

**Hydrilla Task Force
Statewide Conference Call Notes
for November 16, 2016**

Coordination:

- Statewide Task Force conference calls for 2016 (5/11/16, 6/8/16, 7/13/16, 8/10/16, 9/14/16, 10/12/16, 11/16/16)

FUNDING UPDATES:

FEDERAL FUNDING:

- **FWS ANS FY14 Grant:** Remaining balance \$83,905.70 (after Q3 2016 reimburse request). Will utilize remaining funding in 2016*
- **FWS ANS FY15** Awarded \$225,000. TCSWCD processed and approved sub-agreement for FY15 grant. Full contract now in place. Will plan on using for 2017 season*
- **FWS ANS FY16:** Awarded \$260,000. Once accepted by FWS, will utilize this funding over the 2017 & 2018 Seasons
- **MARIO PAULA (EPA):** EPA issued an RFA under GLRI. \$26million available for efforts, including IS control. Applications due Jan 13th. Webinar on 11/21 for the RFP. Competitive process.

STATE FUNDING:

- **NYS Parks Grant:** Balance approx. \$328.22 Will utilize remaining funds in 2016. New contract finalized between TCSWCD & NYS Parks for \$60,000 of FY15-16 funding. Working with NYS Parks Env. Mgmt. Bureau to discuss anticipated Project expenses and future funding needs/requests for NYS Parks funding.
- **NYSDEC Grant and Local Funding Support (City & Tompkins Co.):** Plan to utilize remaining DEC funds for the 2016 season. NYSDEC stated that the scope of work could be expanded to include the Aurora infestation. FL-PRISM has overseen survey efforts this fall, and will use a portion of the NYSDEC hydrilla funding to cover the survey work (~\$15,000). Additional funding will be needed for 2017 efforts (survey/management). This particular grant will be fully expended by 2017 to cover remaining 2016 Project efforts in Ithaca*

MANAGEMENT & MONITORING UPDATES:

• TREATMENTS

- All treatments were finalized on October 1st for the 2016 season. Water quality monitoring continued until the end of October, when all sampling sites fell below 1.0ppb concentration for fluridone. HTF worked with the City and County to remove all herbicide notification signage, which will be inventoried and stored for next season.
- Overall, treatments went smoothly and were effective in 2016. Cayuga Inlet concentration and retention time was on target. Floating barriers installed in Fall Creek seemed to improve retention time of Sonar H4C pellets for the season.
- **PLANT COMMUNITY MONITORING (Bob Johnson):** *“We have finished Fall Creek rake toss and found no Hydrilla. So for the rake toss plant survey we have not found any Hydrilla in any locations either inlet or Fall Creek. We are now collecting sediment samples in Fall Creek and will be working on that for the next two weeks. We have removed the barrier curtains from Fall Creek to the shore of the golf course.”*
-Bob Johnson (11/16/16)
- No observations of hydrilla growth in Cayuga Inlet or southern Cayuga Lake in 2016, even in patch location from 2015 (offshore from Cornell Sailing Center). The only observation of hydrilla growth was in Fall Creek golf course lagoon in August, which died off in September following treatments
- A LTF Management Committee meeting was held on 11/9 in Ithaca. Discussion focused on available management options for 2017 AND the working budget for the Project heading into 2017 – 2018. LTF

discussed available management options, and made decisions on 2017 management strategies (based on hydrilla population observations, Project progress, and budget). They are as follows:

- **CAYUGA INLET:** Focus on intensive monitoring and sampling efforts to determine necessity for management response (if/when hydrilla is observed). No proactive, inlet-wide herbicide applications. Have not observed hydrilla growth in inlet since late 2014. No observations in 2015 and 2016. Management pressure will focus on physical removal and/or benthic barrier installation in 2017 (if needed).
- **FALL CREEK:** The LTF determined that proactive management pressure is still needed in 2017, given the presence of a small remaining hydrilla population in Fall Creek. LTF is currently coordinating with SePRO and SOLitude to develop a 60-day Sonar treatment program for all of Fall Creek. This will involve a Sonar injection unit and possible application of Sonar pellets to backwater areas for length of season (August – September). Small-scale physical removal and/or benthic barrier installation may be used as well (if applicable)
- **SOUTHERN CAYUGA LAKE:** Focus on intensive monitoring and sampling efforts to determine necessity for management response (if/when hydrilla is observed). Management pressure will focus on physical removal and/or benthic barrier installation in 2017. This is the same protocol as in 2016.

