

WNY PRISM Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 16, 2017; 1:00 – 3:00 pm
WNY PRISM Office – Great Lakes Center

In Attendance: In-person: Sharon Bachman (CCE), Jennifer Dunn (DEC), Jonathan Townsend (CWC), Marcus Rosten (USFWS), Christina Graveling (NYS DOT), Paul Fuhrmann (E&E), Meg Janis (Parks), Helen Domske (NY Sea Grant), Lynn Greer (USACE), Bob Smith (Chestnut Ridge Nursery/CNLNLP), Chris Pennuto (WNY PRISM/Buffalo State). On-phone: Shanna Shaw (NRCS).

Steering Committee/Partner Updates

Jennifer Dunn (DEC): Requests for boat stewards through DEC intern program, with funding through EPA have been requested. Boat stewards would be available for primarily DEC launches, but possibly other sites.

Jonathan Townsend (CWC): CWC is looking at a new property that may be donated, continuing to plan habitat restoration projects, and are looking at potential knotweed removal along Cattaraugus Creek. Jonathan also provided an update on the proposed vegetation management project in Chautauqua Lake that would involve continued herbicide use.

Marcus Rosten (USFWS): USFWS completed their early detection monitoring for the season. They caught over 31,000 adult fish, representing 63 species, at a total of 300 sites spanning from Oswego, NY to Cleveland, OH. They are now working on processing ichthyoplankton and benthic invertebrate samples. This year was the first time the Tubenose Goby was detected by their gear- larvae was caught in Presque Isle Bay, Erie, PA. Surveys for Eurasian Ruffe and the Erie Canal plant and fish surveys were also completed and did not detect any new non-native species.

Christina Graveling (NYS DOT): The 41 acre wetland/mitigation site at Hinman Rd. is 10 years old. Efforts to remove phragmites were mostly successful, but it is still there – reed canarygrass has become established, but it is unknown if DOT will be required to remove it, since it wasn't an initial target species. Work has continued on construction projects.

Paul Fuhrmann (E&E): Continuing work on a number of projects throughout the Great Lakes Basin. Times Beach work has been given a 1 year extension in order to address continued invasive species concerns. Conversations about concern over 'who' picks up the monitoring and continued management/maintenance of project sites after the initial funding/grant is complete has become much more common.

Meg Janis (Parks): Funding has been awarded for work in Niagara County associated with the AOC. Parks has hired a new AIS Strike Team Coordinator who will be based out of Niagara County. This project will focus on shoreline parks. The Parks Strike Team wrapped up their season and reports are starting to come in. Treated HWA in Letchworth, including an areas that was previously treated in 2014. Funding for Boat Stewards is expected to continue, but has not been confirmed for next year.

Lynn Greer (USACE): Work is continuing on Unity Island project and on the Hydrilla Demonstration project. A meeting/conference call is expected for the hydrilla project in December. The Springville dam project is showing movement. In response to Paul Fuhrmann's comment on concern over continued monitoring and management, Lynn offered that when USACE turns over projects, a detailed manual on continuing monitoring and management needs is provided, but they are not often followed.

Bob Smith (Chestnut Ridge Nursery/CNLNLP): A student at ESF has released EAB biocontrol as part of a 3 year study. Worked with PlantWNY to plant 20 species of trees along Delaware, to replace the 64 ash

that were removed due to EAB. Funding for this project was provided by Buffalo Green Fund. Has talked with NYS HWA Initiative about ways to assist with HWA outreach, through nurseries and landscape companies. Nurseries are very aware of HWA and could be a great partner for outreach to the public.

Chris Pennuto (WNY PRISM/Buffalo State): Group from EU is looking at round goby as a pilot species, to work through and align policy and stakeholder thresholds for when to start thinking about and addressing invasive species, as they emerge. Will also be looking at 'what' to do.

Shanna Shaw (NRCS): Currently working on conservation plans and planning, which involves significant invasive species control – primarily terrestrial species. Looking into possibility of hiring a non-profit to assist with or take over WRP monitoring efforts and are interested in integrating iMapInvasives training and use.

John Grabowski (Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper): Most Buffalo River projects will be complete by December 31. There are a few exceptions where plantings will take place in the spring or we have expanded scopes of work. The Ellicott Creek Living Shoreline was completed earlier this fall. The main invasive at that site was phragmites and it looks like removal has been successful. We will continue to monitor and manage next year. We've also been awarded funding for a restoration project at River Oaks Golf Club on Grand Island along Spicer Creek. The project will remove invasives (mostly phragmites) and focus on capturing sediments and pollutants before they are inputted into the Niagara River.

