

**Hydrilla Task Force
Statewide Conference Call Notes
for June 8, 2016**

Coordination:

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

FUNDING UPDATES:

FEDERAL FUNDING:

- **FWS ANS FY14 Grant:** Remaining balance \$118,842. Will utilize remaining funds in 2016.
- **FWS ANS FY15** Awarded \$225,000. Contract should come through in 2016. Will plan on using 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. HTF is working with Parks to update FY15-16 MOU.** Plan to request additional funding assistance from NYS Parks for 2017 season.
- **NYSDEC Grant and Local Funding Support (City & Tompkins Co.):** Local funding contract w/ City is almost finalized for 2016 (by end of June). Will utilize County and City local funding support to cover up-front costs and access remaining NYSDEC Grant. Will work w/ FLOWPA & NYSDEC to request contract extension (out to August 2017)*

MANAGEMENT & MONITORING UPDATES:

- The HTF and Tompkins County Soil & Water Conservation District (TCSWCD) have finalized contracts w/ Solitude Lake Management (for 2016 hydrilla treatments), Racine-Johnson Aquatic Ecologists (for 2016 Plant Community/Hydrilla Tuber Monitoring), and CSI (for 2016 Water Quality Sample Analysis)*
- **TREATMENTS:** Overall, treatments will be scaled back in 2016 in the Cayuga Inlet, which will result in lowered costs and lower herbicide input, while still maintaining management pressure on remaining hydrilla populations.
 - **CAYUGA INLET:** HTF is currently coordinating w/ Solitude and SePRO for shipment and installation of Sonar Genesis injection unit for Inlet treatment. Will continue to coordinate, install, and calibrate injection unit in preparation for Sonar treatment initiation in Cayuga Inlet
 - **FALL CREEK:** HTF is currently coordinating w/ Solitude, UPI, and City of Ithaca for planning/logistics of Fall Creek 24hr Aq-K injection treatment. Will continue to coordinate and plan for Fall Creek Aq-K treatment (to be broken up into two (2) 12hr treatments)
 - **SOUTHERN CAYUGA LAKE:** Racine-Johnson Aquatic Ecologists (RJAE) has been contracted to conduct physical removal and benthic barrier installation over isolated hydrilla patch discovered in September 2015 (adjacent to Cornell Sailing Center, in 3 to 3.5 meters of water). Will coordinate w/ HTF, RJAE, and NYSDEC (on new benthic barrier permit requirements)
- **NYSDEC Permits:** Angel Hinickle (TCSWCD) finalized 2016 NYDEC pesticide permit applications. TCSWCD submitted permit applications to NYSDEC on 5/25. Riparian owner notification letters sent in conjunction w/ permit applications (per NYSDEC permit requirements). NYSDEC will review permits for approval. Hope to have all necessary permits approved by end of June, and ready for treatments in July/August
- **Plant Community & Hydrilla Tuber Sampling (BOB):** *Continuing tuber sampling in Cayuga Inlet and Fall Creek treatment zones. May try to do one-day of visual observations in the Fall Creek area soon, when conditions are clearer in the lagoon and cove (to be sure we are not missing anything). Bob's 2016 intern Nick Radford started this week.*

WNY Hydrilla Project Management Updates:

- **MIKE GREER:** Planning another WNY Project coordination conference call for June 9th
- **JENNIFER DUNN:** Starting pre-treatment monitoring surveys this week. Mike Netherland and Mike Greer will oversee sampling activities. Treatment planned for the week of July 25th. Intern for 2016 season has started.

OUTREACH/EDUCATION and PREVENTION:

- The HTF Outreach Committee participated in annual Ithaca Festival Parade on June 3rd. Had Hydrilla “float” with Stophydrilla banner, vehicle, and Hydrilla Monster! Event was excellent, and well attended by the public. A great deal of publicity and outreach. Will likely participate again next year.
- HTF Outreach Committee is planning/scheduling outreach at community events, focusing on July – September. This will include the Ithaca Farmers’ Market and local boating/fishing events. There will be a large fishing derby at the north end of Cayuga Lake. HTF Outreach Committee stakeholders will be present with table/info (CLWN, Floating Classroom, and FL-PRISM).
- NYS Parks boat launch stewards have started for the season throughout NY. Regionally, Parks has Stewards at Taughannock State Park and Allan Treman Marina (Ithaca). FL-PRISM will also have stewards throughout the region in 2016.

