

**Hydrilla Task Force
Statewide Conference Call Notes
for May 11, 2016**

Coordination:

- Statewide Task Force conference calls (5/11/16)
- Public meetings (Coordinated locally by HTF, CCE, EMC on 5/11/16).

FUNDING UPDATES:

FEDERAL FUNDING:

- **FWS ANS FY14 Grant:** Remaining balance \$118,842. Will utilize remaining funding in 2016.
- **FWS ANS FY15** Awarded \$225,000. Contract should come through in late-spring/early-summer 2016. Will plan on using for 2017 season*
- **FWS ANS FY16:** Submitted proposal to NYSDEC/FLOWPA for FY16 RFP. Received confirmation from DEC that our Project was selected for further support! Requested \$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.):** Remaining balance for field activities \$215,538. County has pledged (\$200,000) for 2016, contract in place. Working with City to finalize funding contract for 2016 (by June). Will utilize County and City funding to cover up-front costs and access remaining NYSDEC Grant*

OTHER FUNDING:

- **HPM Funding?** Still searching for potential funding sources for Hydrilla Program Manager position beyond 2016

MANAGEMENT & MONITORING UPDATES:

- The HTF and Tompkins County Soil & Water Conservation District (TCSWCD) advertised RFPs for 2016 hydrilla treatments, plant community monitoring, and water quality monitoring. One bid was received from Solitude Lake Management (formerly Allied Biological) for 2016 hydrilla treatments. One bid was received from Racine-Johnson Aquatic Ecologists for 2016 Plant Community Monitoring. One bid was received from Community Science Institute (CSI) for 2016 Water Quality Monitoring Sample Analysis. HTF and TCSWCD are working on finalizing contracts for 2016 season*
- **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:** Primary treatment for 2016 will consist of Sonar treatments (low-dose, systemic herbicide). One (1) injection unit (at NYSDEC fish ladder, southern inlet) and Sonar H4C (pellet) treatment areas (Cornell Boathouse bay, Cascadilla Creek, Linderman Creek, and East Branch of inlet). Treatment will extend approximately 60 – 90 days.
 - **FALL CREEK:** Primary treatment for 2016 will involve Aquathol-K (contact herbicide) injection treatment (to main channel) and spot-treatment in backwater areas (golf course lagoon, cove, Stewart Park pond, and DEC wetland). Follow-up Sonar H4C (low-dose, systemic herbicide pellets) will be applied to Fall Creek backwater areas for duration of season (approx. 60 – 90 days).
 - **SOUTHERN CAYUGA LAKE:** Isolated hydrilla patch discovered in late 2015 (adjacent to Cornell Sailing Club, in 3 – 3.5 meters of water) will be directly addressed through physical removal/benthic barrier installation. Extensive plant monitoring will determine Early

Detection/Rapid Response. Additional physical removal and benthic barrier installation (when/where applicable).

- **2015 Plant Community Report:** Now available on www.Stophydrilla.org! (LINK: https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.cce.cornell.edu/attachments/14361/2015_Plant_Monitoring_Report_FINAL.pdf?1459189603)
- **NYSDEC Permits:** TCSWCD (Angel Hinickle) working on NYSDEC permit applications for 2016 hydrilla treatments. Permits were submitted in late May, and Riparian Owner Notification Letters were sent to all affected property owners for Cayuga Inlet and Fall Creek treatments (per NYSDEC permit requirements).

WNY Hydrilla Project Management Updates:

- **MIKE GREER:** 2016 will not be drastically different from previous seasons. Reducing herbicide footprint, with treatment focused in more heavily infested areas. Broad application around boat access area. Benthic barriers, corrals, and targeted use of Aquathol Super-K (pellets) in project area or areas of higher flow. Primary treatment in late July and secondary treatment in later August. Final treatment plan can be provided to NYS group when finalized. Draft is currently together. Still putting together maps. Intensive monitoring/sampling before and after treatment. Total 6 – 7 weeks of field work. First monitoring starts in June.

OUTREACH/EDUCATION and PREVENTION:

- HTF Outreach Committee is working on updated Hydrilla Project videos. Video #1 will be broad overview of hydrilla and NYS infestations. This video should be applicable to other hydrilla projects throughout the state. Video #2 will be focused on local Hydrilla Project activities in the Cayuga Lake Watershed. This will provide viewers/community with updates and background on the specific Project activities conducted by the HTF in Ithaca, NY.
- Working w/ HTF Outreach Committee to update educational materials for 2016 season, including our primary Stophydrilla tri-fold brochure. Will finalize and print stock for upcoming outreach/events.
- HTF Outreach Committee stakeholders have already participated in a couple local community events, providing outreach and materials. Outreach activities will ramp up heading into May – September (includes Ithaca Farmers' Market, Ithaca Day Parade, Hydrilla Hunter trainings and monitoring events at northern end of Cayuga Lake).

WNY Hydrilla Project Outreach Update:

- Will host public education and outreach events. WNY PRISM will be working to host training/education event in conjunction w/ NYS IS Awareness Week (early July).

STATEWIDE UPDATES:

WILLOW AYERS (NYSDEC Response & Management Coordinator):

1. *NYS statewide AIS spread prevention grant program awarded \$2.2 million to lake associations, municipalities, etc. for boat stewardship programs, decontamination stations, and train the trainer/steward programs*
2. *NYS Rapid Response Program Policy has been posted for public comment (period ends May 27th). The draft document can be found on the DEC website and formal comments can be submitted there as well. Contact Willow Eyres for additional information. Willow.Eyres@dec.ny.gov*
3. *NYS AIS Management Plan was approved by federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force on May 5th*
4. *Waterproof Hydrilla ID sheets and cards will soon be available for distribution*
5. *NYSDEC Invasive Species Coordination Section is the lead for this season of the Croton River Hydrilla Project*
6. *Hydrilla webpage has been posted on the NYSDEC website. The NYS Hydrilla fact sheet can be downloaded from that page. DEC will be setting up a webpage dedicated to the Croton River project*

7. *NYSDEC is working closely with LH PRISM AIS Coordinator to make sure that the high priority areas (with characteristics most suitable for hydrilla establishment) found along the Hudson River during last year's aquatic plant survey will be monitored this year by Hydrilla Hunters and LH PRISM AIS Coordinator.*
8. *NYSDEC is planning to collaborate with Parks and US Military Academy to make sure that lakes within the vicinity of the Hudson River will be monitored for hydrilla.*
9. *NYSDEC has distributed more than 50,000 AIS tip strips (with Clean, Drain, and Dry message) throughout the state via NYS Thruway, Hudson Valley Marine Trades Association, Coast Guard Auxiliary on Lake Ontario, etc. We will continue to expand the distribution network.*

HILARY MOSHER (Finger Lakes PRISM):

1. *Met w/ Bob Johnson at Tinker Nature Park (Monroe County, NY). Preliminary survey for hydrilla tubers in Tinker Pond. Will be working to install benthic barriers. Grass carp were stocked in fall of 2015.*
2. *Coordinating w/ SUNY Brockport College to conduct additional hydrilla/AIS surveys in Monroe County. Coordinating w/ Finger Lakes Community College to conduct Ontario Co. & Livingston Co monitoring/sampling.*
3. *FL-PRISM awarded contract to Onondaga Co. Health Dept. to conduct hydrilla surveying.*
4. *FLI was just awarded EPA grant for water chestnut work to be conducted in 2016. Looking for other high priority AIS.*

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

June 8, 2016 @ 10:00AM. **

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

Conference Code: 982118

Host Code: 8346