

Meeting Minutes
New York State I.S. Advisory Committee
Zoom Conference Call December 16th, 2020 10:00 am 12:00 pm
Joint Meeting # 41

Recorded Link of the Meeting

- <https://youtu.be/P3Gcc7nYLWw>

Agenda:

- Welcome & Introductions
- Announcements & Updates
- Review and Approve Minutes
- Agency and PRISM Update(s)
- Part 575
- Invasive Species Management Plan Goals
- ISAC 2021-2022 Work Plan
- Review Action Items and/or Recommendations
- Wrap Up

Tentative Next ISAC Meeting Dates:

- Doodle pole will be released to determine 2021 ISAC meeting dates.

ISAC Members Present: (quorum present)

Richard Powell, American Society of Landscape Architects, NY Upstate Chapter
Todd Forrest, Vice President for Horticulture, NY Botanical Garden
Eric Lind, Director for Center Programs and Education, N.Y. Audubon
Dr. George Robinson, Biodiversity Research Institute
Carrie Brown-Lima, Director, Invasive Species Research Institute
~~Dr. Rick Relyea, Darrin Fresh Water Institute~~
John Bartow, Executive Director, Empire State Forest Products Association
~~Roger Phinney, Empire State Marine Trades Association~~
Karl Schoeberl, Environmental Energy Alliance of New York
Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program
Meredith Taylor, Invasive Species Biologist; NYC Environmental Protection
Renée St. Jacques, NY Farm Bureau
D.J. Evans, NY Natural Heritage Program
David White New York Sea Grant
~~Alex LaMonte, New York State Association of Counties~~
Dr. Bill Harman, New York State Federation of Lake Associations
Michael Mitchell, NYS Flower Industries Inc.
Hugh O. Canham, New York Forest Owners Association
~~Brian Buff, New York State Nursery & Landscape Association~~
Elizabeth Seme, Executive Director, NYS Turfgrass Association/ Council of Agricultural Organizations
Kristopher Williams, Capital Region PRISM Coordinator
Caitlin Stewart, Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Dr. Dylan Parry, SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry
Rob Williams, Program Manager, The Nature Conservancy
Allen Gosser, CWB State Director USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services (NY)

Present from Partner Organizations:

Josh Thiel, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Invasive Species Coordination Unit Chief
Dave Adams, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Invasive Species Coordination Unit Biologist
Catherine McGlynn, NYS DEC AIS Coordinator, Bureau of Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health
Molly Hassett, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Response & Coordinator ISCU
Steve Pearson, Research Scientist I, Bureau of Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health
Thomas Allgaier, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Invasive Species Coordinator
Jennifer Dean, NYS Natural Heritage Program Invasive Species Biologist
Meg Wilkinson, NYS Natural Heritage Program
Bill Jacobs, LIISMA Invasive Species Coordinator

Guests: None

Welcome: Renee St. Jacques welcomed everyone to the meeting reviewed the agenda with introductions.

Announcements and Updates:

- Rob Williams, Program Manager, The Nature Conservancy announced a collaboration with the Algonquin to Adirondacks (A2A) program. Frontenac Arch region is a unique diverse bioregion that connects Algonquin Park to Adirondack Park through surrounding lands. Home to a vast array of plants and animals, it is one of the last large-scale, intact forest and wetland linkages left in Eastern North America. It provides the best remaining potential for wildlife movement across the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system. The A2A collaborative is a U.S., Canadian, and First Nations partner organization that works with scientists, policy-makers, conservationists, communities, governments, and other local groups to protect and enhance the unique ecological features and functions of the corridor. Our dream is a resilient, ecologically connected A2A region that sustains a full range of native wildlife and enhances people's quality of life for generations to come.

- No other announcements or updates.

