

Meeting Minutes



December 14, 2022, 10:00 - 1:00

ISAC Meeting # 49

Hybrid Meeting

Department of Agriculture and Markets 10 Airline Drive Albany NY

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Announcements and Updates
- Review/Approve Minutes
- Conservation Dogs RFI and Spotted Lanternfly Detection Dogs Update
- Recap of ISC/ISAC meeting discussion on priority actions and the Climate Action Council
- Discussion on priority actions and strategic planning for 2023
- Agency Updates
- iMapInvasives Update
- PRISM Highlights
- Attendance / Member Participation
- Review of Action Items and Recommendations
- Wrap Up

ISAC Members Present (quorum not met; 13 members is a simple majority)

Member	#46	#47	#48	#49
Bartow, John – Empire State Forest Products Association***	P	P	P	P
Brown-Lima, Carrie – Cornell Invasive Species Research Institute*	P	P	P	P
Buff, Brian – New York State Nursery & Landscape Association**	A	A	A	A
Canham, Hugh – New York Forest Owners Association***	P	P	P	P
Evans, DJ – New York Natural Heritage Program*	A	A	P	Virtual
Decker, David – Audubon New York***	P	P	P	P
Furgal, Stacy – New York Sea Grant at Cornell*	P	A	A	A
Gosser, Allen – USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services***	P	P	P	A
Harman, Bill – New York State Federation of Lake Associations**	P	A	P	A
Mitchell, Mike – NYS Flower Industries Inc.***	A	P	P	P
Mithen-DeMasi, Lori – New York State Association of Towns**	A	P	A	P
Modley, Meg – Lake Champlain Basin Program***	P	P	A	A
Nagele, Eliot – NY Botanical Garden***	P	P	A	A
Parry, Dylan – SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry**	P	P	A	Virtual
Phinney, Roger – Empire State Marine Trades Association**	A	A	A	A
Relyea, Rick – Darrin Fresh Water Institute*	A	A	A	A
Robinson, George – Biodiversity Research Institute*	P	P	P	P
Schoeberl, Karl – Environmental Energy Alliance of New York***	P	P	A	P
Seme, Beth – NYS Turfgrass Assoc./Council of Agriculture***	P	P	P	A
St. Jacques, Renee – NY Farm Bureau**	P	P	A	P
Stewart, Caitlin – Soil and Water Conservation Districts*	P	P	P	A
Taylor, Meredith – NYC DEP and NYS Water Suppliers*	P	P	P	A
Williams, Rob/Bernacki, Becka – The Nature Conservancy**	P	P	A	P

Williams, Kristopher – Capital Region PRISM**
American Society of Landscape Architects***

P	P	P	P
P	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant

*named in statute, ** described, ***discretionary

ISC Members Present:

Adams, Dave – NYS DEC Invasive Species Coordination Unit
Thiel, Josh – NYS DEC, Bureau of Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health
Wilkinson, Meg – NY Natural Heritage Program

Guests

Robert Slocum DEC Bureau of Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health

Welcome and Introductions

Carrie Brown-Lima welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees gave self-introductions.

Announcements

Thiel, Josh – NYS DEC, Bureau of Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health

- New York Invasive Species Expo will be held Sept 24th, 25th and 26th Spa State Park in Saratoga Springs NY

Robinson, George – Biodiversity Research Institute*

- NYS Floral Atlas Recommendation for the New York State Museum to Hire of a State Botanist

Brown-Lima, Carrie – Cornell Invasive Species Research Institute*

- Thank you Rob Williams for Representing TNC, Rebecca Bernacki of the TNC/APIPP will represent The Nature Conservancy moving forward.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes #48 October and #47 June 2022 need to be approved.
No quorum. Can't vote on minutes.

Conservation Dogs RFI and Spotted Lanternfly Detection Dogs Update

Adams, Dave – NYS DEC Invasive Species Coordination Unit

- RFI was made by the NYS DEC to obtain information on conservation dogs to complete invasive species works in the future. Search for vendors for potential contractual work was vast across the northeast.
- Feel free to forward the RFI

Brown-Lima, Carrie – Cornell Invasive Species Research Institute*

- Update on research on the Effectiveness of Dogs and Humans in Searching for Spotted Lantern Fly (SLF) Three objectives explored with positive results if the SLF is hard to see for humans then the dogs are more likely to find if present.

