

WNY PRISM Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 24 2015; 1:00 – 3:00 pm
WNY PRISM Office – Great Lakes Center

In Attendance: Paul Fuhrmann (E&E), Ba Zan Lin (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper), Sharon Bachman (CCE Invasive Species Program), Jennifer Dunn (DEC), Shanna Shaw (USDA-NRCS), Chris Pennuto (Buffalo State/WNY PRISM), Janine Shepherd (DOT), Andrea Locke (WNY PRISM)

Steering Committee Partner Updates

Paul Fuhrmann – Discussions have begun for potential coastal wetland restoration at Woodlawn Beach SP. Work at Times Beach has continued with selective plantings and invasive species removals. Removal projects have focused on phragmites, Japanese knotweed and common buckthorn with additional treatments on mugwort. USACE will be treating Eurasian water-milfoil on Unity Island, then opening up the ponds to the river. Ba Zan Lin – Progress has been made with the Niagara Greenway Strategy and their recent river clean-up resulted in 6 tons of trash removed. Working on River Academy with ECC and public participation. Between 18 - 20 students participate. Data collected from Boat Stewards AIS program is being compiled and is expected to be ready for release this fall. Sharon Bachman – CCE Outreach efforts are wrapping up for the season, been working on an app for highway invasive species ID. Shanna Shaw – Continuing with implementation of current contracts, primarily grassland and shrubland work, WRP easements, and wetland delineations. Deadline for EQIP program is October 16th. Jennifer Dunn – Hydrilla project post treatment toss surveys showed native species (and Eurasian water-milfoil) still present in the canal. Additional infestation was found west of treatment area, closer to Niagara River. This area was blocked off and spot treated. Janine Shepherd – Invasive species treatments continue on projects, including 219/Ellicottville, and native plantings have been put in place.

PRISM Updates

- Crew Update
 - ISMA Crew finished up at the end of August. They worked on many invasive species removal projects including phragmites and Japanese knotweed at Tiff Nature Preserve and multiple Land Conservancy sites. They completed 6 iMap mapping projects and participated in over 20 events.
 - Patricia's (E&O Assistant) last day was last Saturday, at the Reinstein Woods Fall Festival.
 - A complete summary of the crew's work will be put together this fall for the Full Partnership Meeting and Annual Report.
- Working Groups
 - Invasive Species Priorities are finalized and will be placed up on the website shortly along with additional information on the identified species.
 - Terrestrial WG has begun work on development of ED/RR protocols and identifying additional ED and Approaching Region Species.
 - Conservation Targets WG is working parallel to the statewide prioritization process to develop model, likely using GIS.
 - Although significant progress has been made (finalization of AIS priorities), it has been more difficult to pull the Aquatics Working Group together for meetings. This is, at least in part, likely due to field season responsibilities, so winter meetings may be better attended. With the upcoming task of development of ED/RR protocols, increased engagement of stakeholders will be necessary. For this, PRISM is looking for suggestions of additional members and ways to better engage current members.

- NFWF PTI Proposal
 - NFWF Pulling Together Initiative grant proposal was submitted. This proposal will provide funds to build a strike team complete with team leader, vehicle and equipment.
 - Awards are expected at the end of the year.
 - IS Profiles will include all priority species, will be updated throughout the fall/winter.

Regional Updates

- NY Sea Grant and NYS Parks are putting together a series of webinars focused on the development of AIS/Boat Stewards Programs. Survey for topics and dates has been distributed through statewide PRISM listservs. Webinars are expected in Oct/Nov.
- Lake Associations have expressed some concern over potential and/or implied responsibility for implementing AIS education and/or boat stewards programs on their lakes and waters without funding to assist in doing so, based on 'train the trainer' focus of statewide efforts. In response to this feedback, DEC has said they may provide some level of funding/funding opportunities for program development. An informal announcement was sent through statewide PRISM listservs.
- No word yet on Statewide AIS/Watercraft Regulations or the General Permit for non-chemical removal of invasive species.