Review and Approval of October 1st 2020 ISAC ISC Joint Meeting Minutes:

Motion by: John Bartow

Second by: Caitlin Stewart

All in Favor: *October 1st 2020 Meeting Minutes of the Invasive Species Advisory Committee - Approved.*

Agency Update

Josh Thiel, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Invasive Species Coordination Unit Chief

- Noted the ongoing financial constraints with the pandemic and the holding pattern with the budget, revenues, and reimbursements.
- Invoices are still being held in groups and dispersed with delays. People are welcome to make inquiries to the status of payments. There will be interest paid.
- The Environmental Protection Fund and plan for 2021 approved and cleared on a broad scale.
- RFP for the Catskill PRISM will be announced 1st quarter of 2021
- NYIS clearing house anticipate funding for updates
- Invasive species documentary will be reviewed internally and released in the upcoming year.

Molly Hassett, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Response & Coordinator

- Invasive Species Awareness Week ISAW June 6-12 Preplanning Stages

Catherine McGlynn, NYS DEC AIS Coordinator, Bureau of Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health

- 2020 Watercraft Inspection Program
- Over 350,000 inspections
- Over 19,000 interceptions
- Aquatics Gardeners Guide released
- Pilot Brochure for Asian Eels
- Reviewing Contracts for AIS Coordinators
- Full time: Long Island, Region 7 and 9. Part time: Region 1

Thomas Allgaier, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Invasive Species Coordinator

- Spotted Lantern Fly Surveys are ongoing.
- Including delineations
- Looking for egg masses at this time of year
- Spring planning includes evaluating known infestations
- SFL treatments with basal bark spray
- Soy Bean Nematoid detected 12 counties
- Asian Long Horn Beetle occurring at the state level
- Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) all species on the list Negative Detections
- Box Tree Moth negative detections

Allen Gosser, CWB State Director USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services (NY)

- Feral Swine reported and investigated near Cortland NY.
- Escaped hybrid from local shooting preserve
- Baiting traps and surveys postponed till after hunting season.
- Working with NYSDEC on Mute Swan

PRISM Updates

Kristopher Williams of the Capital Region PRISM shared a PDF virtually highlighting PRISM work across the state and noted several activities from each PRISM.

Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP PRISM) Tammara Van Ryn

- With the combined efforts of APIPP's early-detection and rapid-response crew, seasonal steward and staff over 3,400 sites across the six-million acre Adirondack Park were assessed for terrestrial invasive species. Over 700 sites were mechanically or chemically treated. The seasonal steward hand-pulled more than 15,000 plants at NYSDEC campgrounds! APIPP found 1,500 formerly infested sites had no plants observed in 2020.
- APIPP is also pleased to report that in its 19th season, 133 volunteers surveyed 99 waterways for aquatic invasive species (AIS), and the Adirondack Research professional crew surveyed 42 lakes. There was one report of Eurasian watermilfoil in Weller Pond, which already had other invasive species present. 75% of all Adirondack waters remain free of AIS.
- The first occurrence of emerald ash borer was found in the Adirondack Park in July 2020. APIPP worked swiftly with NYSDEC to coordinate an early-detection survey of the area within a five-mile radius of the confirmed infestation. Unfortunately, approximately 30 suspected infestations were found east of I-87; no sites were reported west of I-87. APIPP mailed "Don't Move Firewood" materials to all campgrounds in the infested area.

The first major infestation of hemlock woolly adelgid in the Adirondack Park was also confirmed in late July. NYSDEC, APIPP and local partners mobilized an intensive survey and treatment effort. Over 100 days of state and partner time were spent surveying the area. An additional 25 days were spent surveying other high-priority areas in the watershed, with 400 plots inspected. On nearby Dome Island, owned by The Nature Conservancy (APIPP's host), 20 days of staff and partner time resulted in the treatment of 342 trees or 13% of the hemlocks on the island.

