

Minutes for August 17, 2017 FL-PRISM Working Group Meetings

TIME: 12-3pm

LOCATION: FLI

BRING: Laptop or tablet if you have access

Attendance:

Mike Parker, Mike Crislock, Katie Amatangelo, Becky Sibner, Gary Koplun, Kyle Harling, Sylvia Albrecht, Patty W-B, Kate Des Jardin, Emily Staychock, Carri Marschner, Charlotte Malmbory, Hilary Mosher, Michele Wunderlich (phone)

**Meeting Objective**

To bring together members of the Finger Lakes region to discuss priorities, identify future projects and leads, potential funding needs for 2018-2019m and to develop a working plan for group

**AGENDA**

12:00- 12:10 Welcome

12:10-12:45 Introduction and regional updates (opportunity for brief updates and discussion of regional topics, new funding sources, and support needs

Mike Parker- Conesus Lake- Construction is under way for the Town of Livonia’s yet unnamed environmental education center in Lakeville, hoping to have it finished by end of year - flowering rush voucher sample was approved to enter into an herbarium - crafting a BMP for marine fuel spills - ? for lake managers - how big of an impact/concern would a re-fueling gas spill be in your lake?

Mike Chislak- new limnologist- HAB and water quality- a bit of phytoplankton spp. Cyanobacteria spp.

Katie Amatangelo-= plant biologist at SUNY Brockport- Ganondagan Grant for USFS- other student just got hired for the other USFS grant program- 6 other projects- focusing on SW, SW impact on soil- allelopathic affects- SW disrupts mycorrhiza; impacts – moth communities in and out of SW- looking for a project a new project-

Becky Sibner- porcelain berry has been found throughout the parks = training on the invasive species for the staff- how to prevent the spread and impact for mowing on invasive brachypodium- 2 stewards- one with Becky, one with WNY PRISM, surveying and mapping all summer- is it early detection? Surveyed 14 sites, found on 7 sites.- growing season summary at Ganondagan what is going on with the EFT. Brachypodium- get a handle on where it is- only park at Taughannock park-smaller patch has been removed- stiltgrass patch has been removed for three years now and was a small patch- GLRI- grant- will fund a team of 8 people to manual terrestrial invasive species- second GLRI grant will have an aquatic team to travel state and remove IS-

Gary Koplun- DEC Forester- Avon Office- EAB is a destructive force- SW spread is incredible. MAM in Geneseo- only in one location- 1000sqft location. Continued to survey- half of the survey- good sign- oak wilt- two interns working out of their office specific to OW- zero finds and no reason to think that it is around- outreach has been very effective.

Kyle- intern from ESF forest technician- 95% private land forestry- 5% crawling through scrub doing MAM- initially started surveying the area where it was first discovered- found a few new plants- Steve and Kyle had luck getting permission to survey land in the area- grows in areas where people are dumping their cuttings- they love the space and open light area- three weeks ago- spent 4 hrs. doing survey work- pulled two 8-footers, everything else – small – next week be back out there- done on the 25th- SW is popping up everywhere-

Emily- CCE Yates- KLA and others- 2nd WCS program- funding- - one steward did paddling- SSW KL Outlet- mouth of sugar creek- KWIK- main mission to look at septic regulations- protect the water quality in the lake- SSW in the lake- working together to for SSW control grant- received the grant- got the grant- spread from launch- water level is very high- preliminary survey shows that SSW is low- so harvester is coming at the end of August to mow a lane- 2-3 days of mowing- budgeted for him to come twice a season- to mow- infestation at north end of west branch- look into hand pulling—Wild parsnip- slowly depleting the seedbank- pull the rosette or dig out the patch- 9t is possible to deal with this one- safe with this one—Japanese knotweed- looking at test sites for different methods for control- what are the different ways to control this plant-

Sylvia Albrecht- giant hogweed program wrapping up for the season- last new site- identified new infestation of brachypodium in Sweden- Melissa went with her for the infestation- confirmed- in the middle of a wooded area- no paths- just there- small, probably be controlled by pulling it out-

