

**Hydrilla Task Force
Statewide Conference Call Notes
for July 13, 2016**

Coordination:

- Statewide Task Force conference calls for 2016 (5/11/16, 6/8/16, 7/13/16)

FUNDING UPDATES:

FEDERAL FUNDING:

- **FWS ANS FY14 Grant:** Remaining balance \$118,842. Will utilize remaining funds in 2016. Submitting Q2 2016 Progress Report and Reimbursement Request for Project activities in 2nd Quarter.
- **FWS ANS FY15** Awarded \$225,000. Contract should come through in 2016. Will plan to use this funding for 2017 season.
- **FWS ANS FY16:** Awarded \$260,000. Once accepted by FWS, will utilize this funding over the 2017 & 2018 Seasons

STATE FUNDING:

- **NYS Parks Grant:** Balance approx. \$1,102.00. Will utilize remaining funds in 2016.
- **NYS Parks will provide a further \$60,000 in FY15-16 funding, which will be allocated to the Project for the 2016/2017 season.** Finalized FY15 – 16 MOU between District and NYS Parks for \$60,000 funding for 2017 season.
- **NYSDEC Grant and Local Funding Support (City & Tompkins Co.):** Submitting Q2 2016 Reimbursement Request for Project activities in 2nd Quarter. Working w/ FLOWPA on contract extension request.

MANAGEMENT & MONITORING UPDATES:

• **TREATMENTS**

- **CAYUGA INLET:** Sonar Genesis Injection unit was installed on July 5th by SePRO and SOLitude representatives. Injection unit will be ready to go for anticipated July 22nd treatment start in Inlet. May conduct initial “boost” treatment to increase Sonar concentration within Inlet treatment zone (this is due to extremely low-flow/low rainfall conditions this season).
- **FALL CREEK:** Racine-Johnson Aquatic Ecologists conducted tuber monitoring and visual assessments in Fall Creek. No observations of tubers or growth as of yet. Treatment initiation/timing will depend directly upon tuber/growth observations in Fall Creek. Planning for Aquathol-K treatment near the beginning/middle of August (week of August 8th currently being discussed).
- **SOUTHERN CAYUGA LAKE:** Racine-Johnson Aquatic Ecologists began initial Rake-Toss surveys in southern Cayuga Lake the week of July 4th. Overall, lake temperature is lower than average for this time of year. Will base physical removal/benthic barrier installation on growth observations in Cayuga Lake.
- **NYSDEC Permits:** NYSDEC is still conducting permit review process (through July 15th). Anticipate having the permits available the week of July 18th. DEC will allow 7-day treatment notification to be submitted on July 15th (day of permit review completion), which puts treatment start date in Cayuga Inlet at July 22. Will submit 24hr treatment notification for publication in Ithaca Journal AND mail out 24hr treatment notification post-cards to riparian owners (per NYSDEC permit requirements). Will work w/ City of Ithaca and NYS Parks to post herbicide notification signage along treatment zones (approx. 15 miles of shoreline. One sign every 100ft. per NYSDEC permit requirements)*
- **Plant Community & Hydrilla Tuber Sampling (BOB JOHNSON):** *Just begun plant monitoring in Cayuga Lake (2 weeks ago). Working in SE Corner. Several weeks ago doing tuber monitoring in Cayuga Inlet and Fall Creek. Continuing with same sampling numbers (208 sediment cores per location). Five locations total, eliminated 2 locations in Cayuga Inlet (Southern Inlet and Linderman). Cornell bay, Cascadilla Farmers market still active. Fall Creek locations include Stewart Park pond, Fall Creek cove,*

and golf course lagoon. 1,040 cores sampled in Fall Creek. No tubers found anywhere! Two full days of visual observations in Fall Creek area. No evidence of vegetative hydrilla growth. Held up on rake-toss in Cayuga Inlet and Fall Creek, giving hydrilla more of a chance to emerge. Will conduct these sampling efforts just before treatments start.

Looking at SE corner of Cayuga Lake looking, as it is shallow and has had most hydrilla activity in past seasons. Monitoring w/ Rake-toss samples. Up to 300 locations sampled now. No hydrilla found. Plant growth up substantially this year (as observed in other regions of the state). Tremendous growth of elodea, which makes monitoring more challenging. Rake-tosses are in the medium to dense range of biomass. More milfoil than normal.

WNY Hydrilla Project Management Updates:

- **Dr. MIKE NETHERLAND:** Will be conducting pre-treatment monitoring the week of July 11. Treatment still planned for week of July 25.

OUTREACH/EDUCATION and PREVENTION:

- Attended Bass Tournament from June 23 – 26 in Union Springs, NY. Had hydrilla/AIS outreach info. HTF, CLWN, Floating Classroom, and FL-PRISM provided staffing for the event.
- HTF Outreach Committee will begin outreach at Ithaca Farmers' Market this month (Sunday, July 24th). Will have presence at least 6 weekends throughout the season (July, August, and September).
- Next Outreach Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 19th. Additional planning/coordination on outreach events for 2016 season.

STATEWIDE UPDATES:

NYS AIS Updates (CATHY McGLYNN, NYSDEC)

Croton Hydrilla Control Project

- Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands Permit application submitted on June 24th
- Webpage for Croton Hydrilla Control Project posted on DEC website
- Public stakeholder meeting held on June 28th.
- Village wetlands activity permit application for Croton (including completed EAF Part 1 and draft EAF Parts 2 and 3) submitted July 5th
- Aquatic plant survey (pre-treatment monitoring survey) on the Croton River began on Monday, July 11th.
- Still working through flow and treatment issues
- Treatment date TBD (*mid to late august, most likely*).
- We'll be working with LH PRISM AIS Coordinator to distribute
- Have begun drafting five year plan (2017 – 2022)

Other

- To date NYSDEC has distributed more than 50K Aquatic Invasive Tip Strips this year
- We are working on an updated tip strip that incorporates information about new regulations and starry stonewort
- The third annual New York Invasive Species Awareness Week is taking place this week. Event organizers can submit event details to their local PRISM coordinator for inclusion on the statewide events calendar, which is housed online at www.nyis.info/blog/events.

****NEXT STATEWIDE CONFERENCE CALL SCHEDULED FOR:**

August 10, 2016 @ 10:00AM. **

Dial-in Number: [1-302-202-1110](tel:1-302-202-1110)

Conference Code: 982118

Host Code: 8346