St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario (SLELO PRISM) Rob Williams

- The SLELO PRISM has released its 2020 Early Detection Field Report. Eight (8) Priority Conservation Areas (PCA's) along with over 151 Highly Probable Areas (HPA's) were searched this season. No Tier 1 species have been found at any PCA's this year. Copy of the report can be found here on the SLELO PRISM's website: <https://www.sleloinvasives.org/field-reports/>
- SLELO PRISM's Education & Outreach Committee has begun preparations for our biennial Eastern Lake Ontario Invasive Species Symposium. This symposium is a professional exchange of information that provides applicable and timely ways to support invasive species prevention and management initiatives while also enhancing the health and resiliency of the natural systems that make the St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario region so special. The theme of this symposium will focus on (*Protecting Our Lands and Waters*).
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid surveys in the SLELO Region will begin this month. Robert Smith, Brittney Rogers and our Volunteer Surveillance Network will begin searching dense hemlock stands in the region for signs of HWA. Last year 57 Highly Probable Areas were searched with no HWA being observed. A detailed copy of last year's HWA survey can be found here: <https://www.sleloinvasives.org/field-reports/>

Finger Lakes (FL-PRISM) Hilary Mosher

- Our Hydrilla program team has conducted 10,733 rake tosses across 15 waterbodies, detected the state-endangered spiny naiad again this field season, treated 5 acres for Hydrilla, conducted three rounds of Biobase sampling at 60 sites across 5 lakes.
- The citizen science survey program of the Starry Stonewort Collaborative was merged with the Macrophyte Survey that FL-PRISM has maintained for 4 years. This year's participation across the Finger Lakes region was good with 31 volunteers engaged on 28 waterbodies. A total of 372 rake tosses were completed in these efforts. Similar work was completed by Collaborative volunteers in Indiana and Canada.
- We had 200 people register for our spotted lanternfly webinar on December 1, and 176 participants. We are working closely with NYSDAM to survey for and report any spotted lanternfly eggs and are working with NYSISRI to engage faculty, staff, and students at Cornell and Ithaca University to do survey work.
- Our next webinar will take place on December 15 and will include an update on the starry stonewort collaborative for the Great Lakes Basin. Currently we have nearly 75 people registered.
- Working with the Rochester Institute of Technology on their senior capstone course to identify retention and sustainability of volunteers for our citizen science programs. The group will publish recommendations on recruitment and trends in participation at the end of their program.

Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP PRISM) John Thompson

- So far this year, the Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP), coordinating with the Catskill Center's Catskills Strike Team, has performed invasives management at 105 sites. CRISP staff has treated about 200 Japanese angelica tree stems with herbicide this fall and are working with private landowners to do additional treatments of Japanese angelica tree and black jetbead.
- CRISP Watershed Stewards Program had another successful year, they interacted with about 21,500 people, inspected 12,500 watercraft and had over 1,000 interceptions.
- CRISP completed surveys of 7 hemlock monitoring plots monitoring hemlock health and HWA. CRISP is working with Kelsey Parker and Andy Reinmann at CUNY on developing techniques of remote sensing to monitor hemlocks in the Catskills.
- CRISP has worked closely with Partners this year to deliver 17 invasive species programs to 1,369 people.

