

Meeting Minutes  
New York State Invasive Species Advisory Committee  
New York Farm Bureau. Albany, NY  
March 11, 2020

Agenda:

- Welcome & Introductions
- Announcements
- Approval of Minutes
- PRISM Update
- Invasive Macrophyte Nutrient Analysis
- Invasive Species Management Plan Goals
- Part 576 Update
- NYCRR part 575 Project
- Review of Action Items
- Adjournment

**ISAC Members Present:** (13 required for quorum. Today = 16).

Renee St. Jacques, NY Farm Bureau  
Rob Williams, Secretary, SLELO PRISM  
Kristopher Williams, ISAC Incoming Secretary  
George Robinson, Biodiversity Research Institute  
Richard Powell, NY Assoc. of Landscape Architects  
D.J. Evans, NY Natural Heritage  
Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program  
John Bartow, Empire State Forest Products Association  
Michael Mitchell, NYS Flower Industries Inc.  
Karl Schoeberl, Environmental Energy Alliance of NY  
Elizabeth Seme, NYS Turfgrass Association  
David Decker, Audubon New York

**Present from Partner Organizations:**

Dave Adams, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Josh Thiel, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Justin Perry, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Cathy McGlynn, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Steve Pearson, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Molly Hassett, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Thomas Allgaier, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

**Guests:**

Brittney Rogers, SLELO PRISM  
Troy Weldy, The Nature Conservancy  
Hugh Canham  
Meg Wilkinson, NY Natural Heritage Program  
Linda Rholeder, Lower Hudson PRISM  
Ryan Goolic, Lower Hudson PRISM

Ed Duffy, Central Hudson Gas and Electric  
Steve Young, NY Natural Heritage Program

**Remote Attendance:**

Allen Gosser, USDA

Carrie Brown Lima, NY Invasive Species Research Institute, ISAC Vice Chairperson

Jessica Schuler, Westchester County Parks and Recreation

Erin Vennie-Vollrath, The Nature Conservancy

**Welcome:** Renee welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions followed.

**Announcements:**

Renee mentioned that Rob Williams will be the new Nature Conservancy Representative to ISAC and Kristopher Williams will be the new PRISM representative as approved/appointed by DEC and AG & Mkts.

George Robinson mentioned that the national ISAC is scheduled for being dissolved. George requested that we ask the NYS Invasive Species Council write a letter or otherwise approach the national program to keep the council and budget.

**Action Item:** ISAC asked to read the memo that reduces the national ISAC and budget and determine whether or not to ask the NYS Council to prepare a response.

**Review and Approval of December 10, 2019 Minutes:**

Motion by: Beth Seme, Second by: George Robinson, Approved.

**Secretary Position:**

Renee mentioned that according to the ISAC Guidance Document the secretary's position is for a one-year term. Rob has been secretary for almost three years and would like another member to assume these duties. Renee asked for a volunteer.

**Action Item:** At the end of today's meeting, Renee will again ask for someone to assume the secretary position.

**PRISM Update:**

Rob passed around a handout highlighting PRISM work across the state and noted several activities from each PRISM.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets have selected Kristopher Williams of the Capitol Mohawk PRISM as the new PRISM representative to ISAC

A well-deserved thank you to Rob Williams of the SLELO PRISM who has served as the PRISM representative to ISAC for several years.

The Finger Lakes PRISM has had presence at three major events in the Finger Lakes (CNY Boat Show, CNY RV and Camping Show, and Gardenscape) that collectively have a draw of over 34,000 people over the past few weeks.

SLELO will be debuting our Urban Forest Sustainability effort in collaboration with the NYS DEC Urban Forestry Program. Our focus will be on using native trees, invasive pest and pathogen resilient trees and trees that are adaptable to a changing climate. SLELO is collaborating with Ag & Mkts on a spotted lanternfly initiative targeted towards the charter fishing industry reflecting on travel from quarantine zones in PA to Lake Ontario areas with equipment. An aquatic invasive species assessment is being planned for three major tributaries along Eastern Lake Ontario to assess for aquatic and riparian species and potential need for restoration.

CRISP is leading two public stakeholders' meetings to develop an Invasive Species Management Plan for the 11.5-mile Ashokan Rail Trail. The trail has seen over 30,000 visitors since its opening in Fall 2019. This Management Plan will provide a framework to mitigate the impacts of invasive species along the trail.

WNY PRISM is currently hiring seasonal staff including 3 Inv. Spp. Mgmt. Assistants, 1 Education/Outreach Assistant, 1 GIS Analyst, 1 Early Detection Technician, 18 Boat Stewards and special projects interns.

