

Steering Committee Meeting, January 23rd, 2015.
FLCC, conference room, hosted by Bruce Gilman
12:30-3pm

The meeting started with a round table discussion on events and news within the region. Hilary mentioned the importance of completing the watercraft steward survey

(https://cornell.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_2oshDk70TyK4PC5) so that people who are looking to benefit have an opportunity to be heard. Don Cook, Hilary M., and Terry and Dorothy Gronwell had a discussion about the best timing for a program. Terry wanted the program in early spring and Hilary mentioned that Nancy Mueller had suggested it be tied in with the NYSFOLA conference in May. Hilary indicated that it was best to put this in writing to the survey and let the majority of respondents decide when the program will take place and if necessary, Hilary can help organize additional trainings. It would be best if everyone were able to attend one conference.

Don Cook mentioned that he is organizing a second Finger Lakes Issues Briefing through the Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance to be held on June 26th. He is hoping to have this at the Vintosa Winery in Geneva, NY. Currently he has several politicians and aids lines up to attend. He is looking to have speakers discussing the issues of the Finger Lakes and mentioned wanting to have Hilary M. speak on behalf of the FL-PRISM and invasive species. Keep an eye out for information and announcements of this event.

Lisa mentioned that Owasco Lake Days will be held on June 24th at Emerson Park, Owasco Lake. Several politicians will attend at this event so it will be necessary to coordinate the messages and timing for both of these events since they are so close to one another.

Don Cook and the Finger Lakes Institute will be hosting Mike Greer, USACE from Tonawanda who will be discussing the infestation of Hydrilla in the Erie Canal. Hilary mentioned that it might be good to invite the aquatic working group of the FL-PRISM or even have this combined with a full partnership meeting for the FL-PRISM. Will need to look at space available to host this event with additional people and if there is interest.

Terry and Dorothy Gronwell had nothing to report from Honeoye Lake at this point in the year.

Pauline Burnes discussed the DOT protocol and offered the following link to DOT and invasive plants:

<https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/engineering/design/landscape/trees/invasive-species>

She also said that DOT requires that all equipment used on a job be cleaned. There is an environmental procedures manual as well as a stewardship policy where they plant and use natives in their designs. DOT has a list of their top wanted invasives that they target and include common reed, Jap. Knotweed, giant hogweed, and spotted knapweed.

Lisa Cleckner updated the group about summer watercraft stewardship plans recognizing that the funds have not been allocated for the award. FLI will look to meet with lake associations independently to determine their need and to share schedules so there is coordination and no overlap in coverage. He mentioned that NYS Parks would host stewards along Lake Ontario. She also mentioned that they may collaborate with the NY Works program and are looking into this unique funding source that the Conesus Lake Association uses.

Hilary told the group about the NYS DEC app 'pocket ranger' (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/96470.html>) which is NY Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife App. Hilary mentioned that she has shared this information with the NYS ISCU and asked if there could be a button added about invasive species or even a link for iMapInvasives. This is a perfect venue for information about invasives.

Hilary mentioned that HWA is creeping up in areas where it has not previously been located. Currently there are programs in Ontario County, Onondaga County, and Cayuga County for HWA Hikes and ID events this winter. The US Forest Service Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Suppression Plan is seeking comments by Feb 17th. There is an open house and HWA hike at the park January 31st. All are welcome. The NYS Invasive Species conference call will take place on the 28th with a look at dreissenid mussel biocontrol. Hilary is the facilitator for this call. Hilary mentioned that she met with Chris Lajewski of Montezuma Audubon Center to discuss programming and events in the coming 2015. Chris welcomed the