Recap of ISC/ISAC meeting discussion on priority actions and the Climate Action Council

Thiel, Josh – NYS DEC, Bureau of Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health

- Reviewed the need for the Invasive Species Council to be more effective in establishing initiatives and sharing of information to improve the overall effectiveness of the ISC.
 - In relation to the Climate Action Council

- Improve operational and communication strategies
- -How to improve the ability to get messaging out?

Brown-Lima, Carrie – Cornell Invasive Species Research Institute*

- How can the ISAC be more effective in meaningful advisements
 - What are the priority topics for the ISAC to present in the annual work plan objectives.
 - Communicate with the Climate Action Council
 - Share Climate Impact Assessments

Canham, Hugh – New York Forest Owners Association***

- Suggested a greater emphasis on outreach and awareness for private woodlot owners.

Williams, Rob – The Nature Conservancy**

- Promote forest health with woodlot owners
- Promote a liaison from the ISAC/ISC to connect with the CAC.

Thiel, Josh – NYS DEC, Bureau of Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health

- Design Communication Strategies
- ISAC could right a set of recommendations

Wilkinson, Meg – NY Natural Heritage Program

- Use a framework of response for communication strategies

Robinson, George – Biodiversity Research Institute*

- The Hudson River Estuary Program has a good outreach strategy and suggested we could learn from their model.

Decker, David – Audubon New York***

- Use Part 575 as a spring board with updates to recirculate messaging with new additions of species.

Other:

- Survey Towns for priority actions
- Use NYS DEC Coordinator for Standard Design of Messages/Official Communication Messaging

Discussion on priority actions and strategic planning for 2023

ACTION ITEM(s)

1. *Draft a Document to Deliver Uniform Message or Framework for Messaging*
 - a. *Provide a strawman framework by the next meeting*
 - i. *Framework*
 - ii. *Topics to Consider*
 - iii. *Delivery of Message*
2. *Identify how to leverage ISAC members to help with types of communication strategies and dispersal of information.*
3. *Identify and communicate priority topics.*
4. *Carrie or Kris? Invite member(s) from the Climate Action Council to as Guest on ISAC (Bob Howerth)*
5. *Invite Bethany Bradly to summarize specific climate action initiatives*

Agency Updates

NYS DEC

Thiel, Josh – NYS DEC, Bureau of Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health

- 2023 PRISM Contract Announcement Coming Soon
- Adirondack Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Announcement Coming Soon
- RFI on Dog Conservation and Invasive Species Detection Information Wanted
- Northern Snakehead (*Channa argus*) on the Basha Kill WMA now Established
- Round Goby furthest Spread is to Lock C1 (Champlain Canal)
- Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) Management on the Croton River is coming to a successful close, Now found in Niagara River.

- Invasive Species Expo Sept 24th -26th Hands on Workshops contact Hosh to participate on working logistics or content committee.

Robert Slocum DEC Bureau of Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health

- Southern Pine Beetle expanding quickly in Long Island also found in Warren County.
- Northern Long Eared Bat Listed as Endangered
- Incident Command Response Scenario Training / Prepped for Practice

Adams, Dave – NYS DEC Invasive Species Coordination Unit

- Part 575 is being worked on for an update. Will be presented for public for comment and shared with ISAC at that time. No time frame has been set for release.

AGM

Christopher Logue Director of AGM

- SLF engagement with National Group: Working out the details of a five-year strategic plan for SLF.
- Longhorn Beetle (ALB) Quarantine areas will be reduced.
- Box Tree Moth (BTM) Has spread east in Orleans County, with a possible quarantine expansion to follow.

iMap Update

Wilkinson, Meg – NY Natural Heritage Program

- Thank you for those who participated with iMapInvasives Prioritization Tools and Feedback
- Rare Species / Invasive Species Intersection Work Group at the start of 2023
- Leads Tool will not be public facing
- NYS Tier Table has received closed to 10,000 views
- Graduate Internship Position Opening Soon

PRISM Highlights

Williams, Kristopher – Capital Region PRISM**

- See summaries at the end of the minutes. Recent PRISM Highlights can be found here: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/47433.html>

Attendance / Member Participation

Discussion on what constitutes a quorum followed with virtual verses in person meetings. Open Meetings Law: ISAC Quarterly Meetings are advertised and open to the public. Hybrid meetings if held in a state office quorum can be counted **(needs to be confirmed)**

- ISAC membership language included in the Guidance Document dated September 2021:

“The Council joint chairs or their designees, or the NYISAC officers representing a 2/3 majority vote of the total current membership, and upon the Council’s approval, reserve the right to replace any member who is unable to fully participate in the NYISAC, or who misses three (3) consecutive, regularly scheduled meetings of the NYISAC.”