PRISM Updates

- Defining Invasive Species (NYS Tier Rankings) has been finalized and WNY PRISM will be posting the document on our website. WNY PRISM still plans to engage working groups to assist with assigning tiers to additional species, but this has been delayed due to other work taking priority
- We have interviewed for the SFBWB Project Manager position and have a couple of good candidates. We hope to have someone selected soon, and further hope to have the person start just after Thanksgiving.
- Nick Ransbury, E&O Assistant, finished up mid-October and has moved onto a position with HSBC. He was able to make progress on a few items for us, including the coloring book, display kits, volunteer organization, and new WNY PRISM flier. WNY PRISM will finalize the outreach materials in the next few weeks and will place them on the website.
- WNY PRISM held a meeting about advancing AIS prevention efforts in our region. A number of items were identified as needs including outreach materials and signage, disposal stations, and increased coverage, specifically outside the Great Lakes Basin, and along Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal.
- The WNY PRISM Office is moving to campus. Due to the continued issues with internet service, and low likelihood of the issue being resolved (due to cost) in the short term, the WNY PRISM Office is moving up to Buffalo State's Campus. Steering Committee Meetings will continue to be held at the GLC Field Station. A move date has not been scheduled.
- WNY PRISM is hosting a management plan workshop at Reinstein Woods on December 14, 2017. Registration is due by December 4.

Discussion Topics

- 2018 Crew Requests
 - Steering Committee reviewed the updated request for Crew assistance and project review criteria. Discussions focused on adding a few items involving some reciprocity, such as asking Partners to help publicize WNY PRISM and the work we are doing and asking that Partners publically recognize the contributions from WNY PRISM. Additional

- suggestions included added educational components to the criteria, to give greater priority to projects that involve volunteers or trainings, such as teacher workshops.
- Based on Steering Committee feedback earlier this year, Andrea developed an MOU which outlines the expectations of Partners, and WNY PRISM, for project assistance. The primary intent was to have something more formal that outlines the expectation that Partners will maintain removal efforts implemented by WNY PRISM. The MOU was developed based on a similar Agreement used by APIPP. A few revisions will be made before final approval by the Steering Committee will be sought.
 - WNY PRISM Contract – Refunding
 - A RFP for the next 5 years of WNY PRISM funding will be coming out next year - no word on when, but hoping that it will be in the early part of 2018
 - Steering Committee Members discussed various options for building WNY PRISM capacity and expanding our programming. Budget options include hiring full time employees focused on AIS, TIS, and E&O and/or volunteer coordinator, extending Crew time/season, identifying funds for contracts and/or RFPs (possibly as a mechanism to address early detection/rapid response needs), hosting a management conference, increasing printing capacity for outreach materials, and equipment/technology needs.
 - 2018 Work Plan
 - Andrea will be starting to look at development of the 2018 Annual Work Plan, which will need to be reviewed prior to the next Steering Committee Meeting
 - Early Detection Program
 - Lucy has drafted an early detection report for WNY PRISM, which still needs to be reviewed before distributing.
 - New reports of early detection species in 2017 include Japanese stiltgrass, water lettuce and water hyacinth. Water hyacinth was found on Unity Island and all observed plants have been removed. Water lettuce is on private property and the landowner did not want assistance with removal – preferred to wait until next year to see if the plants die on their own. WNY PRISM plans to survey the area for other potential infestations in 2018. Japanese stiltgrass was also found on private property and property owner has decided to attempt management through use of manual (hand pulling) and mechanical (mowing), despite recommendations from WNY PRISM and offer of assistance for recommended management practices. WNY PRISM did survey public areas near this infestation and only found a few plants in one additional location, adjacent to the property. WNY PRISM plans to continue surveys, increase outreach about the species, and continue discussions with property owner.
 - Grants/Funding
 - PUSH Buffalo – WNY PRISM has completed our work as part of this project, and restoration work at the Silo City site has also been completed by Partners. The need for future IS management is expected, but plans for management have not been set, nor has a decision about WNY PRISM's involvement been made
 - Tiff Nature Preserve – Year one of a two year grant has been completed. WNY PRISM assisted with common buckthorn removal within the 6 acre vernal pool area. Invasive species removal will continue next year.
 - A number of grants are currently open, including GLRI funding targeting CWMA and similar organization. Grants have been distributed through the listserve, and WNY PRISM has offered assistance and possibility of partnership to Partners.
 - Meeting Schedule
 - Dates for next year's Steering Committee and Partner Meeting were selected

- Steering Committee Meetings will be held from 1 – 3 pm at the Great Lakes Center Field Station on the following dates: 2/15/2018, 6/14/2018, 8/16/2018, 11/15/2018
- Partner meetings will be held on 4/12/2016 & 10/11/2018, however, times and locations have not been decided.