Capital Region (PRISM) Kristopher Williams

- On December 8th the PRISM held the year end partners meeting. Guest speaker Mark Whitmore spoke on the status of HWA in the Hudson Mohawk Valleys and Adirondacks. In addition, the PRISM received partner reports from subcontractor work with Ezra Schwartzberg, Ph.D. Director, Adirondack Research *"Aquatic Invasive Species Early Detection Surveys"* and Anne Rhoads, Ph.D. Director, Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve *"Conservation Management and Invasive Species at the Preserve"*
- In the third quarter the PRISM collaborated with the Adirondack PRISM to conduct ground truthing surveys for HWA around the southern portion of Lake George and Prospect Mountain. One detection was found south of the initial Lake George infestation near the Buck Mountain Trail head from the eastern shore. Currently the PRISM is collaborating with the OPRHP in surveying for HWA in the Moreau Lake State Park ISPZ and associated priority Hemlock Stands found in the region. The PRISM will collaborate with the Friends of Moreau and the public in conducting an HWA hemlock hunter citizen science program to assist in early detections.
- The Capital Region Prism received steering committee approval for the 2021 Work Plan and released the 2021 Request for Proposals for partners to execute invasive species subcontract work through the work plan. PRISM completed 34 of 38 strategies from the 2020 work plan for an 89% success rate. The RFP and Work are here www.capitalregionprism.org/rfp.html.
- The terrestrial program surveyed in detail 11 Priority Conservation Areas and conducted 11 Post-treatment monitoring removals in 2020. Post treatment sites showed a significant reduction in populations using manual and mechanical treatment methods. The TIS program has note 50 first-in-area reports through iMapinvasives and will be following up on those high threat species in 2021. The terrestrial program manages 11 active giant hogweed sites.
- The aquatic invasive species program increased its capacity to survey water bodies in the capital region. Fifteen lakes received early detection surveys and were supplemented with an addition 10 lakes surveyed by a subcontracted partner. Lakes in our Northern territories had fewer counts of invasive species. No invasive species were found in Lake Nancy, Lake Desolation, Archer Vly for example. A lake prioritization model has been drafted for selecting lake to be surveyed in the future with an emphasis on early detection of Tier 1 and 2 species. AIS removals for 2020 focused on Water Chestnut, European Frog Bit, and Eurasian Milfoil.

Western New York (WNY-PRISM) Andrea Locke

- WNY PRISM has hired our new Aquatic Invasive Species Program Manager, Nicole Smeenck. Nicole, originally from Alaska, joined us in November after working with the Finger Lakes Institute for a couple years on various AIS related programs. Nicole will coordinate WNY PRISM's Watercraft Inspection Stewardship Program and lead additional AIS efforts including the Southern Tier Water Chestnut Working Group and early detection species response.
- The WNY PRISM Crew implemented Crew Assistance Program (CAP) projects while dedicating an increasing amount of time to addressing Tier 2, early detection species priorities. The Crew worked on 11 projects involving 8 partners in 4 counties and included over 11 acres of invasive species removal. Surveys were conducted at 10 sites and included 846 acres.
- WNY PRISM held our Fall Partner Meeting on October 22 with approximately 40 attendees. The meeting included presentations from WNY PRISM Program Managers, providing updates on our field season efforts. The second half of the meeting included a prioritization workshop that allowed for partner feedback on continued species prioritization and ranking efforts. Fall Partner Meeting presentations are available here: <https://www.wnyprism.org/partner-meetings/>.
- WNY PRISM's Fall Webinar Series was a great success. We held 6 sessions throughout October and November. The covered topics included Winter ID and Spread Prevention, Emerging Forest Pests and Diseases, Agricultural Pests and Diseases, Winter Management of Woody Invasive Species, and Emerging Aquatic Threats. We welcomed guest presenters from the WNY Land Conservancy, Finger Lakes PRISM and USDA APHIS. Live participation across the whole series included 117 attendees and an additional 46 people viewed the presentation recordings on our YouTube Channel.
- Water Lettuce Update: An additional removal effort at Hyde Park Lake resulted in a total of 730 water lettuce plants removed in 2020.

The Long Island Invasive Species Management Area (LIISMA) Bill Jacobs

- Conducted a workshop/webinar on October 23 with presentations from scientists at Cornell University and SUNY ESF on American chestnut restoration and biocontrols for various invasive species.
- Co-sponsored webinars with the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) on October 7 and with the Long Island Native Plant Initiative (LINPI) and Audubon on October 15.
- Planning a two-day webinar focused on phragmites management in sensitive ecological communities, including coastal plain ponds, on February 11-12, 2021.
- Hiring a Native Plant and Invasive Species Specialist as an addition to our current staff of two. This person will work half-time with LIISMA on invasive species prevention and management and half-time with the Long Island Native Plant Initiative to help provide local ecotypes of native plants for restoration.
- Collaborating with the Long Island Metro Aquatic Species Task Force to identify priority waterbodies and other planning for the strategic management of aquatic invasive species in 2021 and beyond.
- Collaborating with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County to survey for winter moths in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Lower Hudson (LH-PRISM) Linda Rohleder