Cayuga Hydrilla: OUTREACH/EDUCATION and PREVENTION:

- **End-of-Season Public Meeting:** Public meeting scheduled for November 19th at CCE Tompkins from 9:30am – 1:00pm. This meeting is in conjunction with Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN) fall community conference meeting.
- **Hydrilla Project Video:** Videos 1 & 2 completed and posted on Stophydrilla.org website, as well as YouTube. These videos provide broader information on hydrilla and the management response in Ithaca. Can be used for education/outreach purposes by other groups around the state or beyond. Feel free to distribute and use. Third video still being edited. Once completed, will be posted online to website and YouTube.

STATEWIDE UPDATES:

New York State AIS Updates (*Willow Eyres. NYSDEC*)

- New York will celebrate its fourth annual Invasive Species Awareness Week July 9-15, 2017! Mark your calendars and visit the [DEC ISAW webpage](#) for more information as plans progress.
- A five-year management plan has been developed for the Croton River Hydrilla Control Project in Westchester County, NY and plans for a 2017 treatment are underway. A public meeting is scheduled for December 7th at the Town Hall in the Village of Croton on Hudson.
- DEC has released a Request For Proposals for the development of an Invasive Species Comprehensive Management Plan for New York State. The plan will address all taxa of invasive species and will recommend interagency responsibilities; as well as describe coordination among different agencies and organizations; recommend approaches to funding invasive species work; address prevention, early detection and rapid response; identify opportunities for control and restoration, including research needs; and describe effective outreach and education. Contact Dave Adams in our office for more information on the RFP.
- Lastly, the 2017 DEC Invasive Species Control Grants Program will be tentatively announced sometime in January, so stay tuned!

FL-PRISM UPDATE (*Hilary Mosher. FL-PRISM*)

Aurora, NY Hydrilla

- Wrapped up survey work in Aurora for fall 2016. Included snorkel surveys, Racine-Johnson grid survey, and Floating Classroom rake-toss surveys
- Infestation appears to be localized to area just south of Wells College (1/3 of a mile from Wells College dock, south).
- FL-PRISM is working with NYSDEC, CLWN, and HTF for options for surveys and management in 2017

- FL-PRISM will look into quotes for benthic barrier installation in 2017
- Chemical use not a valid control option due to proximity to municipal water intake in infestation area
- Will work with stakeholders to develop management response and strategies/funding for
- Oct. 26th CLW IO public meeting at Wells College. Great attendance and discussion on Aurora infestation.

Surveyed Owego, NY

- 22-acre dammed pond used for recreational water skiing (located in Owego, NY)
- Looking for how to move forward with management in this area. Funding uncertain.
- ½ mile to Susquehanna River from pond

Tinker Nature Park

- FL-PRSIM will fund grass carp stocking in 2017
- RFP will go out for AIS/hydrilla survey work in 2017
- Benthic barriers installed in pond in 2016
- No hydrilla found in survey areas covered by SUNY Brockport (areas expanding outward from Tinker Nature park). Small water bodies surveyed, but also included Irondequoit Bay.

NEW JERSEY HYDRILLA (*Heather Desko, NJ WSA*):

- Contracted with SOLitude to conduct tuber sampling in infestation area. Did not find many tubers, but lots of turions.
- RFP is being developed for management and monitoring for 2017.
- Will meet with water purveyors to get input on management.
- *As I mentioned on the call, the new confirmed hydrilla populations are in the Manasquan Reservoir (another NJ Water Supply Authority reservoir) in Howell, NJ, and the Metedeconk River (drinking water supply for Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority) in Lakewood, NJ. Both of these are closer to the coast, rather than near the border with Pennsylvania like our Delaware & Raritan Canal confirmed populations.*
- *Also, as I continue to spread the word about hydrilla in NJ, it was the front-page article on Rutgers' Green Knight Newsletter: http://salem.njaes.rutgers.edu/greenknight/documents/green_knight_2016_11.pdf.*