Upcoming Meetings

Steering Committee Meeting – Thursday, February 15, 2018, 1 – 3pm @ GLC Field Station

WNY PRISM Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 24, 2017; 1:00 – 3:00 pm
WNY PRISM Office – Great Lakes Center

In Attendance: In-person: Sharon Bachman (CCE), John Grabowski (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper), Jennifer Dunn (DEC), Jonathan Townsend (CWC), Marcus Rosten (USFWS), Christina Graveling (NYS DOT), Alisia Vilonen (NYS DOT). On-phone: Paul Fuhrmann (E&E), Meg Janis (Parks).

Steering Committee/Partner Updates

Sharon Bachman (CCE): Red lily leaf beetle biocontrol was released at Parkside Lodge in mid-July; spotted wing drosophila has had a population increase this summer with market impacts seen in Wayne County, the increase is likely due to moderate winter and summer temperatures, we haven't seen 91^{o+} days this summer, necessary to cause die-off; CCE and DAM have made trips to Pennsylvania to see spotted lantern fly impacted areas, and have done various insect surveys within WNY; Bruce Lauber is working on a survey for EAB taskforces.

John Grabowski (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper): Riverkeeper has seen movement on their construction projects this summer with 4 of the 6 currently in construction and the 5th awaiting final contractor approvals; the living shorelines project at Stella Niagara has been delayed due to high water levels; invasive species removal projects have moved forward including knotweed removal at Bailey Woods.

Jennifer Dunn (DEC): Hydrilla post-treatment monitoring has taken place, after the herbicide application (8/9/17). Preliminary findings continue to be positive with low occurrence and low tuber presence, however a few healthy hydrilla populations persist within the targeted treatment areas; USACE and Partners will continue to monitor and further analyze the data being collected.

Jonathan Townsend (CWC): WNY PRISM Crew mapped a number of preserves this summer; Board declined to chemically treat the mugwort at Ball Creek Preserve (bank stabilization and restoration project) in part because of public relations concerns due to Chautauqua Lake chemical treatments; Chautauqua Lake herbicide application has raised concern, the application was done (through use of a contractor) by a local citizens group aiming to decrease vegetation in the Lake. Questions surround the intent (target) of the application as the management selected doesn't appear to match with the stated issues, and questions remain about what treatment actually took place. Chemical applications such as this negatively impact invasive species manager's ability to implement best management practices that include use of chemicals. WNY PRISM was not aware of the application beforehand and has receive conflicting accounts of what may or may not have taken place. *Jennifer Dunn offered to locate the DEC issued permit for the application, which should provide much needed detail.*

Meg Janis (Parks): *Brachypodium sylvaticum* has been found at Letchworth, both in the North and South portions of the park; hemlock will continue to be treated for HWA; EAB surveys and treatment continue on Parks properties; the Parks Strike Team was joined by volunteers through the Alliance for the Great Lakes and WNY PRISM for invasive species removal at Woodlawn Beach State Park, species targeted including woody invasives, knotweed, phragmites and pale swallow-wort.

Marcus Rosten (USFWS): Field season is progressing, finished up ichthyoplankton sampling, and have moved onto early detection monitoring, no new species have been identified; finished canal plant surveys, approximately 100 water chestnut plants were found in the canal this year, and removed, most plants were 2 locations (multiple private docks) while the other were scattered in small groups, five different locations.

Paul Fuhrmann (E&E): Work continues at Times Beach, a one-year extension was approved in order to continue invasive species work along the property boundaries, it has been a very informative project, along with similar projects out-of-state, with many lessons learned, management will pass to Erie County at the end of the contract.

Alisia Vilonen & Christina Gravelding (DOT): Maintenance work continues; bank stabilization project in Cattaraugus Creek involving chemical removal of phragmites and excavation of knotweed; slippery rock project has moved from planning into construction and involved excavation of knotweed; bank stabilization project, possibly near CWC Ball Creek Preserve – Christina and Jonathan will touch base on the two projects.

PRISM Updates

- Crew/Field Season
 - The WNY PRISM Crew is close to finishing up their term. During this time they conducted 11 mapping projects (400 observation, 35 species, 5 counties with additional data yet to be entered), 10 outreach events, worked on 15 management projects, and monitored early detection sites.
 - Heather Zimba will be attending SUNY ESF this fall and Kevin Sanders will be heading downstate to work with Parks as a youth educator. Nick Ransbury will be sticking around a bit longer, through September.
- Early Detection Program
 - WNY PRISM has expanded our Early Detection Program this summer. It includes 15 sites and 4 species.
 - Japanese stiltgrass was found, on a private land, in East Aurora. The infestation is sizeable, approximately 8 acres. We have provided information on the species, threat and management options to the landowner, and offered assistance for removal in the form of a grass-specific foliar spray. However the landowner has chosen to control the infestation using manual only methods. We have surveyed some public lands near the infestation, and have not found any additional stiltgrass. We will look into the possibility of surveying additional private land.
 - Lucy will be working on the Early Detection Report and drafting rapid response frameworks this fall.
- Post Treatment Monitoring
 - WNY PRISM selected Joe Davis State Park as our first post-treatment/restoration monitoring site and we did an initial overview/survey of the project area. We were able to get a lot of information from those involved in the planning process, but our effort has been partially put on hold until we can get more information from the implementation side of the project.
- *Brachypodium sylvaticum*
 - Melissa Rivelis, WNY PRISM's *Brachypodium* survey intern, will be finishing up her internship tomorrow (8/25). During her internship, she surveyed over 24 sites in Genesee, Erie, Wyoming, and Monroe Counties, assisted with outreach such as tabling at the Orleans County Fair, conducting a Walk & Talk at the Genesee County Park and Forest, and teaching iMap and ID alongside USFWS.
 - *Brachypodium* was found at 4 sites in WNY (not including Bergen Swamp, which was not surveyed as part of this effort). Sites included Drew's Nature Preserve (adjacent to Bergen Swamp) and Trestle Park (near Bergen Swamp), Genesee County Park and