- Spotted lanternfly has been confirmed in 3 locations in the Lower Hudson PRISM.
- LHPRISM completed control projects on 27 of its 59 Tier 2 species (45%) and completed surveys of all known locations of 6 additional low abundance Tier 2 species.
- Despite the restricted season, LHPRISM partners have collectively completed more than 55% of planned tasks from the 2020 action plan. The 2021 action plan has been approved and is posted on our web site at <https://www.lhprism.org/document/2021-lhprism-action-plan>
- LHPRISM submitted over 5,500 verified invasive species reports from our iNaturalist project and cleared an additional volunteer 27,000 reports from 2019 and earlier for bulk upload to iMapInvasives.
- It was a record-setting year the ISF survey program including total survey completions and rate (193 and 88%, respectively), volunteer hours dedicated (1686), new recruits (107) and miles of trail surveyed (350). Our Terrestrial and Aquatic ISF Crews collectively removed 141,255 invasive plants improving and helping to restore over 425 acres of land and water.
- New York – New Jersey Trail Conference’s Conservation Dog team learned to detect kudzu and visited LHPRISM’s kudzu monitoring sites to ensure all plants had been detected and removed. They also responded to new spotted lanternfly infestations in the Lower Hudson to help delimit the extent of the infestation. They stand ready to help support SLF prevention inspections and detection surveys in 2021.

Part 575

Dave Adams, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Invasive Species Coordination Unit Biologist lead a brief update on Part 575 with one slide. Discussed invasive species petitioned to the Department of Agriculture and Markets/Department of Environmental Conservation to be added or removed from part 575. Majority of species made it to the proposed list shared in March of 2020 for recommended changes to Part 575. The revision process has not started yet for 575.

- 9 species petitioned and analyzed for possible addition
 - 2 additions from 2014/2015 recommendations [Waterwheel and Phyllostachys spp.]
 - 7 from NYNJ Trail Conference.
[Goldenrain Tree, Incised Fumewort, Sapphireberry, Scotch Broom, Bradford Pear, Castor aralia, Chinese Fountain Grass]
- 1 petition for removal from part 575 [Black Locust]

Discussion was opened.

Hugh O. Canham, New York Forest Owners Association commented on the merits of removing Black Locust.

- Found in some locations of NY, wide distribution in NY, nitrogen fixer, does not invade shade tolerant areas, rot resistant without chemical treatments for fence posts, alternative to foreign hardwoods, a bee pollinator species, silvopasture tree.

Elizabeth Seme, Executive Director, NYS Turfgrass Association/ Council of Agricultural Organizations

- Asked if the species discussed today if they had a threat ranking. *[yes]*
- Asked their current rank *[information was not present]*

Dr. George Robinson, Biodiversity Research Institute

- Black Locust Economically valuable
- USDA distribution map not native to NY
- Agrees has a wide distribution
- Black Locust is hard to manage in Pine forest

Kristopher Williams representing the PRISM Coordinators

- Inquired if any of the species on the regulated list would be moved to the prohibited list
[no decisions or comprehensive lists of decisions have been made at this time]
[discussions will occur in the future]
- Will there be any change in the enforcement of prohibited and regulated species?
[Department of Agriculture and Markets is helping with enforcement]
[Incidents are handled on an individual basis]
[Department of Agg and Markets will have data regarding 575 infractions at end of the year as data is still being collected]

Dr. George Robinson, Biodiversity Research Institute

- Use iMapInvasives to track these species and what areas they are threatening.