The ADK PRISM is planning a spring partner meeting with a presentation on the use of biological controls, time and location TBD. The ADK PRISM will have a shared position with the SLELO PRISM. This position is a technical analyst, GIS specialist position. ADK is also seeking qualified candidates for their Terrestrial Coordinator Position.

The Capital Region PRISM in a partnership with Schenectady County Invasive Species Council will be reviewing and drafting an Invasive Species Management Plan Template for county wide parks and preserves in the public domain. The PRISM has also been busy surveying for HWA.

The Lower Hudson PRISM's conservation dogs will be learning to detect oak wilt this month and visiting field sites. They now have two dogs Dia and Fagen.

The Long Island PRISM will be hosting the spring 2020 PRISM Leaders Meeting in Brentwood NY on April 2nd. LIISMA is in the process of developing an enhanced prioritization planning framework focused on early detection and rapid response (EDRR).

John Bartow asked if the SLELO Handbook could be developed into a statewide document. Discussion followed.

### **Invasive Macrophyte Nutrient Analysis**

Brittney Rogers of the SLELO PRISM presented on invasive plant nutrient analysis project and how it can better inform managers across the state especially with regards to proper disposal of, for example: water chestnuts and the implications to improving water quality and reducing carbon and methane release into the atmosphere. In the SLELO region alone and over the past two years hand pulls have removed over 34 tons of water chestnut plants resulting in a corresponding removal of 277 pounds of nitrogen, 41 pounds of phosphorus and 5,700 pounds of carbon. What would the numbers be for all of New York State? This work suggests that the best disposal method for water chestnuts is by aerobic decomposition (composting). Composting reduces the amount of carbon and methane released from water chestnuts post-harvest. Bagging and landfilling are not recommended. We need to develop a standardized protocol to quantify the amount of water chestnut plants pulled across New York State and convert that into carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus quantities and to better inform management on proper disposal. Brittney also presented

the question of whether or not post-harvest restoration measures would be beneficial to sites where dense populations of water chestnuts are removed to enhance the ecological resolve of the site. We are conducting ecological restoration on terrestrial sites so shouldn't we consider the same for aquatic sites.

Discussion followed.

**Invasive Species Management Plan Goals/Discussion:**

Renee suggested that we review the previously presented goals and select (some) to prioritize and place on our annual work plan so that we are helping to guide the work comprehensively.

**2019 ISAC Annual Report** was distributed. Motion to approve by Beth Seme, Second by John Bartow, approved.

**NYCRR Part 576 Aquatic Invasive Species Law, Discussion:**

An ISAC Working Committee discussed the ADK Council proposal to make inspections mandatory. Justin Perry said discussions are taking place within DEC and they hope to report on this in the coming months. The current bill is to extend the current voluntary law for five years to 2025.

**NYCRR Part 575 Project:**

Dave Adams discussed the process for updating Part 575 Regulated and Prohibited Species. The Bureau of Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health has a rule-making memo that identifies the process towards updating the list. The process will go through the year 2021. Dave provided various spreadsheets and process notes to the group. Molly Hassett discussed ecological and social economic scores that were evaluated for 77 terrestrial and aquatic species. Dave mentioned that there is a separate list of species that have not made the list, several people requested to see the remaining list. DEC and Ag and Markets will consider making the remaining list available. Dave mentioned that if a species is not on the current list of 77 species – let Dave know as they have limited flexibility to do some minor considerations to the list.

Discussion followed.

**Other Business:**

Renee asked again for recommendations on the Invasive Species Management Plan goals. Meg asked that Part 576 be included. Josh Theil reiterated the need for unified messaging.

**Review of Today's Action Items:**

Rob reviewed action items from today's meeting. There were no changes.

**Action Item:**

George Robinson made a Motion that ISAC make a recommendation that the matter of federal decommissioning of the National Invasive Species Advisory Committee be referred to the New York Invasive Species Council and that the council respond accordingly to federal representatives. Second by Mike Mitchel. Discussion followed. Approved.

**Action Item:**

Carrie Brown Lima offered to discuss the matter of decommissioning of the National Invasive Species Advisory Committee with the federal ISAC chair and ask them how to proceed and will report back to ISAC.

**Action Item:**

Kristopher Williams has offered to assume the ISAC Secretary responsibilities beginning at the next meeting. Meg Modely made a Motion to accept Kristopher Williams as Secretary, Second by Mike Mitchell, approved.

The committee thanked Rob for his service as the secretary for the past few years.

**Next Meeting,** June 4<sup>th</sup>. Location to be determined. Possibly Greene County Agri-forestry Center. Renee will coordinate.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Meg Modley, Second by Richard Powell, Meeting adjourned at 1:18 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rob Williams, Secretary