Forest, and Letchworth State Park. An additional infestation was observed in Monroe County, on a private landowner property, as part of giant hogweed surveys and management. This site is also close to Bergen Swamp.

- WNY PRISM will be presenting on *Brachypodium* and the working group at the Invasive Species In-Service in November.
- Invasive Species Awareness Week
 - We don't have final numbers, but for those events WNY PRISM was involved with (11), either through planning assistance or hosting, we have 180 participants. WNY PRISM won the water chestnut chasers competition, with the most observations/x-observations in the state.
- Education and Outreach
 - Coloring Book is close to being finalized, and will be placed on our website for download once it has been completed.
 - Display kits have made progress and have already seen some use. We created 2 posters specific for the relationship between birds and invasives for the Wyoming County Fair/Buffalo Audubon. We'll continue to finalize species posters and place the kits on our website for download, as well as offer them as part of a 'lending library'.
 - Nick will be working on our media kit, the fall newsletter, interactive additions for our outreach display, website updates, as well as continuing work on the coloring book and display kits.
- Funding/Projects
 - WNY PRISM continued work on the Tiff Vernal Pool Project, impressive progress was made this summer.
 - PUSH Buffalo's Working Training Program is currently running. WNY PRISM has completed our invasive species work at the demonstration site and will be delivering our training module on Monday.
- Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative
 - The Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework is looking for projects in New York State that are focused on phragmites management, to include in their overall project to develop a standardized management and monitoring protocol. WNY PRISM will lead an effort at Seneca Bluffs to monitor the phragmites on site as part of this project.
 - The next Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for early October.

Discussion Topics

- Defining Invasive Species (NYS Tier Rankings)
 - iMapInvasives, in partnership with PRISMs and the NYS Invasive Species Research Institute has developed a new metric system by which to rank invasive species with regard to suggested management strategies. PRISMs have been asked to use this new ranking system when updating our current rankings and to inform early detection priorities. At our previous meeting, Andrea was tasked with working through our current priority species and assigning them tiers.
 - Andrea handed out the tier rankings and asked the Steering Committee to review them, prior to having a discussion. A few points were raised including the tier system not addressing the availability of the suggested management option for a particular species, a need to better define the separation between 'medium' and 'high' abundance within the region (case by case basis?), and a desire to define PRISM response/actions with

regard to species that fall out into 'Evaluate' or Tier 5: Monitor. However, in general the species seemed to fall into appropriate categories, and for those that didn't it could be attributed to insufficient data (i.e. zero iMap observations for rusty crayfish) or best management practices, and can be adjusted appropriately with expert opinion and consensus.

- In order to rank additional species, WNY PRISM will engage Terrestrial and Aquatic Working Groups.
- PRISM Leader's Meeting and Fall Partner Meeting
 - Fall PRISM Leader's Meeting will be held in Buffalo this fall and the WNY PRISM Fall Partner will take place the following day, in order to give those attending the PRISM Leader's Meeting an opportunity to attend.
 - WNY PRISM is looking for suggestions for presentations and asked Steering Committee Members to reach out to colleagues for interest. Suggestions included Riverkeeper's living shorelines program and USFWS monitoring program.
 - Location has also yet to be determined, so suggestions for a location, preferably along the I-90 corridor, was also requested. *Steering Committee Members will provide Fall Partner Meeting suggestions.*
- NYS Comprehensive Management Plan and Call to Action
 - As part of the original twelve recommendations, New York State has begun the process of drafting a Comprehensive Management Plan. This week, a stakeholder workshop was held in Albany, to help further the effort along. The workshop was attended by PRISM Leaders, DEC Invasive Species Office, Invasive Species Advisory Committee, and Invasive Species Council.
 - Workshop was divided into 4 groups (Coordination among partners, Management strategies, Planning for effectiveness and preparedness, Public engagement), and questions about challenges and tools were addressed.
 - Although considerable detail was discussed, some themes that emerged from multiple groups were the need to be proactive vs. reactive, need for metrics and evaluation, sustainability and resilience of efforts, appropriate levels of funding, and for the plan to be workable. *Andrea will provide the questionnaire to Steering Committee Members.*
- WNY PRISM Funding
 - WNY PRISM has received the fully executed amendment/NCTE, extending our current contract through 2018. The modified budget allowed for the hiring of Lucy Nuessle as our Project Manager.
 - With our current contract set to expire on December 31, 2018, it is now time to begin the planning for the next PRISM contract. Based on recent timing for RFPs, we can expect it to be released during the early part of 2017, and to have a short turnaround time for applications. Recent RFPs have been similar to previous PRISM RFPs.
 - Andrea asked Steering Committee Members for Letters of Support to be included in the proposal – as we get into winter, she will send out an official request with deadline.
 - Andrea also asked Steering Committee to consider items, tasks and/or program they would like to see as part of WNY PRISM going forward. This topic will be a focus of our next Steering Committee Meeting, to be held in November.