WNY PRISM Work Plan

- Progress on 2015 action items identified in our annual work plan has been significant. PRISM has either completed, currently working on, or addressed nearly all Actions Planned.
- Objectives and/or Actions Planned that are not yet completed or expected to be completed, fall into a couple of categories: PRISM received too little Partner feedback or response to information requests or the necessary building blocks were not in place to take such actions at this point. The latter is likely due to over-reaching during our only our second year of operation. Items were reviewed by Steering Committee Members. Steering Committee Members offered suggestions for improving engagement of Partners on tasks that require increased input, including being more targeted with requests (fewer, more specific questions).
- Work will begin on 2015 Work Plan in October, since we do not have a Steering Committee Meeting until after the plan is due, feedback will be solicited through email.

Listserv

- Steering Committee discussed the current use of the WNY PRISM Listserv and ways to make it more valuable for the region.
- Emails sent through the listserv, in order of most frequent to least, include PRISM Round-ups (events, volunteer opportunities, trainings), additional trainings and webinars, funding opportunities, information requests, Partner information and Press Releases, Job Openings, Volunteer call-outs, PRISM meetings, Regulations/Permits/Mgt. Plans and species specific information.
- Suggestions for additional information include more species specific information, particularly new information/research, innovations, and using more emails like the Round-up where multiple items are placed in a single email.

Next Full Partnership Meeting:

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

WNY PRISM Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 30th 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 4th. 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 100th 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 24th 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

WNY PRISM Steering Committee Meeting Summary
Thursday, March 26th 2015; 1:00 – 3:00 pm
WNY PRISM Office – Great Lakes Center

In Attendance: Alisia Vilonen (DOT), Bob Smith (NYS CNLP, Chestnut Ridge Nursery), Chris Pennuto (SUNY Buffalo State, WNY PRISM), Helen Domske (NY Sea Grant), Robert Haltner (USFWS), Sharon Bachman (CCE Invasive Species Program), Ba Zan Lin (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper), Andrea Locke (WNY PRISM)

Steering Committee Partner Updates

Alisia Vilonen/DOT – Work is set to continue on invasive species (phragmites and reed canarygrass) removal at wetland mitigation sites including at site near Ellicottville/Hinman Valley. Bob Smith/NYS CNLP, Chestnut Ridge Nursery – Working with out-of-state suppliers and Department of Ag and Markets in response to the Part 575 Prohibited and Regulated Species requirements for labeling and other compliance. Questions have been raised about who is responsible for labeling – the NYS commercial business or the suppliers. Chris Pennuto/SUNY Buffalo State, WNY PRISM – Scheduling the 2015 Spring Semester Great Lakes Center Seminar Series, which may be of interest to the Partnership, he will provide the list of remaining topics for Andrea to distribute. A couple of second and third hand reports of possible invasive species were brought up in recent conversations – the possibility of hydrilla at Braddock Bay and Snakehead in Oak Orchard Creek. Both are considered unlikely due to unknown sources, but mentioned to the group in case follow-up is necessary. Helen Domske/Sea Grant – Worked on a number of teacher workshops/trainings through the winter. State of Lake Erie Meeting is being held on Thursday April 9th and will feature a number of great speakers including Dave MacNeill, who will be speaking about potential new fish invaders. Ba Zan Lin/Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper – BNR will continue with their Boat Stewards Outreach Program this year and will be hiring interns for this. Data from last summer is still being organized, but will hopefully be available soon. Robert Haltner/USFWS – Currently hiring for 2 Fish Biologist GS-11 and 2 Seasonal Technicians GS-05 – job announcements can be found at USAJOBS. Ichthyoplankton results from the 2014 field season are back from EPA, and no new invasive species were detected. Work on benthic samples is continuing. An upcoming eDNA/Asian Carp meeting is being held in Illinois, which will determine the level of eDNA testing that will be done in 2015. Sharon Bachman/CCE ISP – Judged the Evirothon competition, which consisted of an Emerald Ash Borer scenario in which EAB was discovered in an urban/suburban park. Additional confirmed infestations of EAB include Alden and Newstead. The next WNY EAB taskforce meeting will take place at the CCE office in East Aurora on April 9th.

