

July 21, 2015 LH PRISM meeting  
10AM-3PM, Held at NYNJ Trail Conference Headquarters in Mahwah, NJ  
Meeting minutes prepared by Annie C.R.

PRESENT:

Diane Alden Friends of Old Croton Aqueduct  
Karalyn Lamb Sawmill River Audubon  
Nathan Reyor USMA West Point  
Daniel Atha NYBG  
Sam Epstein HRS Clearwater  
Nordica Holochuck NY Sea Grant  
Lauri Taylor Putnam Co. Soil & Water  
Bill Livingston BioBoat  
Anne Christian-Reuter CCE Rockland Co.  
Kail Bird Hike NY  
Sarah Hoskinson Mianus River Gorge  
John Mickelson Geospatial & Ecological Services  
Tim Wenskus NYC Parks  
Joyce Tomaselli CCE Dutchess Co.  
Meredith Taylor NYC DEP  
Erik Kiviat Hudsonia  
Mike Fargione Cary Institute  
Tom Lewis Trillium ISM Inc.

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Discuss Action Plan Goals

- 1) Capacity Building – See plan for more details
- 2) Conservation Targets -""
- 3) Strategic IS Management- ""
- 4) Education and Outreach- ""
- 5) Mitigation of Pathways- ""
- 6) Information Exchange

Linda asked all to consider how many of these actions did we actually do/accomplish? Linda asks folks to share what they've achieved in terms of these goals

- 1) Capacity Building
  - a. Increasing membership→We've reached out to 7-8 orgs
  - b. Policy handbook→ partner press releases, logo, etc. has been posted in partner portal
  - c. Press release "team" put together three releases: One in March for NYS 575 release, one for EAB awareness week in May and lastly for ISAW
  - d. Website committee held visioning meeting → progress on maps and geo-data section
  - e. Five other orgs sent out press releases for EAB awareness, ISAW

## 2) Conservation Targets

- a. Hudsonia looking at tidal estuaries and the impact of I.S. on rare species → trying out field methods with more field work planned for the summer
- b. North American Landscape Cooperative developing conservation plan for Hudson Valley Region → John Mickelson has been in touch and we might collaborate
- c. NYNJ Invasive Strike Force worked surveyed Black Rock Forest → possible Invasive Species prevention zone, as there is virtually no I.S. except stilt grass. They also propose ISPZs for Storm King State Park and Schunemunk State Park in Orange Cty.

## 3) Strategic IS Management

- a. NYNJTC Invasive Strike Force Crew has done:
  - i. ED treatment and removals of Siebold viburnum, wintercreeper, hardy kiwi and several other species at locations throughout Westchester, Dutchess and Rockland → they've had success with controlling scotch broom populations in Harriman
  - ii. Surveying for I.S. in Northern Dutchess County and recorded in iMap.
- b. Other NYNJ Trail conference volunteers have done surveying, including 22 volunteers east of the Hudson and 13 west of the Hudson
- c. Linda worked with Adirondack PRISM and a few other partners on 2 EE recommendations for licensed professionals. This included for Hardy Kiwi, Barberry, Burning Bush, Porcelain Berry and others → This information will be posted on the website via a link to the PIMS website (<http://pims.psur.cornell.edu/>)

\*Eric Kiviat put in a request to control *Aralia elata* where it is encroaching on the prickly pear population(s) on Iona Island.

## 4) Education and Outreach

Blockbuster survey- almost 250 new occurrences of invasives reported; no focal list surveys

Q: Are blocks prioritized? → Not this year but definitely next year

Suggestion: Let's focus on highly probable areas for focus next year, to seek out emerging invasives and on road-side areas in agricultural zones.

Q: Are we having access problems with private properties? → Permitting has been tricky; maybe for next year if we plan ahead of time

\*John Mickelson wanted to emphasize that we have topos maps for all PRISM Blockbuster survey blocks.

