

WNY PRISM Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 20, 2016; 1:00 – 3:00 pm
WNY PRISM Office – Great Lakes Center

In Attendance: In-person: Helen Domske (SeaGrant), Alisia Vilonen (DOT), Sharon Bachman (CCE), John Grabowski (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper), Lynn Greer (USACE). On-phone: Gregg Sargis (TNC), Paul Fuhrmann (E&E), Jennifer Dunn (DEC), Meg Janis (Parks).

Steering Committee/Partner Updates

Helen Domske (NY SeaGrant): Held a few teacher workshops with an invasive species focus, had displays at County Fairs and a big display at the NYS Fair focused on stopping the spread of AIS, upcoming Great Lakes Model Educators Networking Workshop will be held on October 29th.

Alisia Vilonen (DOT): Worked on several smaller scale projects, but a larger project is the Harlem Road Bridge where a neighbor asked for knotweed to remain due to privacy concerns, DOT did remove sections of knotweed, but allowed areas of knotweed to remain that were unnecessary to disturb as part of the project scope, monitoring wetland mitigation sites.

Sharon Bachman (CCE): WNY EAB Taskforce met earlier this month, as did a Grand Island specific taskforce, seeing 80 people in attendance, Chautauqua County Forest Pest Taskforce met after an extended hiatus, Lewis Tandy (APHIS) was able to find and make available more ID kits for EAB, hoping to collect ash seed this fall for MARSB.

John Grabowski (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper): Boat Stewards Update – 2 contractors and 3 interns worked boat launch sites this summer, 3455 boaters were contacted and 1500 boats inspected, invasive species removal is a component of Buffalo River projects currently in the design phase (5 or 6 sites), and 2 living shoreline projects coming next summer at Hyde Park Lake in Niagara Falls and Ellicott Creek Park – mostly phragmites.

Gregg Sargis (TNC): Working on grants through Sustain Our Great Lakes for restoration at Sodas Bay (FL-PRISM), includes water chestnut, also working with USDA on possible test sites for initial release of swallow-wort biocontrols within the next year or so, dependent on APHIS and NYS approval for release.

Paul Fuhrmann (E&E): Working on project outside of the region including Great Lakes AOC projects outside region – Menomonee River (Wisconsin) and Ash Tabula (Ohio), phragmites is a target invasive species, locally Times Beach work is winding down, summer 2017 will see final treatments & restoration – USACE has information on their website, there is continued concern about the lack of native plant materials for restoration, especially local genotype.

Jennifer Dunn (DEC): Everyone is very happy with the results from the hydrilla treatments in Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal, surveys didn't find a lot of plants and even fewer tubers, talks have begun about planning more comprehensive surveys across the area, possibly rake tosses from land to spot check for hydrilla near popular boat launches, possibly a 5 year rotation with a desire to catch new infestations early, hopefully more to come in the next year or so.

Lynn Greer (USACE): Echoes the extremely successful hydrilla treatment, Mike Greer is planning the next call to discuss preliminary result and the plan for next year, the final report for 2016 effort should be expected around January.

Meg Janis (Parks): Provided update on native plant nursery at Knox Farm, some infrastructure is now in place, but plant materials (seed collection/growing) haven't been addressed yet, this nursery is intended as a resource for the region, not just for Parks, with the new nature center at Letchworth, Parks is

working on developing different programs for education, treated a bunch of ash this fall at campgrounds with huge historic ash, hired a Biologist in Allegheny office who will cover Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties, Strike Team is wrapping up and they did a number of restoration and removal projects.