PRISM Updates

- Working Groups (WG)
 - Education and Outreach WG was held just prior to this meeting
 - Terrestrial, Aquatic, and Conservation Targets WG will be held tomorrow at Tiff Nature Preserve
 - Agriculture WG will be on hold for now, due to low interest – this will require increased effort to reach out to the agriculture community
- Website
 - Design and coding has been completed
 - Next Steps include being trained on how to use the site and then we will focus on content
- Events
 - Display at PLANT WNY
 - Presented as part of GLC Seminar
 - National Invasive Species Awareness Week

- Forest Pest Trainings at Roger Tory Peterson Institute and CCE of Genesee County
 - Bond Lake Invasive Species Management Presentation
 - 2 the Outdoors Environmental Forum
 - Rural Landowners Workshop
 - Upcoming
 - HWA Survey Deer Lick Nature Preserve/Zoar Valley
 - iMap Training at Buffalo Audubon
 - Buffalo State Arbor Day
 - NYSFOLA Boat Stewards Full-Day Workshop
 - Silver Lake Association Presentation
- Regional Updates
 - Number of HWA surveys have been completed in/around Jamestown – no new infestations.
 - WNY EAB Taskforce meeting – this winter has seen an increase in the number of new infestations.
 - Meetings continue to discuss a regional protocol (survey & response) for Water Chestnut in the Southern Tier.
- Other
 - Talked with DEC about assisting with aspects of their Giant Hogweed program – due to the significant number of sites/plants within WNY and our current capacity, we will look to help with select survey work, but removal efforts will continue as part of DEC’s program.
 - Part 575 Prohibited and Regulated Species Regulations are now in place. For information on the permit required to transport IS for education and research purposes, head to: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/100696.html>.
 - Andrea is looking into the possibility of establishing a fund for WNY PRISM through the GLC.
 - Jim Berry, Roger Tory Peterson Institute, Ret. has decided to step down from his position as a member of the WNY PRISM Steering Committee. With the addition of Sharon Bachman at the beginning of this year, and participation from others within Chautauqua County here and within our Working Groups, we will not move to fill his position this year.

Seasonal Hires

- Education and Outreach Assistant
 - E&O Assistant will start on May 4th, 2015 and continue through the end of September
 - Tasks will include developing educational materials, creating website (& social media) content, coordinating our volunteer program, and assisting with trainings, workshops, and presentations
- Invasive Species Management Assistants (Crew)
 - Positions close March 31st
 - Term of employment is 6/1/2015 – 8/28/2015
 - Tasks will be divided between outreach, IS surveys, and Partner IS removal projects. At this point their schedule is mostly full, but there is a little space to fill additional Partner requests for time.

Invasive Species Awareness Week

Andrea mentioned New York State’s Invasive Species Awareness Week (July 12 – 18) and asked Partners to start thinking about events and other ideas for celebrating this year. The NYIS ISAW site is up and running for this year, and we (PRISM Leaders) are already able to add events. Our Education and

Outreach Assistant will be taking the lead on regional coordination this year and will be reaching out to Partners.

Invasive Species Guidelines for Municipalities

At our last meeting, Andrea asked for examples of invasive species guidelines or recommendations specifically targeting government officials, township supervisors, and other municipalities. The desired outcome is to develop a simple brochure that can be provided to government officials that describes the types of actions they may take to help mitigate the threat of invasive species. Alisia Villonen provided NYS DOT's document on IS control methods for maintenance and construction, which address related Best Management Practices surrounding soil disturbance, erosion control, and specific mowing considerations, and Andrea provided a factsheet developed by the Long Island Weed Management Area and TNC called "Invasive Plant Facts for Public Officials", as well as a list of actions municipalities may take that she developed after the last meeting. Suggestions included adding information on 'why you should care', encouraging the target audience to join the WNY PRISM listserve, and determining how different government officials, offices and departments are getting their information. Ba Zan Lin agreed to talk with BNR about the messaging they use to talk with government officials and share that with the group. Orchard Park and Grand Island were offered as communities that serve as good examples of how invasive species management can be part of green space planning.

Next Steps:

WNY PRISM will develop text for a flyer/brochure and share with the Steering Committee for comment

Full Partnership Meeting

Our next Full Partnership Meeting will be held in May and will include 2 guest speakers. Richard Ruby (USACE) will present on the Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal Hydrilla Demonstration Project and Ken Parker (SNI) will talk about the Seneca Nation of Indian's New Native Plant Policy. WNY PRISM will also provide Partnership Updates.