Patty Wakefield-Brown- IS Education and Outreach- FLI- on board in January- feet under her doing the outreach for this program—tick cards and lint rollers for outreach- management options- need to have an increase in knowledge of how to control the infestations. ALB tags- awareness month for this beetle- check your filters- people are seeing the tags- they have more of the programs- Katie Amatangelo would like some tags for students- Genesee County Park- has many tags- bootbrush for swag- Finger Lakes Macrophyte survey for July, August, and September- for volunteers for each lake- 13 volunteers to monitor for plants in their lake- Not CSLAP- this is supposed to be very easy and accessible- training- lots of outreach materials, people to engage in these programs- will look to see how long to continue the program- Chris Willaby from Conesus- CSLAP too- wanted to go to cartop launch- finding all sorts of invasives-

Kate Des Jardin- Program Manager for water chestnut- next week will be the last week for control crew- pulled 22,000 pounds of water chestnut across the region- Tuesday they did chemical treatment around Haiti Island- comment period still in effect for Red Creek- Treatment will be the beginning of September- data not included in the harvesting programs that weighed out their harvest- Looking to do a water chestnut pull across the region- ~13 scheduled public pulls with volunteers across the region-

Carrie and Charlotte- The NYS Hemlock Initiative received funding from DEC this spring to further the Initiative and to set up a biocontrol research facility. The lab is still under construction, but we released over 2000 silver flies this spring, and Mark Whitmore will be going to the PNW to collect Laricobius nigrinus to establish a colony in the lab this fall. In order to maintain a lab colony of biocontrols, we will need to be able to feed them, so we really need to locate sites with lots of HWA where we can collect some branches to feed the lab colony this winter. Gary said he would talk to Monroe County Parks about that; the south end of Conesus would also be a good place to go. NYS HI is still looking for hemlock hedges, and we also now have five other volunteer/citizen science programs: find HWA & hemlocks, HWA phenology, biocontrol research assistance, finding biocontrol release sites and lab food sources, and infestation/treatment monitoring. HWA forecast for fall; due to the warm winter, we have a lot of HWA heading into the fall; this is a year to look for increasing populations and new infestations. NYS HI will be doing a lot of phenology trainings in the fall, and are setting up fall and winter trainings for biocontrol insect searches, HWA monitoring, and more. We’ve revamped our website and re-energized our FB page, and are hoping to connect this year with CCE from each county and watershed associations. We have wallet cards; the group suggested thinking about tree tags.

Michele Wunderlich- Cayuga County WQMA conducted the annual Asian Clam survey of the Emerson Park Beach area of Owasco Lake at the end of July.  The results seem very similar to last year with a lot of young clams, however, the data has not been thoroughly analyzed.  Cayuga County is putting information on harmful algal blooms and the toxin levels found in raw and treated water from the Auburn and Owasco Water Treatment Plants on the Health Department’s website.

Hilary Mosher- PRISM update- handed out a sheet of updates for the group’s consideration. Also, working with AXI digital to prepare an assessment of the PRISM program which included a digital presence with recommendations for increased partnership and a content strategy for the website. Also provided was a list of grants and funding projects (see below).

12:45-1:15 Categorization project- review and comment period (continuation of previous conversation about categories)- Tabled for review in January.

1:15-1:30 Breakout sessions for working groups

1. Education and Outreach: -- tabled
   1. ISAW Review- comments, feedback, ways to improve moving forward
   2. Outreach in the region- are we hitting our target audiences?
   3. Monitoring programs in the region and how to collaborate to get data to the public and engage
   4. Sharing information and programming across the region
   5. Other?
2. Terrestrial Working Group
   1. Review and comment on field guide and fact sheets- working group to review the sheets and get back with comments
   2. Review of priority invasive species and priority projects—group discussed the current list of invasive species and decided to keep the list, add to the early detection list, but rank them in a way that denotes abundance in the region- will try to connect this with the tier rankings:
      1. KEEP: EAB, giant hogweed, HWA, knotweed, oriental bittersweet, swallowwort, stiltgrass, MAM, Brachypodium
      2. Need to add: porcelain berry, oak wilt, ALB, spotted lanternfly
   3. Sharing programming across the region in a helpful manner
   4. Other discussion topics included selling of invasive species, purple loosestrife and other abundant invasive species in the region, aquaculture and hobbyists dumping invasive species, surveying for invasives, and where and how to grow the Finger Lakes PRISM over the next few seasons.
3. Aquatic Working Group- Table
   1. Review and comment on field guide and fact sheets
   2. Review of priority invasive species and priority projects
   3. Sharing programming across the region in a helpful manner – for example, red swamp crayfish
   4. Other?