PRISM Updates

- 2016 Field Season (June – August)
 - Education and Outreach (16% Crew Time)
 - 21 Events (tabling, presentations, workshops, volunteer workdays)
 - 2593 Direct Contacts/6260 Attendees (without counting Erie County Fair numbers), 6 Counties
 - 5 2016 Field Notes Blog Posts
 - Management & IS Removal (40%)
 - Removal Projects @ Tifft, Seneca Bluffs, Niagara Escarpment, Stella Niagara, Kenneglenn, Jamestown Audubon, Iroquois NWR, Conewango Valley, College Lodge @ Fredonia, and Bergen Swamp
 - Beetle Collection
 - Hydrilla Demonstration Project
 - GLC Knotweed Project – year 2 treatments
 - Surveys/Mapping (34%)
 - 905 Observations, 52 Species, 7 Projects, 6 Counties
 - Provided survey summaries and management suggestions to Partners
 - Early Detection Site Monitoring
 - Other (10%)
 - Information gathering & admin paperwork
- PUSH Buffalo EJ EPA Grant
 - PUSH Buffalo was awarded an Environmental Justice Grant through the EPA in which WNY PRISM was identified and provided funds - \$6000.00
 - WNY PRISM will provide invasive species training to include ecology, identification, use of iMapInvasives, and management methods
 - WNY PRISM will also provide assistance and oversight with invasive species management/removal at designated demonstration site along Buffalo River @ Silo City
 - Additional Partners include Paul Fuhrmann and Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper
- Great Lakes Action Agenda Meeting
 - Discussed Ecosystem Based Management
 - Selected 2 potential pilot projects
 - Increasing outreach to and capacity among municipalities
 - Cattaraugus Creek Restoration
- Early Detection Protocol
 - Posted on WNY PRISM's website on Monday
 - News Post and email blast will go out shortly
- *Brachypodium slyvaticum* Working Group
 - Discussed working group with PRISM Leaders and decided to move ahead this fall – Willow Eyres (DEC ISCS) will assist with coordinating the working group
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

- Roger Tory Peterson Institute is once again organizing HWA training and surveys, expanding upon the number of sites and geographic area to include more of the Southern Tier
- Training is scheduled for December 8th with surveys starting shortly after
- iMap now has No Detection option for water chestnut and HWA
- PRISM Leaders Meeting
 - Early draft of an Education and Outreach Plan from the NYS Invasive Species Coordination Unit was presented at the meeting – not yet for public comment
 - Public comments were accepted for the Early Detection/Rapid Response Plan Draft released earlier this year, comments were reviewed and an updated plan is expected shortly
 - Progress on statewide prioritization and standardized IS terminology has been made and will be presented on at the upcoming CCE Invasive Species In-Service
 - APIPP has issued a call to action for updating the 2005 report from the NYS Invasive Species Taskforce as the 12 recommendations have been implemented
 - Trees for Tribes Program is looking for projects, in and outside of current target areas
 - SLELO pilot e-DNA citizen science project was successful, a report/summary should be available this winter

Discussion Topics

- 2017 Work Plan
 - PRISM has been very successful with fulfilling the goals set in our 2016 Work Plan and it's now time to start thinking about the 2017 Plan. Andrea will begin work on the plan shortly and provide to the Steering Committee for comment.
- Fall Partner Meeting – November 17th
 - Currently have Vicki Haas (Erie County) scheduled to present and looking for a second topic/presenter
 - Suggestions included e-DNA, Parks Native Plant Nursery and USACE projects – Andrea will contact potential speakers
- Annual Report
 - NYS ISCS is very happy with our PRISM Annual Reports – they serve as a great tool for demonstrating all of the invasive species work happening in the region and are popular at state meetings
 - Call for information to our Partners will begin at the Fall Partner Meeting
- Funding
 - WNY PRISM is currently in year 4 of a 5 year contract, with 2017 begin year 5, however WNY PRISM will pursue a no cost extension for 2018 – the available funds within our current contract are due to the late signing of the contract, which happened in so late in YEAR 1, it left near an entire year of funds unused. This may delay the release of a new RFP for a second round of funding/5- year contract.
- 2017 Meeting Schedule
 - Steering Committee Meetings will be held at the PRISM Office from 1 – 3 pm: February 9th, June 15th, August 24th, and October 12th
 - Full Partner Meetings will be held on April 6th and November 16th (both Thursdays, 1 – 3 pm)
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Upcoming Meetings: Fall Partner Meeting: Thursday, November 17th, 1 – 3 pm, Woodlawn Beach State Park