Upcoming Meetings

Fall Partner Meeting – Thursday, October 5, 2017; 9 – 11am, location TBD

Steering Committee Meeting – Thursday, November 16, 2017; 1-3pm @ GLC FS

WNY PRISM Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 15, 2017; 1:00 – 3:00 pm
WNY PRISM Office – Great Lakes Center

In Attendance: In-person: Sharon Bachman (CCE), Helen Domske (NY Sea Grant), John Grabowski (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper), Lynn Greer (USACE), Jennifer Dunn (DEC), Kory Whittum (DEC), Jonathan Townsend (CWC), Meg Janis (Parks), Marcus Rosten (USFWS), Chris Pennuto (WNY PRISM/Buffalo State). On-phone: Paul Fuhrmann (E&E).

Steering Committee/Partner Updates

Sharon Bachman (CCE): The WNY Emerald Ash Borer Taskforce and Chautauqua County Forest Pest Taskforce both met recently. Both taskforces discussed a number of items including the new quarantine map, disposal concerns, expanding the scope of each taskforce to include additional forest pests, not limited to insect pests, and ways to potentially increase WNY PRISM involvement with mutual benefit in mind. Master Gardeners are doing work on community gardens and have encountered wild parsnip, which is a common roadside/disturbed ground invasive. Many calls have been coming in about managing Japanese knotweed – would like to work with PRISM to create an improved single information source document.

Helen Domske (NY Sea Grant): There are a number of teacher workshops coming up, all of which include information on invasive species.

John Grabowski (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper): Riverkeeper has been very busy ramping up for field season work. Work at the Hyde Park site is finishing up with final invasive species treatments and native plantings going in. Ellicott Creek Park site will begin construction this summer, as will multiple other sites.

Lynn Greer (USACE): Partnering with WNY PRISM, NYS Parks, and USFWS to hold an AIS Workshop in July, the announcement has just been finalized and the event link live. Hydrilla work is continuing, with pre-treatment surveys set for the Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal Demonstration Project to take place the week of July 10th.

Jennifer Dunn (DEC): DEC has brought on a summer intern, Kory Whittum, through ESF. Kory will be helping with boat stewardship and invasive species outreach efforts, and will be joining WNY PRISM for some of our invasive species projects this summer. Kory will also be coordinating the outreach effort at Canal Fest.

Jonathan Townsend (CWC): Will be working with WNY PRISM to map invasive species on preserves this summer.

Meg Janis (Parks): Due to high water in Lake Ontario, some of the Parks boat stewards have been relocated, including one being placed at Silver Lake. Parks Strike Teams are up and running – they will be doing invasive species removal work throughout the summer in various parks. Parks is finalizing some ISAW events.

Marcus Rosten (USFWS): Field season has begun and USFWS has already been out doing early detection eDNA work for Silver and Bighead Carp. USFWS is hosting an iMap training during ISAW and is assisting with the AIS Management Workshop to be held in July.

Chris Pennuto (WNY PRISM/Buffalo State): Continuing research with round gobies and WNY PRISM boot brush stations.

Paul Fuhrmann (E&E): Attended the IAGLR Conference in Detroit, where he presented on the Times Beach Project – the conference was exceptional and it was a great opportunity to learn. Funding for Times Beach work has been provided for an additional year of invasive species treatment due to the persistence of phragmites and common buckthorn. The need to identify ways to maintain site after the end of current funding still remains.

Alisia Vilonen (DOT): Work this summer includes a bank stabilization project on Rt. 39 and Hake Road on the banks of Cattaraugus Creek. Knotweed removal will include use of herbicide as well as excavation and disposal.

