

**Hydrilla Task Force
Statewide Conference Call Notes
for October 14, 2016**

Coordination:

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

FUNDING UPDATES:

FEDERAL FUNDING:

- **FWS ANS FY14 Grant:** Remaining balance \$89,507.21 (after Q2 2016 reimburse request). Will utilize remaining funding in 2016*
- **FWS ANS FY15** Awarded \$225,000. TCSWCD processed and approved sub-agreement for FY15 grant. 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
- **Funding Update from Ted Lewis (USFWS)** *“The scope of work for current funding from the USFWS that has been awarded to the Cayuga Lake partners can be modified to address the Aurora, NY discovery if deemed necessary.” – Ted Lewis (USFWS) 10/12/16*

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. Held conference call on 9/13 to discuss these funding items.
- **NYSDEC Grant and Local Funding Support (City & Tompkins Co.):** Plan to utilize remaining DEC funds for the 2016 season.

MANAGEMENT & MONITORING UPDATES:

• TREATMENTS

- **CAYUGA INLET:** Treatments finalized on September 30th/October 1st. Overall, application went smoothly and concentrations were on target for a majority of the season. Will continue to conduct water quality monitoring until all sites are below detectable levels (1.0ppb)*
- **FALL CREEK:** Treatments finalized on September 30th/October 1st. Floating barriers look to have improved retention time and target concentrations of Sonar in golf course lagoon and Stewart Park Pond. Will continue to conduct water quality monitoring until all sites are below detectable levels (1.0ppb)*
- **SOUTHERN CAYUGA LAKE:** Still no observations of hydrilla in 2015 patch location offshore from Cornell Sailing Center. If no detection, will not need to conduct removal and benthic barrier installation. Will continue to conduct water quality monitoring until all sites are below detectable levels (1.0ppb)*
- Overall, treatments went smoothly and were effective this year. Cayuga Inlet concentration and retention time was on target. Some initial challenges keeping Sonar levels up in Fall Creek, but floating barriers look to have improved retention time and target concentration. The only observed hydrilla growth (in golf course lagoon in Fall Creek) began to decay and die near the end of August, likely due to impacts of treatments. Not likely that they put down tubers this season.
- Moving into 2017, the HTF may be able to significantly reduce herbicide applications to Cayuga Inlet. The lack of hydrilla growth/biomass and tuber presence since late 2014 and 2015 seasons indicates and incredibly low population level. We may be able to rely on intensive monitoring/sampling within Cayuga Inlet in 2017, and have spot-treatment or benthic barrier contingency in place. HTF will work with stakeholders to begin planning for 2017 season this fall/winter*

- **PLANT COMMUNITY MONITORING (Bob Johnson):** No hydrilla actively growing, except in golf course lagoon (Fall Creek). Looked very unhealthy in September. Will continue monitoring Cornell Sailing Center site. Tiny plants observed in 2015. Swamped by Elodea growth this season. Fair amount of rake-toss sampling still needed along shoreline and north. Growth in Fall Creek did not likely put down tubers this season.

WNY Hydrilla Project Management Updates:

- **MIKE GREER (US Army Corp.):**
 - *Sampled week of SEP 19th. Did not observe much at all. Few stray fragments of hydrilla. Had much better control on flow this year. Maybe needed more flow, based on observations. One edge may not have received adequate contact.*
 - *May try to get back out in October to do a limited survey. Were able to reduce herbicide use by ½. Used burlap mats (near Sawyer Creek), about 15' x 20' section. After about 3 weeks, hydrilla was completely killed.*
 - *Will work on summary report for project activities. Reduced hydrilla frequency significantly (99%).*
 - *Population reduction led to reduced herbicide input to system. More focused on patch management. Discrete application blocks.*
 - *Did not find any tubers during sampling this year.*

Cayuga Hydrilla: OUTREACH/EDUCATION and PREVENTION:

- **End-of-Season Public Meeting** Co-scheduled w/ CLWN event on November 19th.
- **Hydrilla Project Video:** Videos 1 & 2 completed. Need to put up on website and YouTube. Additional footage recorded for video #3. Will work with NYS Parks to edit and finalize 3rd video (which will focus on 2016 treatments and plans for the future)*

STATEWIDE UPDATES:

New York State AIS Updates (Cathy McGlynn. NYSDEC)

- *Next steps for long-term plans on Cayuga Lake. Expanded surveys in the future to include entirety of lake.*
- *Final plant sampling being conducted this week in Croton. Samples sent to University of Georgia for testing for toxic cyanobacteria.*
- *Additional samples from Aurora sent to University of Arkansas for Genetic analysis.*
- *Working internally on 5-year management plan for Croton.*

Aurora, NY Hydrilla Discovery (Hilary Mosher. FL-PRISM)

- **Aurora, NY Infestation Surveys:**
 - *3 types of sampling*
 - *Floating Classroom completed survey work. No additional hydrilla outside of initial location find.*
 - *FLI/FL-PRISM: Sampling to Long Point State Park. Snorkel team from FLI. Moving northward towards Payne's Creek. No additional hydrilla seen outside of initial infestation points. Lisa Cleckner went into backwash area and observed dense growth of hydrilla. Floating pieces will not root and produce tubers this summer. Car-top launch area for canoes/kayaks/sups, just south of Floating Classroom original observation.*
 - *Crew out again on Saturday from FLI/PRISM. Snorkel survey crew. Moving up some of the tributaries to check them as well. Point of infestation may be the backwash area, due to popularity of kayak launch and high hydrilla population levels.*
 - *Will coordinate w/ NYSDEC to get samples to colleagues for genetic analysis.*
 - *Racine-Johnson Aquatic Ecologists will do more in-depth UTM grid survey.*
 - *Lake will be lowered several feet this fall. Will plan to wade in and do more surveying.*
 - *Have had volunteers and citizen scientists conducting rake-toss sampling along NW shoreline of Cayuga Lake.*

- *Have not identified proper control/management as of yet.*
- *No signage posted as of yet. Still need to delineate infestation fully.*
- *CLWN working with Wells College. Public meeting on OCT 26th at Wells College.*
- **Spencer's Pond (Tioga Co.):** *½ mile long pond located in Owego, NY on Little Nantico Creek (½ mile from Susquehanna River). Man-made pond used for water skiing. Infestation has become problematic. Someone going out to delineate the infestation. The pond is dammed, so easier to conduct delineation. Will conduct survey soon, and work on management options. FL-PRISM crewmember will go out to conduct a survey.*

New Jersey Hydrilla (Heather Desko. NJ WSA):

- *SOLitude Lake Mgmt. surveyed 17 miles of Raritan Canal. Hydrilla present in about 13 miles of canal.*
- *Will have additional budget for monitoring and management next season.*
- *Received support from DEP for monitoring/management work next year.*
- *Additional survey work needed. About 40-miles of canal to survey.*

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

November 9, 2016 @ 10:00AM. **

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

Conference Code: 982118

Host Code: 8346