Next Steps:

Andrea will determine the location for the Full Partnership Meeting

Next Steering Committee Meeting:

Thursday May 28th 2015, 6:00 – 8:00 pm; location TBA

WNY PRISM Steering Committee Minutes
Thursday, January 29th 2015; 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper Office

In Attendance: Alisia Vilonen (DOT), Bob Smith (NYS Nursery & Landscape Assoc.), Chris Pennuto (SUNY Buffalo State, WNY PRISM), Helen Domske (NY Sea Grant), Jeff Diers (SUNY Fredonia), Jennifer Tait (DEC), Lynn Greer (USACE), Meg Janis (OPRHP), Paul Fuhrmann (E&E), Robert Haltner (USFWS), Sharon Bachman (CCE Invasive Species Program), Carri Marschner (CCE Invasive Species Program), Andrea Locke (WNY PRISM)

Steering Committee Partner Updates

Alisia Vilonen/DOT - Phragmites and Japanese knotweed removal projects continue along roadways – asked for any available information on more effective means of removal and long-term control. Robert Haltner/USFWS - Currently working with lab samples from their early detection and monitoring program for aquatic invasive species and benthic sampling, and sent samples to EPA. Jeff Diers/SUNY Fredonia - Hemlock Woolly Adelgid was found at the SUNY Fredonia campus woodlot/lodge and response options are currently being looked into. Jeff also reported on the water chestnut effort, being led by CCWA and Jamestown Audubon, which includes a finalized brochure to provide early detection and reporting information for the public. Helen Domske/Sea Grant – Currently working on two education and Outreach grants. One grant involves working with High School Teachers and requires them to include stewardship activities and the second involves college students who are required to complete 10 hours of service. Helen asked that if opportunities come-up that would appropriate for either group, to please let her know. Projects would need to be completed before they finish their school year. Bob Smith/NYS Nursery & Landscape Assoc. – Provided Steering Committee with approved language for labeling regulated invasive species sold at Nurseries in New York State, in response to the NYCRR Part 575 Prohibited and Regulated Species legislation that will go into effect in March. Sharon Bachman/CCE ISP – Attended Master Gardener’s Regional Meeting on Late Blight and session on Spotted-Wing Drosophila, both significant agricultural invasive species. Also working on a brochure on landscape alternatives for NYS Prohibited and Regulated Species. A working draft is available on the IPM website. Paul Fuhrmann/E&E – Work continues on many restoration projects around Buffalo, including Times Beach. Paul is also interested in bringing a workshop or conference to WNY that will provide an opportunity to share information on project challenges, successes, lessons learned, and to allow for technology transfer. Jennifer Tait/DEC – Looking to hire an intern for 2015, similar to the position filled last year. 2014 hydrilla treatment went well and it is expected that future treatments will be spot treatments, rather than a second broadcast treatment. Work will begin on restoration efforts, including invasive species removals, at Red Jacket and Seneca Bluff Parks along the Buffalo River and within Buffalo Area of Concern. Lynn Greer/USACE – Working with Sharon Bachman to finalize the hydrilla website and will upload the final 2014 Hydrilla Demonstration Project Report to the website shortly. Lynn also added her support for the workshop Paul Fuhrmann discussed and offered suggestions to look into. Chris Pennuto/SUNY Buffalo State, WNY PRISM – Announced the 2015 WNY PRISM Job Openings are posted (Education and Outreach Assistant and 3 Invasive Species Management Assistants) and updated the Steering Committee on the crayfish/bait vendor survey which included non-native crayfish species but not rusty crayfish. Rusty crayfish were seen in WNY bait shops in previous years. Helen Domske brought up the possibility of teachers releasing rusty crayfish and/or other non-native species as part of a crayfish unit taught in 4th grade. Meg Janis/OPRHP – Hemlock Woolly Adelgid volunteer trainings will be held in Letchworth SP (2/7) and Allegany SP (2/8). HWA was treated in Letchworth SP (300 trees) in areas of high usage and old growth. OPRHP will hire Invasive Species Strike Teams in 2015, but they will look a little different from those in 2014. Rather than many teams across the state hired for a short time in the summer, 2 teams will be hired for a longer 5-6 month time period.