PRISM Updates

- Education and Outreach
 - Recent events included a St. Bonaventure Program/Panel the impacts of globalization on our Forests, and a Silver Lake Panel, for which WNY PRISM served as moderator, on the opportunities for public/private partnerships aimed at improving lake health. WNY PRISM also held a very well attended iMapInvasives training on Grand Island and attended a couple of tabling events.
 - Received a lot (75,000+) invasive species watch cards from Sea Grant to distribute to Partners, if anyone has any interest in these items, or knows of an organization that has interest, please let Andrea know.
 - WNY PRISM is working with Partners to host an AIS Management Workshop on July 6th. This workshop will be held at the Lake Erie Seaway Trail Visitor Center. The workshop has recently been finalized and will be
 - WNY PRISM's Education and Outreach Assistant, Nick Ransbury, is taking the lead on planning events and working with Partners. He will be focused on ISAW for a bit, before expanding to other things.
- *Brachypodium sylvaticum*
 - GLES Student Intern created habitat suitability maps for each PRISM and select Counties, which are being used across the state to select priority areas for surveying.
 - Melissa Rivelis was hired as our *Brachypodium* survey intern – she is housed at SUNY Brockport with Andie Graham. Melissa has survey a number of preserves so far, including Genesee County Park and Forest, and Tonawanda WMA. *Brachypodium* was found at Genesee County Park and Forest. Melissa continues to reach out to Partners, letting them know about the project and that she will be out surveying. Melissa will also be doing some outreach events.
 - *Brachypodium* was observed at Letchworth State Park – Melissa will assist Parks with surveying.
- Project Manager
 - WNY PRISM has hired Lucy Nuessle as our Projects Manager and she will be starting on June 26th. Lucy was previously an Invasive Species Management Assistant with WNY PRISM, during the summer of 2015.
 - Initially, the Projects Manager will primarily be involved with the daily supervision of the WNY PRISM Crew, but the position includes a much broader scope outside of the summer field season.
- Crew Schedule
 - Crew schedule is mostly complete for this year; we do have a few open days which we will be using either as weather make-up days, or to fill-in with Outreach and/or Early

Detection efforts. We were able to work with most of our Partners to create plans & projects that will be highly effective and help move forward our mutual goals.

- Previous request from PRISM involved looking for sites for post management invasive species surveys/monitoring – Meg Janis has offered a couple of sites for consideration.
- Funding
 - WNY PRISM has received funding as part of Tiff Nature Preserves Vernal Pool Restoration Project. Funding will cover the use of the WNY PRISM Crew to assist with invasive species removal over the next two years.
 - WNY PRISM continues to work with PUSH Buffalo on the working training and site restoration at Silo City. The Crew will be out on-site tomorrow, to do a follow-up herbicide treatment to the initial treatment conducted by AES earlier this spring.
- Budget Modification
 - WNY PRISM has submitted a NCTE to DEC for approval. This will allow WNY PRISM to access unexpended funds from Year 1, as well as those remaining from Years 2-4. WNY PRISM did not use funds from Year 1 of our contract because of a late start, due to delays in receiving the final executed contract from DEC.
 - WNY PRISM has asked that funds be used to create a Year 6, effectively extending our contract, currently set to conclude December 31, 2017, to December 31, 2018.
 - We have yet to receive word/approval from DEC for the proposed NCTE.

New Business/Discussion Topics

- PRISM Meetings
 - Our Fall Partner Meeting has been moved to Thursday, October 5th, but we need to select a time & place. This change was due to the PRISM Leader's Meeting being held on October 4th. WNY PRISM is hosting the PRISM Leader's Meeting and we wanted to take advantage of those traveling to Buffalo for this meeting and have them attend our Partner Meeting as well.
 - With the date change of our Fall Partner Meeting, Andrea suggested moving our planned Steering Committee Meeting back, from October 12th to November 16th, the original date for our Fall Partner Meeting. Our next scheduled Steering Committee Meeting is set for August 24th.
 - PRISM Leader's Meetings are held twice per year and rotate through the different PRISM regions. Meetings involve all of the PRISM Coordinators, iMapInvasives, New York State Research Institute and DEC Invasive Species Program Staff. As part of this meeting, participants will visit Seneca Bluffs to see the work that has been done over the past few years.
- Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative
 - WNY PRISM/Andrea is now a member of the GLPC Advisory Committee – www.greatlakesphragmites.net.
 - The Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework is currently looking for projects in New York State that are focused on phragmites management, to include in their overall project to develop a standardized management and monitoring protocol.
- Invasive Species Awareness Week
 - ISAW is being held July 9 – 15, and PRISMs will continue to fill a role similar to previous years – assisting with planning, outreach for events, providing materials, and providing assistance on the day when available.