WNY PRISM Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 28, 2016; 1:00 – 3:00 pm
WNY PRISM Office – Great Lakes Center

In Attendance: In Person - Sharon Bachman (CCE Erie Co), Helen Domske (Sea Grant), Chris Pennuto (Buffalo State/WNY PRISM), Andrea Locke (WNY PRISM), Lynn Greer (USACE), Jennifer Dunn (DEC), Paul Fuhrmann (E&E). On Phone - Meg Janis (NYS Parks).

Steering Committee/Partner Updates

Lynn Greer/USACE – The Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal Hydrilla Demonstration Project treatment went well, occurred the week of July 25th; Army Corps appreciates everyone’s help which allowed for the pre-treatment sampling to be completed in just 2 days; The post-treatment survey has been postponed a week, to the week of Aug 22nd; Once again looking for volunteers and boats.

Jennifer Dunn/DEC – Working on hydrilla this summer, specifically outreach, Canal Fest went very well and David (DEC intern) did a great job; Phragmites Collaborative has produced a new management document based on the potential capacity of organizations to do management, capacity based on finances, document is in draft form, but Jennifer is going to look into whether she can send it along to the Steering Committee.

Chris Pennuto/PRISM, Buffalo State – Boot Brush Stations are all up and running, the first round of soil collections have been completed, the collections have small, may be due to the dry weather; PRISM is now in year 4 of our contract so we need to start thinking about refunding, DEC will likely put out an RFP of some type, so we would like to have everything in order to be awarded the contract again, for this we will be looking toward the Steering Committee to provide assistance and perhaps additional letters of support for the program here at the Great Lakes Center; Is in the process of writing a grant focused on invasive species management and ecology, will bring in students for 10 weeks over the summer and is looking for a local high school teacher to be involved, Helen is able to provide contacts.

Helen Domske/NY SeaGrant – Three teacher’s workshops held for invasive species, offices across the state have been getting information out at the county fairs.

Paul Fuhrmann/E&E – Times Beach is in year 5 of 5 year project, gained a small area of land that was thought to have been in other ownership, this area needed treatment for buckthorn. Water level changes have led to many lessons learned and unpredictable responses from vegetation, management is expected to transfer to Erie County, who will work with Friends of Times Beach for continued stewardship; EAB biocontrol project has seen success with dispersal and over-wintering, but current site not ideal for further releases, Paul believes new sites are being looked at.

Sharon Bachman/CCE Erie Co. – Spotted wing drosophila trapping is in fourth year, this year the first SWD were found a few weeks ahead of past years; EC SWCD is doing a booth at the fair and Sharon is working with them on getting information out; Looking at developing a FAQ for EAB questions; Eden Conservation Board presentation was done earlier this spring with Andrea/WNY PRISM, and an individual was interested in having mapping done at Franklin Gulf, an Erie County Park near N. Collins.

Meg Janis/Parks – Hired a seasonal strike team which has been out to WNY, worked on phragmites and knotweed at Darien and Hamlin and will be at Letchworth in a couple weeks, team doesn’t have applicator license, so follow-up work will be necessary; SCA are working on oriental bittersweet; More ash will be treated in the Niagara Region and treatments are planned at Allegany (ASP), Lakeside Beach, and 4 Mile Creek; Volunteers have cut down knotweed at Beaver Island; Hired forest health specialists to continue HWA and EAB surveys; Wetland restoration at ASP involves the removal of knotweed; Parks is hiring Stewardship Specialists and one will be at ASP, will work on many things including water quality, habitat restoration, and some invasive species.