- a. Volunteers with Clearwater have been surveying for under-reported species, "highly invasive," and "highly probable" all over the region (particularly in high priority sites)
- b. DEP has:

- i. Released biocontrols (weevils) for mile-a-minute at a tornado site and removed *Aralia elata* in Valhalla at Kensico reservoir to prep for tree planting.
- ii. Surveyed 2 blocks in town of Kent for Blockbuster survey
- iii. Surveyed for water chestnut @ Muscotoot reservoir → they're trying to get mechanical harvester, probably for next year.
- iv. Establishing a volunteer program

c NYBG is:

i. working with NYS parks on a DEC grant to survey for *Corydalis incisa* in region of Bronx River; plant is now present in Washington DC and Philadelphia area → discovered as a result of sharing information, underscoring importance of doing so

ii. Helping to Manage water lettuce population in Central Park Pond

- d. Vassar College is working with USDA-APHIS on EAB parasitoid releases on campus and at Cary Institute
- e. Trillium is working on various removal projects, including one with Scenic Hudson on both public and private land in the Esopus area
- f. Sawmill River Audubon working on surveys with Con-Ed and Hudson National Golf Course
- g. NYC Parks is:

- i. Releasing biocontrols for Mile-A-Minute at Pelham Bay Park
- ii. Other removals at Pelham Bay and other Bronx parks
- iii. Removals of Japanese knotweed along Bronx river

Q: How is the mile-a-minute weevil working in terms of control? → General consensus seems to be that it is effective in small areas; it can get established easily and move up to 10 miles

- h. West point is surveying water chestnut and will work with boy scouts and girl scouts on removals
- i. CCE Dutchess and Rockland have IS sections on websites
- j. CCE Orange held Greenhouse school for nurseries/landscapers; Chris Logue from Ag. & Markets discussed new regulations
- k. CCE Putnam and Linda Rohleder did training on invasive ID with Kent Highway Dept.
- l. CCE Rockland did presentation for county
- m. Nordica Holochuck with Sea Grant educates boatowners up and down Hudson
- n. Clearwater held trainings for I.D. and survey protocol + boat steward program
- o. NY state has hired an aquatics educator Katherine McGlynn → has background with LHPRISM  
-ACTION ITEM: Put together a wallet card with the number for Dept. of Ag & Markets to report

## 5) Mitigation of Pathways

- a. Clearwater has 2 paid boat stewards: one at Norrie Point and the other at Croton Boat Launch → all boats checked except those at rental station
- b. DEC and NYC Parks held 7 EAB workshops around the city
- c. Society of Hudson Valley arborists → EAB quarantine update at last meeting

## 6) Information Exchange

- a. -Basic info. + BMPs on species in Information Exchange area of website

b. NYBG symposium on November 6<sup>th</sup> → contact Daniel Atha for more information

c. Many orgs. held events, pulls, workshops, etc. for ISAW. Please contact Annie Christian Reuter at [alc44@cornell.edu](mailto:alc44@cornell.edu) if you want the full list.

ACTION ITEM: Annie will send link to PRISM for the MARS-B (Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank) protocol for ash seed collection.

Suggestions for next year's ISAW:

- 1) Workshop on Invasive Species control and management
- 2) Collaboration with more interest groups and companies with whom we have not worked before (e.g. Chipotle, Stone Barns, Ann Taylor ☺)

ACTION ITEM: Meredith Taylor requested more aquatic invasives wallet cards

ACTION ITEM: Find out what brochures & resources PRISM members would like for events

#### Moving forward on the Action Plan

Q: Where are the gaps in the action plan?

-Capacity Building → recruiting more partners, training more volunteers, working on the website, feeding three research needs

-Strategic planning → communication plan, rapid response for Invasive Species

-BMPs → we have a rudimentary structure with 10 completed BMPs; needs more work

-Mitigation of Pathways → Getting website organized and well-designed → funds next year for web designer to help out

NOTE: The state has hired an education coordinator who can manage the “bookshelf” of resources and information

ACTION ITEM: Share information with whole group on protocol for posting links of partners on PRISM website and vice-versa.

-Blockbuster Survey → Let's definitely do it again next year.

-New Partner Plan → What areas are not represented? Rockland? Dutchess?

-Partners Handbook → need someone to take on this project; will help clarify what it means to be a partner in PRISM for those who are new or considering it.

Q: Could we hold “themed” meetings on particular topics like aquatics so that partners can pick and choose the meetings that they want to attend? → It's tricky to find the time but perhaps we could have special interest sections when we get a larger critical mass (currently ~40 partners)

Volunteers to take on Action items:

-Meredith, Tom Lewis, Daniel Atha and Eric Kiviat volunteered to work on rapid response plan

-Joyce agreed to work on “year book” project to help connect and identify partners

-Annie, Tom Lewis and possibly Joyce offered to help on BMPs→ Tate and Nate have also been working on these as well→ Suggestion that folks possibly send BMPs to Annie, which other partners may be willing to edit.