- Still looking for more events – the initial deadline set for getting events to WNY PRISM was June 26th, however we will accept events after that date. The level of assistance we may be able to provide could be lower for those events submitted past this date.
- Current planned events include multiple volunteer workdays with different Partners, webinars, and an iMap training being held by USFWS. Parks is in the final planning stages for a couple of ISAW events as well.
- Invasive species ranking system
 - iMapInvasives, in partnership with PRISMs and the NYS Invasive Species Research Institute has developed a new metric system by which to rank invasive species with regard to management options. PRISMs have been asked to use this new ranking system when updating our current rankings and to inform early detection priorities. This has been presented to our working groups for comments throughout the development stage.
 - Andrea will rank all of our current priority species using this system and report those to the Steering Committee. Additional species may be ranked at a later date or during a re-prioritization process done through working groups. There is interest to maintain species priority lists as they are currently, as they are nice for general outreach purposes.

Upcoming Meetings

Steering Committee Meeting – Thursday, August 24, 2017; 1-3pm @ GLC FS

Fall Partner Meeting – Thursday, October 5, 2017; 9 – 11am, location TBD

Steering Committee Meeting – Thursday, November 16, 2017; 1-3pm @ GLC FS

WNY PRISM Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 9, 2017; 1:00 – 3:00 pm
WNY PRISM Office – Great Lakes Center

In Attendance: In-person: Janine Shepherd (DOT), Sharon Bachman (CCE), John Grabowski (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper), Lynn Greer (USACE), Jennifer Dunn (DEC), Jonathan Townsend (CWC), Marcus Rosten (USFWS), Bob Smith (Chestnut Ridge Nursery/CNLP). On-phone: Paul Fuhrmann (E&E), Meg Janis (Parks), Shanna Shaw (NRCS).

Steering Committee/Partner Updates

Janine Shepherd (DOT): Work on the Harlem Bridge overpass began earlier this year.

Sharon Bachman (CCE): Has facilitated a number of meetings including WNY EAB Taskforce and Grand Island EAB Taskforce, which had 80 people attend.

John Grabowski (BNR): Work continues on living shoreline/shoreline restoration projects and will continue with Boat Stewards program this summer.

Bob Smith (CNLP): The PlantWNY conference and tradeshow was held recently and was very successful, provided Steering Committee with list of native trees available through Chestnut Ridge.

Paul Fuhrmann (E&E): Work at Times Beach is winding down, there are a lot of great lesson's learned

Marcus Rosten (USFWS): Robert Haltner, who had served as USFWS representative on the WNY PRISM Steering Committee has taken a new position within the service, moving to Washington State. Marcus filled in for Robert for this meeting and USFWS will be selecting a new representative soon.

Jennifer Dunn (DEC): DEC is in the process of finalizing a 5-year Invasive Species Education and Outreach Plan and has now released a finalized Rapid Response Framework for Invasive Species, available here: http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/isrrprogrampolicy.pdf.

Lynn Greer (USACE): Planning for this season's hydrilla surveys and treatment is ongoing, also looking towards the future with regard to the demonstration project portion of this effort coming to end in the next couple years. Efforts continue to show good result.

Meg Janis (Parks): NYS Parks plans to have strike team in region 6-8 weeks this season, forest health staff this season, plan for more EAB treatments in area parks as well as HWA treatments, and plans to hire boat stewards.

PRISM Updates

- *Brachypodium sylvaticum* Working Group
 - WG Meeting was held on December 5, 2016 and was well attended. A number of priorities were identified which included determining distribution and prioritizing survey areas, identifying management options, increasing awareness, and identifying further research needs.
 - WNY PRISM submitted an application for GLRI-EPA to fund a *Brachypodium* Working Group. The project will include a dedicated coordinator and interns, and will focus on the priorities identified by the Working Group. If funded, work will begin in July.