PRISM Updates

- Education and Outreach
 - Presented to Buffalo Area Teachers (7th & 8th Grades) about using iMapInvasives in the classroom
 - Attended and spoke at an Erie County Water Quality Committee Meeting
 - Setting-up iMapInvasives Spring Trainings and Management Planning workshop
 - National Invasive Species Awareness Week (February 22nd – 28th)
 - HWA volunteer training at RTPi (2/23)
 - Forest Pest Early Detectors at Genesee Co. CCE (2/24)
 - Bond Lake Park Presentation (2/28)
 - Looking for information and/or brochure to provide Best Management Practices and suggestions for Invasive Species actions to Local Governments.
- Working Groups
 - Encouraging people to sign-up for a Working Group. We have a solid number signed up for Aquatics and Education and Outreach, but could use more people for Terrestrial and Conservation Targets
 - We haven't had anyone sign-up for the Agriculture Working Group, which shows that WNY PRISM has not successfully reached the agriculture community as of yet – increased effort to reach this demographic will take place this year.
- Strategic Plan
 - Strategic Goals, Objectives, Strategies, etc. were adopted in 2014.
 - Work on writing our strategic plan will start back up after the 2014 Annual Report and other year end documents are completed.
- Letters of Support
 - Reminder to those Steering Committee Members who have not yet submitted a Letter of Support to please do so.
- PRISM Leader's Meeting Updates
 - NYS has new logos, this includes DEC, DOT, and OPRHP. We are asked to use the new logos, but are allowed to use printed materials that still have old logos
 - Meredith Taylor is the new Invasive Species Advisory Council Chair and Rob Williams (SLELO PRISM) is the PRISM representative
 - iMapInvasives has offered GIS assistance to PRISM Leaders
 - General Permit for hand pulling of aquatic invasive species is working its way through DEC and is expected before the summer season.
 - Invasive Species Awareness Week is July 12th – 18th 2015.

Annual Report

The 2014 Annual Report was provided to the Steering Committee prior to the meeting for review. Paul suggested adding a map that depicts either the watersheds or high value conservation areas to the report, in addition to the county map that is already present. Other comments were positive and a few corrections and edits were made to the report. Carri Marschner offered to provide help with proofreading documents.

Next Steps:

Andrea will finalize the 2014 Annual Report, submit to DEC and post on website

Work Plan

The 2015 Annual Work Plan was completed in December, but Andrea wanted to make sure that all Steering Committee Members were able to provide any last comments before it was finalized and submitted to DEC. Members present were happy with the plan and made no changes. Paul and Andrea touched on the nature of the plan, which has a number of elements that depend upon Partners and

other entities outside of WNY PRISM to fully realize. This is inherent in a program that is a partnership network and while the work plan is very ambitious, we feel that it is doable.

Next Steps:

Andrea submit 2015 Work Plan to DEC and post on website

WNY PRISM Website

We reviewed the website template, as designed by My Digital Nature, and comments/suggestions were discussed. Topic discussed included terminology (Macrophyte vs. Plants), desire to see community or county specific information, and if there was a single unifying image that represents all of WNY.

Andrea requested photos, specifically any photos that are good as identification photos for invasive species and photos of volunteers working. We also discussed creating a tagline, based on our mission. Six tagline options were provided to the Steering Committee to select from. We are just starting with the development of the site, which is expected to be live in early May.

Next Steps:

Andrea will continue to work with MDN on development of the website and discuss options for inclusion of community/county specific information.

Steering Committee will provide photos and images that can be used on the site.

Andrea will review potential tagline selections and select the one WNY PRISM will use.

2015 WNY PRISM Crew

Four job openings (1-Education and Outreach Assistant, 3 – Invasive Species Management Assistants) with WNY PRISM were posted on the RF website (<https://www.rfhiring.com/jobs.asp>), and we asked that Partners help to spread the word about the positions. We are also looking for opportunities to partner on invasive species removal and survey efforts and ask Partners to submit projects for consideration.

Next Steps:

Andrea will continue to post and distribute the job descriptions and reach out to Partners about the opportunity to work on removal and survey projects together.

Next Steering Committee Meeting:

Thursday, March 26th 2015, location TBA