

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

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Alexander B. Grannis
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Invasive Species Council
FROM: Leslie Surprenant
RE: Meeting # 12 (17 June, 8 July) and # 13 (22 July) Notes
DATE: 6 April 2012

The 2-part 12th meeting and 13th meeting of the New York Invasive Species Council were held at the Department of Agriculture and Markets' headquarters, 10B Airline Drive, in Albany, NY on 7 June and 8 July, 2011; and on 22 July.

ISC representatives present:

Jackie Moodie-Czub, DAM, Co-Chair, DAM (6/17)
Chris Amato, DEC, Co-Chair, DEC (6/17, 7/8, 7/22)
John Wimbush, DOS (7/8)
Pam Otis, OPRHP (6/17, 7/8, 7/22)
Howard Goebel, Canals (6/17)
Dan Spada, APA (6/17, 7/8)
Shelah LaDuc, DOT (6/8, 7/22)

Also present from Council agencies:

Kevin King, DAM (6/17, 7/8, 7/22)
Leslie Surprenant, DEC (OISC) (6/17, 7/8, 7/22)
Dave Adams, DEC (OISC) (7/8, 7/22)
Peter Dunleavy, DOT (7/8, 7/22)
Willie Janeway, DEC call in (7/8)

Present from non-Council organizations and public:

David Morrell, NYS Public Service Commission (6/17)
Chuck O'neill, NYS Sea Grant / Cornell University (6/17)
Meg Wilkinson, NY Natural Heritage Program, iMap contractor (6/17, 7/8, 7/22)
Jennifer Dean, NY Natural Heritage Program, iMap contractor (6/17)
Dorothy ("DJ") Evans, NY Natural Heritage Program/IS Advisory Committee member
Holly Menninger, Cornell University, NYIS Research Institute contractor (6/17)
Bernd Blosser, Cornell University, NYIS Research Institute contractor (6/17)
Elizabeth Seme, IS Advisory Committee member/New York State Turf Association (6/17, 7/8)
Hilary Smith, TNC, Adk. PRISM contractor (6/17, 7/8)
Troy Weldy, IS Advisory Committee member/TNC (6/17, 7/22)
Bill Harman, NYS Federation of Lake Associations/NY IS Advisory Committee member (6/17)
Meredith Taylor, Catskill Center for Conservation and Dev't, Catskill PRISM contractor (7/8, 7/22)
Alan White, Catskill Center for Conservation and Dev't, Catskill PRISM contractor (7/8)
Mike Usai, IS Advisory Committee member / NYC DEP(7/8)
Marilyn Wyman, Cornell University, CCE contractor (7/8)

Rick Morse, E&E, Phase 1 of the Comprehensive Management Plan contractor (7/8, 7/22)
Paul Fuhrmann, E&E, Phase 1 of the Comprehensive Management Plan contractor (7/8)
Elizabeth D'Auria, Catskill Center for Conservation and Dev't, Catskill PRISM contractor (7/8)
Gregg Sargis, TNC, St. Lawrence – E. Lk. Ontario PRISM contractor

Meeting 12 was a 2-part meeting devoted to reviewing invasive species program implementation contracts, deliverables, and progress toward equipping New York to meet the challenge of invasive species. Jackie Moodie-Czub opened Meeting 12-part 1 and stated the purpose of the reviews were for ISC to look at costs, program development, and to consider what program is needed vs. what is wanted. Leslie Surprenant started each part of meeting # 12 with background relevant to the strategic implementation elements under Council review, their links to the ISTF report recommendations, NY's implementation framework, and how New York's approach mirrors those of those of the National ISC upon which NY's program is based. She provided tables presenting contract costs and deliverables information.

Key points of Leslie's introduction presentation:

NY's approach is:

- strategic and comprehensive and has most of the federal and ISTF elements
- can be scaled from regional level to grassroots, landscape level
- can be refined to vector / pathway level with clear objectives and actions
- a model for other states (e.g. NJ)

NY can develop a comprehensive IS mgt plan by modeling our plans on those recently developed in other states (e.g. PA, NJ, MN, IN, AZ, S.D.)

Housekeeping

The ISC adopted the summary notes from meeting # 11 (unanimous) at Meeting 12, part 1.

Public Comments (Opportunity to comment was offered at the meeting start and end)

Meeting 12, part 1 – none during either public comment slot on agenda.

Meeting 12, part 2:

First public comment slot - Willie Janeway (DEC Region 3 Director via call in) commented on "tremendous progress" in 10 years, emphasized the importance of private-public partnerships as declining State funding and staff impacts DEC's capacity to address invasive species, and called upon Council co-leads to provide effective leadership. He praised the efforts of the Catskills Regional Invasive Species Partnership.