- WNY PRISM has brought on an Intern through SUNY Buffalo State's GLES Master's Program. This intern will be working on a GIS Habitat Suitability Project.
- Annual Report
 - Work on the 2016 Annual Report has unfortunately been delayed due to the amount of other work that has taken priority – hopefully a draft will be ready in the next couple weeks for Steering Committee Review.
 - In addition to the Annual Report, considering development of a one-sheet summary/outreach tool that can be used to quickly demonstrate progress. Lynn Greer has offered USACE assistance in putting this together.
- PUSH Buffalo EJ EPA Grant
 - PUSH Buffalo Worker Training Program is underway and a number of project planning meetings have taken place - WNY PRISM will provide invasive species training module and provide assistance with invasive species management/removal at designated demonstration site along Buffalo River @ Silo City.
 - Project timing has changed which may impact Crew involvement, but the educational component, other than timing, remains unchanged.
- Funding
 - WNY PRISM has been included as a sub-awardee in a couple of grants submitted by Tiftt Nature Preserve/Buffalo Museum of Science. If funded, WNY PRISM will receive funds to assist with Crew costs associated with vernal pool restoration at Tiftt.
 - WNY PRISM continues to considering options for funding a Strike Team including purchasing vehicle and extending Crew season.
- Education and Outreach
 - Upcoming events include Birds and Invasives Presentation and iMap Training, both in partnership with RTPi and NISAW, a Silver Lake Program/Panel to present various conservation organization and agency programs for working together to improve the health of Silver Lake, and a panel at St. Bonaventure focused on impacts of globalization.
 - WNY PRISM is updating outreach materials for 2017 and has developed display kits (posters) for library display boards. Kits are still in progress and WNY PRISM has asked for suggestions for materials to include.
- Crew Hiring
 - Positions have been posted (<https://www.rfhiring.com/jobs.asp>) and the deadline for applications is March 10th
 - Hiring 1 Education and Outreach Assistant and 2 or 3 Invasive Species Management Assistants. This is different from previous years, when we hired 3 ISMAs, because we hope to have the 3rd ISMA position hired as a Crew Leader/Projects Manager. However, this is dependent on approval of recently submitted NCTE.
- Budget Modification
 - WNY PRISM has submitted a NCTE to DEC for approval. This will allow WNY PRISM to access unexpended funds from Year 1, as well as those remaining from Years 2-4. WNY PRISM did not use funds from Year 1 of our contract because of a late start, due to delays in receiving the final executed contract from DEC.
 - WNY PRISM has asked that funds be used to create a Year 6, effectively extending our contract, currently set to conclude December 31, 2017, to December 31, 2018.
 - The NCTE process may take 2-3 months.

Discussion Topics

- Invasive Species Awareness Week
 - ISAW is being held July 9 – 15, and PRISMs will fill a similar role to previous years. We have specifically been asked to reach out to Partners from Counties that have not held events for ISAW in the past. For WNY, this includes Genesee and Orleans County. Wyoming County has held events in previous ISAWs, but not in 2016. WNY PRISM has reached out to USFWS/Iroquois NWR, but would like suggestions for Orleans County.
 - Steering Committee discussed how to better encourage Partners to participate in ISAW. Improving tool kits and assisting Partners to ease the burden of planning/hosting an event were brought up. Additional suggestion was seeing if timing of events already being planned can be shifted to coincide with ISAW. While PRISM can assist with aspects of ISAW events, such as planning, outreach and follow-up, it is impossible for PRISM to be actively involved in all events during ISAW, so there is still a need to identify/facilitate ways for more Partners to hold events independently.
- Native Plant Material
 - Native plant material is a topic that has been brought up at many of our most recent Steering Committee Meetings, and has been identified as a significant need for habitat restoration projects in WNY. The desire is to have local genotype native plants and seed available for plantings and restoration in WNY. The term ‘local’ has not been defined, however consensus appears to favor western New York State and adjacent areas.
 - Steering Committee Members provided updates on current status of native plant availability. The USDA Big Flats Plant Materials Center produces many native species, along with non-native species for use as cover crop. More recently, they’ve begun growing plants targeting pollinators. Big Flats provides plant materials to the broad Northeast Region. It is unclear to us who is able to access these materials and where the plants are from on an ecotype or genotype scale. NYS Parks is in the process of building a greenhouse in East Aurora, to grow native plants. These will be plant plugs and used primarily for small plantings on State Parks properties. There is the potential to expand that to other properties/organizations in the future, but not right away. Erie County is also in the process of setting up a greenhouse with the desire to grow native plants for their properties. Many local nurseries carry native plants, however plant origin is a concern, so buyers need to be aware. Chestnut Ridge Nursery, a wholesale nursery, grows many native trees, using local seed sources.
- Crew Requests/Scheduling
 - WNY PRISM received 15 Partner requests for Crew assistance, along with 9 Partner projects for which WNY PRISM has already been committed (these projects are continued projects from previous years). The total number of days asked for these project matches the number of days for which the Crew works, however when additional PRISM commitments (training, PRISM projects, education and outreach commitments, early detection and mapping projects, etc) are considered, the need to prioritize projects is clear.
 - The Steering Committee reviewed each of the requests and discussed each as it related to our review criteria (priorities, partnership, long-term project sustainability and PRISM capacity). Final decisions were not made due to time constraints and the need to get more information on a number of the projects. WNY PRISM Coordinator will follow-up with appropriate Partners to get more information and Steering Committee Members will provide WNY PRISM with additional feedback on projects.

- Spring Partner Meeting
 - Spring Partner Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2017 from 1-3pm – the location has not been determined. Current presenters include Vicki Haas, Erie County Environment & Planning, presenting on the Erie County Habitat Parks, and a short presentation from WNY PRISM's GLES Intern. We are looking for an additional presenter, suggestions are welcome

Upcoming Meetings:

Spring Partner Meeting – Thursday, April 6, 2017; 1-3pm

Steering Committee Meeting – Thursday, June 15, 2017; 1 -3pm