PRISM Updates

- AIS Survey
 - PRISM brought on an intern this spring to work on AIS Spread Prevention, developed a survey which was sent out to all inland lakes by email multiple times. Only 3 responses were received, Chautauqua County SWCD, Silver Lake, and verbal response from Chautauqua Lake Association.
 - This is the 3rd year of trying to engage WNY's inland lakes and lake associations with limited success – will continue efforts to reach out and engage but to lesser degree, better contacts are needed. Helen offered to provide a contact for some lakes.
 - Based on response, WNY PRISM assisted Silver Lake with plant survey this summer, looking to help with smaller Chautauqua Lakes next year, but in need of assistance from Partners to do so. Assistance is primarily in the form of contacts and kayaks/canoes.

- iMap
 - Projects have been developed for Partners that are interested in invasive species management and PRISM offers a survey summary and management suggestions for these Partners.
 - Crew is currently in Chautauqua Lake surveying the outlet and tributaries, water chestnut was found and removed last year, but no plants were found this year.
 - Next up is Franklin's Gulf, a large Erie County Park in North Collins, there is the potential this site could qualify as an Invasive Species Prevention Zone, which is a difficult designation to reach in WNY, based on the set criteria.
 - Mapping has been done to fill information gaps and improve distribution maps.

- Management
 - Worked with Partners on existing projects to remove invasive species including knotweed, phragmites, invasive shrubs, and swallow-wort.
 - Seneca Bluffs – knotweed removal is in the 2nd year of treatment by PRISM and has been very successful, with less than 2 full days of treatment. Crew will be back for a second day this year to treat areas that have been mowed this summer. PRISM will assist with removal in 2017 as well, but hopes to transfer long-term management to Erie County.
 - Niagara Escarpment Preserve – mapped the area in 2014 and have continued management of invasive species through 2015 and 2016. This site is unique, containing rare plants and communities worth protecting and it also has low invasive species cover. PRISM will assist with removal in 2017 as well and WNY Land Conservancy is considering prescribed fire to help restore the grassland area.
 - North Tonawanda Audubon Preserve – WNY PRISM is working with Buffalo Audubon to do shrub removal on this preserve, we have submitted a permit application to DEC to allow for herbicide treatment and work this state regulated wetland.

- Education and Outreach
 - WNY PRISM has hosted and/or participated in 36 events in 2016
 - Upcoming events include Reinstein Woods Fall Festival, Chautauqua County Master Gardeners, and Lancaster Garden Club

Early Detection/Rapid Response

Based on existing Early Detection Protocols and with input from WNY PRISM Terrestrial and Aquatic Working Groups, WNY PRISM developed a draft protocol for the detection and confirmation of early detection species in WNY. The Steering Committee reviewed this protocol and found it to be solid. The

next step for WNY PRISM is to get feedback from the Working Groups, after which the protocol will be finalized and placed on the WNY PRISM website. Protocol includes general instructions for identifying and providing documentation of observations.

Discussions continued on to Rapid Response Protocols, which can be complicated to develop and implement. Each species and property type offers unique challenges, and so each new detection will require a different process in order to respond. Therefore, once a detection is confirmed, an assessment period will commence. Assessments will vary depending on the individual situation and will involve different Partners and Stakeholders. Assessments will aim to determine how likely the species is to spread, the harm the species may cause, what actions should be taken and if these actions are possible, who has the authority to act, and who has the resources to act. Components of Rapid Response Protocols will be developed by WNY PRISM, Partners and Stakeholders for each early detection priority species. WNY PRISM may not be the lead agency for action on each species. In a few cases, rapid response protocols are already in place, such as with silver and bighead carp.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation recently released a draft Rapid Response Framework for Invasive Species. WNY PRISM will use this framework to assist with development of our own species and site specific rapid response plans.