2:30-3:00 Reconvene and progress reports- Report on recommendations, priorities, and needs for the working group

3:00 Adjourn

Finger Lakes PRISM Updates:

**Programs**

Led Aurora Hydrilla Task Force Conference Calls and meetings

Participate in Livingston County and Cayuga County Invasive Species subcommittees

Conference calls with USACE, Mike Greer and Mike Netherland to determine treatment plan for Aurora infestation

Led Statewide Hydrilla Conference Calls

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County Board of Directors

Helped USACE sample for tubers and plants in Aurora

Invasive Species Awareness Week events totally over 70 across the Finger Lakes

Specific Programs

4/1/17 Natural Heritage Program iMapinvasives training at ESF

4/5/17 Full PRISM Leader meeting, Albany, NY

4/8/17 iMapinvasives training at ESF

4/12/17 Senator Chuck Schumer Press Conference regarding Hydrilla funding

4/17/17 APIPP Marketing and Development Committee conference call

4/19/17 Led Statewide Hydrilla Conference Call

4/20/17 Finger Lakes PRISM working group meetings

4/21/17 Boy Scout Camp Babcock Hovey Conservation Management Meeting

4/27/17 Presented at the Upper Susquehanna Conservation Alliance Meeting, Cortland, NY

5/15/17 Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance Meeting

5/16/17 Finger Lakes PRISM full partner meeting, Baltimore Woods

5/17/17 Presented to the CNY Waterways Association, 50 people

5/23/17 Helped train watercraft stewards at FLI

6/1/17 Met with director of Owasco Flats Nature Center regarding invasive Species Management

6/13/17 Met with USDA-NRCS to complete a field tour of a giant hogweed site in Wayne County

6/15/17 Met with Bob Johnson, Racine Jonson Aquatic Ecologists Tinker Nature Park Hydrilla

6/21/17 Attended the Great Lakes Panel Meeting, Erie, PA

6/26/17 Helped train water chestnut field crew

Invasive Species Awareness Week Events- sent package of resources to all participants in the program

7/18-7/19- Teacher training at Wells College focusing on invasive species

**PRISM- Funded Projects**

Hydrilla Survey work in the Upper Susquehanna Basin, Paul Lord, SUNY Oneonta

Water Chestnut Control and Outreach in Onondaga County, CCE Onondaga County

Program review of marketing and partner strategy of the Finger Lakes PRISM, Don Fisher, Axis Digital

Hydrilla survey and monitoring in Cayuga Lake, Finger Lakes PRISM staff

Hydrilla survey and outreach in the Cayuga Lake watershed, Hilary Lambert, Cayuga Lake Watershed Network

Hydrilla outreach and programs on Cayuga Lake, Bill Foster, Cayuga Lake Floating Classroom

Mile-a-minute survey work in Livingston County

Billboard Clean, Drain, Dry signage on Interstate 90 at Geneva Exit

Over 30 bootbrush stations across the region

**External Funding Projects**

USFS work on Ganondagan State Historic Site (2016-2018) project started in May to map and remove invasive species, $40,000

USFS work on Ganondagan State Historic Site (2017-2019) project to begin in July or August pending technician hire, $40,000

EPA GLRI Water Chestnut Control Work (2016-2018) field crew training in June and pulls to start in earnest in July and August, $516,367

USDA NRCS Giant Hogweed Control and Outreach (2016-2019), $263,002 **\***

Wayne County

* 95 sites visited
* 40 of these were surveyed and had no plants germinating this year due to prior control efforts
* 55 of these sites were controlled as follows:
  + 44 by root-cutting
  + 10 by herbicide
  + 1 by root-cutting and herbicide.
* Five of the nine large infestation sites have been controlled

Monroe County

* 40 sites visited
* 14 of these were surveyed and had no plants germinating this year due to prior control efforts
* 26 of these were controlled as follows:
  + 14 by root-cutting
  + 12 by herbicide

\*site acreage surveyed and treated will be calculated post-season and maps will be included in subsequent quarterly report.