Final comment is there a formal timeline for part 575 updates
[no/revisions will occur in the future in a more formal basis]

Invasive Species Management Plan Goals

Renée St. Jacques shared a document with IS Management Plan Goals

- Discussed old committee for Management Plan Goals What has been worked on and what could be future goals to be included and executed.
- Focused review on what has Already Been Worked and Future goals:

Rob Williams in the SLELO PRISM is working on actions similar to 4.1.1. Develop unified messaging that can be used by PRISMs, ambassadors, and the media to promote IS solutions and tools with key audiences. Consider seeking the services of a specialized marketing/communication consultant as part of this effort, and potentially draw on materials from national and regional campaigns organized for capabilities in this area.

Josh Thiel commented on how works, activities, and actions are being done to meet the goals of the ISMP Goals. Many of the goals are achieved with in the Department and with partner agencies. Parties who are engaged recognize the actions being done in relation to goals. However, those individuals and groups who are not as actively engaged my not realize the works being done. Great works are being attained.

- **Action item: Categorize the works that are being done.**
- Will help determine what areas should be targeted.

Carrie Brown-Lima, Director, Invasive Species Research Institute

- Discussed prior committee
- Add to the work plan the ISAC inclusion to hosting a IS conference
[Josh: possible conference at the end of 2021] [Recommended putting the action in the ISMP Goals]

Renée St. Jacques made a call out for any additional goals or initiatives to be added to the document?

- Michael Mitchell, NYS Flower Industries Inc. Spotted Lantern Fly to be included into the goals in the form of outreach. [Directed to Department of Agg and Markets][iMapInvasives will be hosting a training][Include NYLT John Bartow]
- Part 576 Updates [Josh] Extension 9-1710 still the same. Recommendation to make 9-1710 permanent. ISAC produce detailed recommendations on the language and continuation of 9-1710 law. Meredith Taylor recommended a subcommittee to address the goal

Meredith Taylor presented pathway analysis for early detections ISMP Goal

- Prioritizing pathways for management and policy changes
- Meredith shared several flow charts with SMART Strategies Transportation, Living Industry, Miscellaneous Pathways
 - Rob Williams made a request to share the Pathway diagrams was made
 - Bill Harman roll of reservoir transfers
 - Hugh Canham roll of the Canal System and Power Authority and Christmas Tree Industry in potential vectors.
 - Meg Wilkinson Internet sales and pathways plants and aquarium trade
 - Kristopher Williams bike path and trail construction pathways

Josh Thiel

- Emphasized more detail pathway policy implementation in Part 576 and Aquatic Invasive Species

Renée St. Jacques will clean up and revise the language in the Invasive Species Management Plan Goals. Carrie Brown-Lima encouraged more specific communication of topics and to prioritize topic areas and issues of concern.

ISAC 2021-2022 Work Plan

Rob Williams: How to address/manage the comprehensive list of goals.

- Identify priority goals / What needs to be specifically completed
- Identify goals that occur naturally
- Craft a timeline
 - 1st step Identify items that will naturally get completed through the work of members
 - 2nd step Identify items that need specific attention to move forwardUtilize a subcommittee to move initiative forward

Karl Schoeberl stated the possible need to have a greater statewide outreach program as an initiative.

Public Comments

- NONE

Closing Remarks

- 2021 work plan will be updated by Renée St. Jacques and reintroduced.

Action Items and/or Recommendations

Seeking individuals from the ISAC membership to work on specific goals and initiatives relating to the ISAC work plan through two subcommittees.

- Subcommittees to work outside of the ISAC quarterly meetings
- Charged with the purpose of bring information back to the ISAC committee with work that has been done to meet specific goals and initiatives.
 1. Committee to recommend language to Part 576/9-1710
 2. Committee for Management Plan Goals
 - What has been worked on and what could be future goals to be included and executed
 - Action item: Categorize the works that are being done.**

Next Meeting

- Doodle pole will be circulated for ISAC 2021 meeting dates.

Adjourn:

Meeting finalized and adjourned at 12:04 pm

- Respectfully Submitted, Kristopher Williams, Secretary