Greenway Fund

Earlier this summer, Andrea met with a member of the Greenway Commission Ecological Standing Committee to discuss the possibility of a WNY PRISM application for Greenway funds. This request would assist WNY PRISM in the creation of a regional strike team, a priority for WNY PRISM and the region. Feedback was positive and Andrea will put together a proposal for consideration later this year

Slender False Brome Taskforce

Slender false brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) is one of WNY PRISM Early Detection Priorities, and an invasive species of high concern within the state due to its potential negative impacts, limited understanding of management options, and impressive rate of spread. This species is currently known from areas of the Pacific Northwest, and New York State. Within the state, known infestations are found in 2 counties, Genesee (WNY PRISM) and Tompkins (FL-PRISM). For these reasons, WNY PRISM and FL-PRISM, along with Steve Young, LH PRISM, and others within the state, are interested in seeing a work group or taskforce form surrounding this species. As of this point, no one has stepped up to lead such a taskforce despite requests. Andrea/WNY PRISM is looking into possibly leading the taskforce, but needs to consider capacity issues with regard to the amount of time such an effort will require, and already being stretched very thin. The Steering Committee sees the importance of such an effort, but left it up to Andrea to determine if leading the taskforce is doable.

Upcoming Meetings:

Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 27, 2016; 1:00 – 3:00 pm
WNY PRISM Office – GLC Field Station

Full Partnership Meeting

Thursday, November 17, 2016; 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Location TBA

WNY PRISM Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 28, 2016; 1:00 – 3:00 pm
WNY PRISM Office – Great Lakes Center

In Attendance: In Person - Sharon Bachman (CCE Invasive Species Program), Shanna Shaw (USDA-NRCS), Bob Smith (CNLP, Chestnut Ridge Nursery), Helen Domske (Sea Grant), Robert Haltner (USFWS Lower Great Lakes Office), Chris Pennuto (Buffalo State/WNY PRISM), Andrea Locke (WNY PRISM), On Phone - Paul Fuhrmann (E&E), Meg Janis (NYS Parks), Gregg Sargis (TNC), Lynn Greer (USACE), Alisia Vilonen (DOT)

PRISM Updates

- 2016 Hiring
 - PRISM Crew positions have been posted and we are accepting applications – applications are accepted through the RF hiring website: <https://www.rfhiring.com/jobs.asp>
 - Education and Outreach Assistant (1)– deadline for applications is 2/28/2016
 - Invasive Species Management Assistants (2) – deadline for applications is 3/11/2016
- Internships
 - WNY PRISM developed 2 student internships designed to fill regional information needs. One involves collecting data on AIS prevention/watercraft inspection programs and the other involves collecting information on past invasive species removal and habitat restoration projects.
 - Internships are posted on our website and have been distributed to local universities.
- DEC Giant Hogweed Program
 - WNY PRISM and the GLC, through conversations with DEC and the Giant Hogweed Program, agreed to host staff/interns in 2016. The decision was based on a strong need for the program to operate WNY.
- Upcoming Education and Outreach
 - WNY Farm Show – Ag and Invasives Presentation
 - Niagara Frontier Botanical Society – Restoration and Management Presentation
 - National Invasive Species Awareness Week (February 21 – 27)
 - WNY PRISM is working with Roger Tory Peterson Institute on a full-week of workshops and presentations for NISAW including a full-day Forest Pest Workshop and evening presentations on Native Plants and a Birds and Invasives.
 - Rural Landowner Workshop

Regional Updates

- DEC Invasive Species Coordination Unit has hired 2 additional staff members who begin near the first of February. Willow Eyres is the new Response and Management Coordinator and Megan Phillips is now the Invasive Species Education/Outreach Coordinator.
- DEC AIS Spread Prevention Grant, deadline for applications is January 29th
- DEC AIS Spread Prevention regulations open comment period closes on February 1st.
- WNY Land Conservancy held meetings on 2 properties, Stella Niagara Preserve and Clarence's Oak Openings property. Plans are moving forward for Stella Niagara, which includes a Vision Plan and more specific management plan, while planning is just beginning for Oak Openings.

