of distinct patches (and another 15 nearby). CRISP hosted community meetings and a plan was developed by Trillium ISM and implemented by Scenic Hudson. The project has included monitoring, mechanical efforts used to improve access, herbicide, hand pulling and bagging, bio-control release of weevils in dense infestations and places that could not be reached. The weevil is becoming established and has shown some ability to suppress. Work in 2016 will include surveys, contact with landowners to match efforts, and suppression along edges and control satellite populations.

2. Eric Kiviat, Hudsonia, presented on Invasive species threats to rare plants in the Hudson River Tidal Wetlands (work-in-progress):

- The Hudson valley is a hotspot of rare plants with lots of invasive plants in low-salinity, brackish areas. Is it possible in a short period of time to generate predictions about where these interactions will be harmful? 14 freshwater tidal and brackish marshes were surveyed. Surveys

were conducted in the intertidal zone, subdivided from sub to supra tidal gradient. Surveys revealed rare native plants, mostly S1 and S2, plus one regionally rare species. 47 stands of 15 rare species were sampled as well as invasive plants, cattail, and sweet flag within 10 m of a rare species stand.

Preliminary conclusions: though a one-season study will not answer all the questions, rare species of lower and to some extent the middle intertidal zone are less threatened than upper intertidal zone. Phragmites and cattail may be the weeds of greatest concern. Close proximity of rare species and weeds requires precise techniques to manage weeds. Dr. Kiviat hopes to identify rare species stands with best potential for management.

MEETING ATTENDEES:

David Decker - Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary
Tom Lewis - Trillium Invasive Species Management
John Mickelson - Geospatial and Ecological Services
Nate Nardi-Cyrus - Scenic Hudson
Karalyn Lamb - Sawmill River Audubon
Linda Rohleder New York – New Jersey Trail Conference
Colleen Lutz - NY Natural Heritage Program, iMapInvasives
Walt Daniels - Yorktown Conservation Board
Samantha Epstein - Clearwater
Tim Wenskus - NY City Parks
Annie C. Reuter - Cornell Cooperative Extension – Rockland Co.
Tierney Rosenstock - Winnakee Land Trust
Carrie Sears - The Invasives Project – Pound Ridge
Tate Bushell - Westchester Land Trust
Joyce Tomaselli - Cornell Cooperative Extension – Dutchess Co.
Christopher Mangels - Consultant
Matt Decker - Hudson Highlands Land Trust
Lori Brengelmann - Town of East Fishkill
Jen Stengle - Cornell Cooperative Extension – Putnam Co.
John Thompson - Mohonk Preserve
Jessica Schuler - New York Botanical Garden
Carol Capobianco - The Native Plant Center
Kristen MacFarlane - Wave Hill
Erik Kiviat - Hudsonia
Tait Johansson - Bedford Audubon Society
Anne Osborn - Clearwater
Andy Thompson
Jonathan Rosenthal - Ecological Research Institute
Kali Bird - Hike New York
Ed McGowan - NYS Parks - Palisades Interstate Park
Abe Ramar