

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes, 3/16/20

In attendance:

1. Terry Gronwall
2. Dorothy Gronwall
3. Jon Harman
4. Michele Wunderlich
5. Laura Bailey
6. Hilary Mosher

Began meeting with a review of the facilitator update. There were only two bids that came in for the facilitator and they were both above budget. I asked the lowest bidder to rebudget to within the amount requested \$10,000 and I was able to receive an appropriate bid. More to come on this.

Hilary reviewed the presentation on the new logos for the other PRISM regions. The new logos for the other PRISMs don't represent the regionality of the Finger Lakes. For example, it is difficult to choose which region the SLELO or Capital Region logos represent. Also, the Capital Region dropped the Mohawk confusion may exist between Albany and Washington DC. Idea would be to incorporate something with the lakes represented. Keuka for example, is iconic of the area. Process is very inclusive so that we wouldn't have a logo we didn't all agree on. They took our the 'partnership for regional' and made it an 'ISM'. Hard to know when this logo process will be rolled out. If we are doing the strategic plan facilitator, this would be a good time to get information about the logos at the same time. Likely summer and fall initiative.

All proposals passed except that maybe the ADK is a for-profit so should that be take out? 7 proposals received which was more than what we had budgeted. We have \$77,250 available. One issue with the proposal was that many organisms hadn't been ranked into a tier. For example, Japanese angelica is not tiered, but would be a tier 2. Might have been hard for people to put in a proposal without a tier ranking.

1. **Mama proposal**- EAB is still a problem, but it is already here. Money could be spent better to stop something early versus an EAB workshop. EAB has gone through Cayuga County already so it would be better to spend on projects that haven't... if it was Oak Wilt which has only been reported in a few locations versus something that is already so widespread. This project is looking for legacy ash. Does not seem to have a high impact in our region. I like the idea of looking for legacy ash but we have higher priorities in the region.
2. **Japanese angelica tree**- Is this a tree that is known to be a host for SLF? No, tree-of-heaven is known to be a host for SLF, not JAT. This is a clonal tree that has been found infesting Monroe County. Birds spread the fruit so it could be anywhere. Ranked pretty high because JAT is a new species to the area. Proposal has a lot of salary time in this proposal. Should we ask them to reduce the budget? They are going to survey a lot of county parks. Budget includes a lot of time to do survey. Survey in these areas is important because we don't have a lot of survey in these areas. JAT is an emerging invasive. Lots of staff time. Might be able to negotiate SWCD to a lower number. Budget numbers don't look correct, budget needs to be corrected. Budget is over by \$55. No indirect cost allocated in the budget, either. Kept numbers low. Ranked highest for

me because it is an emerging species. Park is highly frequented so this is where we should put our funds.

3. **Outreach at Macyville Woods Nature Center**- getting a lot of only a little bit of funding. A lot of in-kind here with volunteers, etc. Seems like the funding is going a long way. Such a small amount, it is a no brainer to fund this one. This is a community in need because of the flooding that this would be good to support them.
4. **Aquatic survey**- This was the commercial business out of Saranac Lake. The for-profit status of this caused many on the steering committee to take pause. But, a for-profit can be looking to help rather than make a huge profit and bypass the non-profit regulations. Anyone familiar with this organization? Hilary spoke with the President of the company, shared his survey methodology. They use a lot of Biobase and survey such as rake tosses. The sampling methods work in the ADK because they don't have a lot of plants. The FLX has a ton of plants so it would be more time-intensive to survey. We have to differentiate all the plants on one rake versus getting no plants. APIPP uses this company for all their early detection surveys however, the ADKs is a different system. Also, travel is an issue for them or rather, the travel cost is high. We would be better off contracting with them for a small survey versus getting in with them for the full cost. This would make sure their methodology really works here. The lakes and area to survey would be up to us so we could direct this survey. Survey needs to occur outside of the GLB since our crew does this. 50% of the budget is travel and supplies/materials. Survey should be salary and wages. Don does not like the proposal, Jon ranked it low. Michele agrees, too. Money better spent elsewhere.
5. **Cortland Co. SWCD**- liked this proposal in that they leveraged other funding to get even more done. If we needed to lower this budget because of funding issues, she could still do the work. Using other funds to support this program. Don likes the combination of terrestrial and aquatic. This covers lakes that are of concern to NYSFOLA and we need to put emphasis on these lakes because they have historically not received many resources or had engagement. A lot of personnel in this project. Indirects are low. Budget is reasonable. We don't have a lot of impact in Cortland County so this would be a good project to fund.
6. **Seneca Park Zoo**- a lot of exposure but it might be closed? Surveys of ponds, macroinvertebrates. An event for NYISAW. Project locations across many of high priority areas in Monroe County. The other proposal didn't include all the parks that the zoo is targeting. A good list of survey areas. Budget is nicely laid out. Recommendation to remove the equipment and supply costs and borrow those. Would be good to partner with someone with these canoes and kayaks. No letters of support and they didn't reach out to others for possible assistance for these programs. Talked about partnerships but not what they could do for each other. The locations are great, though. Just don't like the budget. Ask to rebudget.
7. **Dewberry**- SUNY Brockport and State Parks collaboration. Dewberry is a plant that the parks started to identify as a problem as part of the CWMA grant there. When they identified it, they brought in NY Natural Heritage to help survey. In the tiered ranking, I would give it a 5 because there isn't much information about the species. Best way to get this information is to look.