Steering Committee/Partner Updates

Robert Haltner – UFSWS is seeing a period of turnover in the Aquatic Invasive Species Program and corresponding restructuring of job duties. They recently hired a new biologist and are looking to hire 4 this summer.

Bob Smith – Represents the green industry for NY Farm Viability Institute, which receives requests for funding from across the state, twice a year. Recently received a request from CAP-MO PRISM regarding knapweed management.

Shanna Shaw – NRCS is reviewing applications for WRP and other programs and is looking for better management options for knapweed species. They have some funds through GLRI that are marked for invasive species removal and have been talking with FL-PRISM and DEC Giant Hogweed Program about a potential project involving hogweed removal in Monroe County.

Sharon Bachman – Attended a conference on invasive pest management where spotted knapweed biocontrols were a topic of discussion, and she is working on multiple upcoming presentations and events - coordinating speakers for the WNY Farm Show, WNY Envirothon, Master Gardeners, and an EAB/Taskforce informational meeting to be held in Bethany, NY. Also working with DAM to address a compost site with Japanese knotweed.

Chris Pennuto – Looking into a pilot project with WNY PRISM involving boot brush stations and a potential research study looking at collection of seed/plant materials to determine species that are being caught. Currently interested in finding 5 sites.

Paul Fuhrmann – Interested in the potential impacts and opportunities presented by the proposed de-watering of the American Falls and is working with NYS ISRI on bringing a workshop to WNY focused on deer management and impacts on invasive species.

Lynn Greer – There has been a lot of transition within Army Corps recently, involving project managers, some relocations and new projects, and USACE is looking at development of a hydrilla cooperative website similar to the Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative page.

Gregg Sargis – The Nature Conservancy is working on a sizeable program involving pollinators and native plantings, with a focus in the Rochester area. Also looking at the DEC AIS Spread Prevention Regulations currently out for comment.

Partner Crew Requests

Beginning in November 2015, WNY PRISM began accepting requests from Partners for assistance on projects planned for summer 2016. Partners were asked to provide a project description including Partners involved, target species, number of days requested, and seasonal timing. At the time of this meeting, official requests were received from 7 Partners including 10 separate projects. Requests totaled 27 -30 days of work, which equals the estimated days available for the Crew to assist in such projects. Additional Partners expressed interest in gaining assistance from PRISM, but have not yet submitted a request or project information. The announced deadline for requests was 1/22/2016.

Although PRISM would like to assist all of our Partners, the level of requests paired with current PRISM capacity does not allow for us to assist with all projects. The Steering Committee reviewed the official requests based on PRISM priorities, which include priority species, high value conservation lands, building Partnerships and Partner capacity, regional impact of the project, sustainability, and additional PRISM goals and objectives. Most requests we received did fit within our priorities, however a few were outside of our current ability to do. These included projects that were too large and/or require tools, supplies and equipment we don't have access to. Since the remaining projects fell within our priorities and expected Crew availability, further prioritization was not necessary at this time. This assumes that

scheduling can be worked out to eliminate conflicts. However, it was decided that Andrea would contact the additional Partners who had expressed interest, but did not submit a request, and give them another window of time to do so. If we do receive more requests and/or further prioritization is required, the Steering Committee will formally work through the requests.

Annual Report

Coordinator is currently working on the 2015 Annual Report. The deadline for Partners to send information was last week and although we have received information from a similar number of Partners as last year, the hope was to increase that more significantly. Looking towards next year, the format and deadlines for submissions will likely be adjusted to make it more straightforward for Partners to contribute. The Steering Committee reviewed their Partner submissions as well as the Summary for Project Expenses. Once a final draft of the Annual Report is completed, it will be sent to the Steering Committee for final review before being released.