idea of hosting a FL-PRISM meeting at his location and Hilary said we could run a terrestrial WG or Full partner meeting at this location with a tour. Hilary trained students at SUNY Morrisville in iMapInvasives. There were 15 students who will be reporting on invasives in the Madison County area. Hilary and Emily spoke with Kevin Mathers from Broome County CCE about forest pests in that area. Kevin is interested in a task force or education in his area and Emily and Hilary indicated that they are able to facilitate this request. Hilary mentioned that she and others will be meeting with Amy Mahar from NYS Parks about their FORCES program looking for invasive species projects. Finally, Hilary reported that she met with Fred Blom, NYS B.A.S.S. Federation President along with others and Fred is willing and able to collaborate on events in 2015 and education and outreach. Hilary attended the NYS BASS Fed awards banquet and met their ESPN writer. Hilary will meet with Fred next week to set a schedule for water chestnut pulls in Sodus Bay and Big Bay. Fred is looking for volunteers for a Bass Pro Shop event the weekends of Feb 7th and Feb 14th to demonstrate for the Clean, Drain, Dry initiative. This will be very good community outreach and Hilary will send a note for volunteers.

Emily discussed the HWA events in Ontario County scheduled for February 25th and February 28th to look and scout for HWA. Emily mentioned that her contract date for IS work will end on June 30th and it has not been renewed at this point. She is not sure the contract will be renewed and if it is, there will likely be a gap in employment. She currently works with the Keuka Lake Association as a watershed coordinator for 13 hours, invasive species 16 hours and CCE 3 hours (is this correct, Emily?). Don Cook asked if there was any support that could be given and that he would like to talk to some of his networks to see if there is any funding for invasive species work. Hilary mentioned that Emily has made many inroads with people doing invasive species work and we have invasive species programming that will be affected if this contract is not renewed. Don said he will speak to his networks. The next call for RFPs for the FL-PRISM subawards will be early Feb. Emily will ask her ED of Yates Co. CCE if she would sponsor or help sponsor a proposal to help cover salary for IS work for Emily. The Steering Committee indicated that this was an appropriate request for funds and Hilary reiterated that as long as food was not requested, and that the proper insurance was in place, AND the proposal clearly indicated how it furthers the mission of the FL-PRISM, the proposal would be accepted by the group of reviewers of the RFPs.

Bruce will be doing some reconnaissance for HWA in Honeoye, Ontario County. Also, Tom Hughes is looking for support at HH Spencer for HWA. Bruce's project this summer will be to look for Emerald ash borer in the Honeoye Inlet wetland. It is not funded by USFS but we will be using their sampling protocol. Funding for equipment will be through CCURI (NSF program Community College Undergraduate Research Initiative). I honestly hope that we don't find EAB. This should be a pre-EAB survey of the 900 acre wetland.. He is also looking to put his massive herbarium collection to digital record. This will be very helpful.

Carri Marschner circulated a document that she is creating that highlights the efforts of the PRISMs. She mentioned that she will be documenting invasive species activities in the region and hopes to gather information about the needs of the region. Hilary sent an updated FL-PRISM accomplishments document for review for Carri. Carri has recently been hired as a CCE IS team in Cornell.

After the round of updates, the 2015 work plan was reviewed. After several pages, Terry indicated that the document needed to be paired down and requested that Hilary send the list of top priorities for review of the Steering Committee. ACTION ITEM: Steering Committee will review the list of top priorities for the FL-PRISM and add the appropriate outcomes for 2015. See below.

The meeting ended with a request for the steering committee to send any potential RFP reviewers who would not have a conflict of interest to Hilary by February 6th. We are looking for 4-5 people to review the RFPs who will not be submitting a proposal and who do not serve as a potential conflict of interest or bias in the process.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: TBD- send an update for request of location. How does the week of Feb 23rd look?

FL-PRISM Top 13 Priority Activities per Contract. The Work Plan should reflect the below 13 scope of work elements.

Scope of Work Element

1. Coordinate PRISM partner invasive species management activities
2. Recruit and train volunteers
3. Identify and meet PRISM Education and Outreach needs
4. Establish monitoring network for early detection of invasive species
5. Support academic research as needed through citizen science
6. Develop a PRISM Strategic Plan
7. Develop FL-PRISM-specific IS Management Plan
8. Implement eradication projects to remove invasives species
9. Develop annual work plan
10. Develop annual report to include:
11. Coordinate access to private and public lands
12. Coordinate with other PRISMs and OISC
13. Support NY ISC regular invasive species conference