Second public comment slot – Troy Weldy (TNC) – need to develop an effective movement of funds, consistent messaging, show connections to Council, EPF, and solicit more input from Invasive Species Advisory Committee.

Meeting 13: First slot – none. Second slot – Troy Weldy (TNC) – need to increase the profile of invasive species, success stories, strategic approaches, and diversify stakeholders. Suggested next round of invasive species "eradication" grants be for agriculture.

Presentations from contractors

contracts administered by DEC OISC:

Each presented a PPT with project background, progress in meeting deliverables, what it means for New York, and any additional leveraged funds/efforts that resulted from the contracts. Leslie sent copies of PPTs to Council and can provide copies to anyone interested.

Meeting 12-part 1

- Meg Wilkinson (TNC/Natural Heritage Program) for NYS Database (iMap)
- Holly Menninger, PhD and Bernd Blosser, PhD (Cornell University) for NY IS Research Institute
 - *Notes: Contract has been intermittent due to contract structure and Cornell's business decisions; Holly left her position in November, 2011; DEC sent a contract extension (through 12/31/12) to Cornell to sign on 3/8/12 – no response as of 4/6/12.*
- Chuck O'neill (Cornell University) for NY IS Clearinghouse and NY IS Education / Outreach

Meeting 12-part 2

- PRISM presentations - coordinators for Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Partnership (Hilary Smith), Catskills Regional Invasive Species Partnership (Meredith Taylor), and St. Lawrence- e. Lake Ontario (Gregg Sargis) *Note: Long Island Invasive Species Management Area (PRISM) contract was executed on 7/28/11.*

contract administered by DAM:

- Paul Fuhrmann and Rick Morse (Ecology and Environment, Inc) discussed Phase 1 of the Comprehensive Plan and requested comments from Council to further develop and refine Section 4 Strategy
Notes: DAM / OISC followed up with a conference call with E&E and a work group established by Council (but not convened) to discuss the Strategy section. E & E submitted the completed document (New York State Invasive Species Management Strategy) to DAM on 8/19/12; Leslie sent copies to all Council representatives and can send an electronic version to anyone interested – and a few hard copies are still available. Paul gave an online presentation on the 11/30/11 statewide PRISM conf call.

Discussion and Decisions – combined from meeting 12 and 13

Overall, strong Council support was expressed for the implementing ISTF recommendations, with particular support expressed for the Database and for releasing the RFP for the remaining PRISMs. Concerns expressed and opportunities for improvement:

- Appropriate role and functions of NYISRI
- Relatively slow growth of the Clearinghouse (*Note: Clearinghouse website has been reconstructed; employees from CCE are contributing and the overall appearance, function and timeliness is much improved; Clearinghouse and CCE served important functions in DEC / Cayuga Hydrilla Task Force's rapid response to Hydrilla*)
- Clearinghouse should reflect that the website is a collective work and include EPF funding, Council; Cornell should not be most prominent (*Note: new version addresses this concern*)
- Contract deliverables for Clearinghouse, CCE, NYISRI, Database should be fine-tuned and time bound (PRISM deliverables specific and time-bound)
- Work under statewide Education / Outreach contract needs to be focused and directed; maximize utility for Council agencies; link to IPM; avoid duplicate efforts (*Note: CCE does not duplicate other functions of implementation contracts; however, contract deliverables can be*

tightened in the future; project manager has met with DAM, OISC, and others to address concerns)

- Need strategies and measurable objectives with actions
- Need metrics to measure success

1. Follow-up Actions to be taken

- Leslie to discuss Clearinghouse concerns with Cornell project manager (*Note: done; issues addressed*)
- Council agencies will send OISC (Leslie) progress and activities to inform a 5-yr progress report (*Note: 3 Council agencies provided reports - DOT, Canals, DEC*)
- OISC prepare a 5-year progress report – use ECL Title 17 as outline; short, succinct, w/ photos (*Note: in process*)
- OISC prepare a 5-yr action agenda (form work team from ISC, ISAC, and OISC)
- Council prepare an annual report
- Agencies consider the benefit vs cost of the private-public partnerships formed; roughly calculate savings vs expenditures by agency (e.g. DOT enters IS data into iMap rather than creating and maintaining an agency IS database)

Other Business

Council approved appointment of Hilary Smith to chair IS Advisory Committee and Charlie Scheer to vice-chair of ISAC.

These notes are intended to summarize Council discussion and decisions and to inform interested stakeholders on Council activities. Please send me any corrections or suggested additions as soon as you can. Thanks very much.

Leslie J. Surprenant

Director
Office of Invasive Species Coordination

cc: H. Smith
D. Adams