Fund the proposals in green, reduce the zoo budget, and not fund MaMa or the aquatic survey. Zoo gets \$18,436. Logos- do we need to incur the cost of the logo change since it is a state initiative. Hydrilla bids are due on the 20th.

FLI is working from home at this point. Campus is pretty much shutting down. All activities will be cancelled for March and April but it is too hard to predict. Our numbers will be low, but everyone will have low numbers.

Updates:

Cayuga Co. WQMA work plan for the year- still going to do NYISAW event and Asian clam survey. Found young of year last year, not many adults in the surveys last year. They must have one warm spot that keeps at least one adult alive. Getting in touch with the Darrin Freshwater Institute who is cultivating a parasite that impacts A. clam.

Ice out on Honeoye Lake was March 10- plant growth has started three weeks earlier than last year. Have a grant to put aeration in the lake. Can you let Hilary know when you see curly leaf in the lake?

NYSFOLA has cancelled the annual meeting. Moving forward with CSLAP surveys. FLRWA will meet online. Work with PRISM with new award for citizen work for aquatics, plants, in the Finger Lakes. This would be a plaque with the names of agencies.

Laura- swallowwort- partnering with Ganondagan to release biocontrol across 4 acres. They have some biocontrol that survived so they want to release their and a private homeowner. This project is moving forward. Interviewing for wcs- 3 launches, 3 people. Working on designing measurement for SSW. Working with Dave on SSW measurement.

Dave looking to host a follow-up to the SSW meeting that took place a few years ago. Not sure it will happen with COVID-19. Looking for 20 positions for wcs, with three lead positions. One of the leads will take over the FLIPD program. We are calling this program FLI PD or FLIPD. Finger Lakes Invasive Plant Detectors. Will also be wrapping into this program terrestrial surveys. Training would take place in June. Ramp up this program this year. 16 bootbrush stations are being developed currently- including Yates Co. currently in design phase for these projects. Hopefully will finish this project soon. Early detection crew will be hired soon- doing rake tosses. Two people will be doing just Biobase surveys. Limitation of Biobase is that it shows just density, and not what the plant is. But we hope to be able to correlate the type of substrate and type of plant. These positions have not been released yet. SSW is ramping up but with the virus, we are not sure we'll get the program up and running. Dave should be reaching out to lake associations to give them information about SSW, how to get involved, and how to map the SSW in the FLX. We just received bids to treat Hydrilla in the Finger Lakes Marina. Other Hydrilla infestations will be treated by USACE. Kate is creating a FLX regional action plan. Which infestation has what going on, etc. Hopefully that will be out to reference and use. Working with Tompkins Co. Task Force for Hydrilla management across the region. Up in the air for some things but will be online for everything else. You have my cell number should you need to reach me for any reason. Things are moving the way they should and hopefully we'll have a field season.

Logos will be sent with the minutes for comment.

Adjourn at 11:06am.