WNY Hydrilla Project Outreach Update:

- **JENNIFER:** Will reach out to marinas/bait shops, and intern will meet with them. Focus on “Clean, Drain, Dry” laws and procedures. Will have outreach at Canal Fest (July 17 – 24. The week directly before treatment). Will have presence at boat launches this season.

STATEWIDE UPDATES:

NYS AIS Updates (WILLOW AYERS, NYSDEC Response & Management Coordinator):

1. *Part 576 “Reasonable Precautions” regulation is now in effect. Recreational water users are now required to arrive with “cleaned, drained, and dry” watercraft and equipment when launching on public waters. Public waters include all waters that are hydrologically connected to ground water and surface waters. The term “watercraft” includes both motorized and non-motorized means of transport on water. ECO’s will have discretionary authority for enforcement and can issue tickets.*
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/104431.html>
2. *General permit applications are now available for hand harvesting, hand suctioning, and installing benthic mats to control infestations of invasive aquatic species within two years of their first being discovered. If an infestation has been present for more than two years an individual permit will be an option. Contact Dave Adams at DEC or visit www.dec.ny.gov/permits/106121.html*
3. *The comment period for the Rapid Response Program Policy ended May 27th. Responses to comments will be drafted and addressed in the document as appropriate. The final product will be available on the DEC website by the end of the summer.*
4. *Waterproof educational hydrilla ID sheets and pocket-sized cards are now available for distribution. These products provide the public and citizen scientists with a means of making reports about potential hydrilla sightings directly to the DEC.*
5. *After a series of meetings/calls with environmental stakeholders, and the Villages of Croton and Ossining, the Croton hydrilla project is moving forward. The next public stakeholder meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 28th from 6:30 – 8:45 pm in Croton. The proposed project for 2016 will include pre- and post-treatment aquatic plant monitoring, tuber monitoring, pre-treatment rhodamine (dye) release to determine flow dynamics in part of the non-tidal portion of the Croton River, and a 24-36 hour metered drip*

injection of endothall from below Black Rock Dam to Deer Island. The majority of the work will take place between late June and early August. Project webpage can be found here:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/106386.html>

6. Memorial Day weekend was the kickoff of the official boat steward season and the start of the first season that the Capital-Mohawk PRISM has stewards at boat launches. All PRISM regions now have some boat steward coverage and DEC will continue to support existing programs and provide additional assistance where coverage needs to expand (particularly along the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers, and Long Island). A recording of the second annual Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Leaders Workshop is currently being edited and will be available on DVD as a training tool later this summer.
7. The third annual New York Invasive Species Awareness Week will be taking place July 10-16 this year. 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. The planning committee is encouraging all event organizers and participants to take the online ISAW exit survey to help us generate an accurate end of year report and ensure that this annual educational campaign is as effective and well publicized as possible. Links to both surveys can be found on the new DEC ISAW webpage: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/105650.html>

FL-PRISM Updates (Hilary Mosher, PRISM Coordinator):

1. Working w/ RJAЕ at Tinker Nature Park infestation (Monroe County, NY). Tuber densities are higher than original infestation at Cayuga Inlet. Contracted w/ SUNY Brockport to conduct survey work in summer 2016. Working w/ FLCC in Livingston/Ontario County in 2016 to conduct surveys. Looking for potential satellite infestations.
2. PRISM has two outreach interns this season. Working on having a presence at community events this season. Bass Elite tournament (June 23 – 26 in Union Springs). Bass Open on Oneida Shores (will have table at this event w/ hydrilla/AIS outreach).
3. Water chestnut program launching at end of June. Monitoring for chestnut infestations. Will also look for other AIS of concern. Total of 13 Project sites.
4. Hydrilla ID training at Letchworth State Park on June 16th.
5. FL-PRISM watercraft stewards will be on –site throughout the region during 2016 season. Canandaigua, Keuka, Cayuga Lakes. Will be hiring another group of stewards over the coming weeks.

HUDSON CLEARWATER Update (Samantha Epstein, Invasive Species Program Coordinator):

1. Will have three stewards on the Hudson this season. Working 4 days a week
2. Outreach at public events on Croton
3. Volunteer survey training in early July
4. Will also survey 20 sites along Hudson and Croton River

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

July 13, 2016 @ 10:00AM. **

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

Conference Code: 982118

Host Code: 8346