- Members are individuals, not organizations. If an organizational change is needed DEC and Ag & Markets will coordinate that.

Action Item

1. Reach out to the high miss groups/members on the roll call
 - a. New York State Nursery & Landscape Association**
 - b. New York Sea Grant at Cornell*
 - c. Empire State Marine Trades Association**
 - d. Darrin Fresh Water Institute*

- e. Vacant since 6-23-22 – American Society of Landscape Architects

Review of Action Items and Recommendations

ACTION ITEM(s)

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 - iii. *Delivery of Message*
2. *Identify and communicate priority topics.*
3. *Identify how to leverage ISAC members to help with:*
 - a. *types of communication strategies and dispersal of information.*
4. *Carrie or Kris? Invite member(s) from the Climate Action Council to as Guest on ISAC (Bob Howerth)*
5. *Invite Bethany Bradly to summarize specific climate action initiatives*
6. *Reach out to the high miss groups/members on the roll call*

Public Comments None

Next ISAC Meeting Dates To be announced

Adjournment

Wrap Up 1:00 pm

- Respectfully submitted by Kristopher Williams, Vice Chair

NYS PRISM Highlights Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management

Lower Hudson LH-PRISM (Brent Boscarino)

- **Community Science Update:** In 2022, we had 106 volunteers participate in our Invasives Strike Force Survey Program. These volunteers completed 126 trail assignments, each a 1-2 mile stretch of trail, searching for and reporting on beech leaf disease, spotted lanternfly, tree of heaven, jumping worm and a monthly rotating invasive plant. Altogether this group dedicated 1,100 hours to surveying.
- **Invasive Species Management:** Our Terrestrial and Aquatic Invasives Strike Force Crews together hosted 33 volunteer workdays that were attended by 96 volunteers, dedicating over a thousand hours to invasive species removal in 2022. Project targets included water chestnut, Siebold's viburnum, jetbead, kudzu, hardy kiwi and Scotch broom, among others.
- **Digital Engagement:** Our LHPRISM YouTube collection now includes 86 videos with views close to 20,000 for 2022. We added 14 videos this year including 8 that focused on invasive plant ID targeted at iMapInvasives reporting for our regional survey program. We also produced 2 short form documentaries that highlighted our Invasives Strike Force Crew and volunteer's work on sticky sage management along the Appalachian Trail and our Aquatic Invasives Strike Force Crew's work on water chestnut management and endangered cricket frog protection in collaboration with NYS DEC.
- **Beech Leaf Disease:** Fifteen long-term beech leaf disease monitoring plots were established in 2022 in the LH PRISM in collaboration with NYS DEC. We found the highest rates of infestation and symptom progression in Westchester County and the Bronx and the lowest rates in Dutchess and Ulster counties. LH PRISM had the largest number of positive detections and not detected results of BLD in iMapInvasives in 2022.

Long Island Invasive Species Management Area LIISMA (Bill Jacobs)

- **LIISMA Updates New Job Positions and Staff:** Filled three new full-time job positions, as follows: Conservation Area (CA) Manager, Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) Manager, and Education and Outreach (EO) Manager. With the LIISMA Program Manager, this brings the number of full-time staff persons to four, the largest full-time staff LIISMA has ever had.
- **Partners Meeting and Workshop:** Hosted a hybrid virtual and in-person partners meeting and workshop on December 2, with 49 attendees. This is one of the most well-attended partners meetings in years. Presentations on Habitat Restoration by the North Shore Land Alliance and Creating an Invasive Plant Management Plan from USFWS engaged the audience.
- **Terrestrial:** Assisted NYSDEC with controlling kudzu at 7 sites. Worked with NYSDEC, NYS OPRHP, and local partners to survey southern pine beetle from the ground and drones, finding extensive infestations in county and state parks. Infestations were suppressed in thousands of trees.
- **Responded to an observation of Tier 2 Anthraxon hispidus,** arranging for manual removal with the landowner before seed set. There are two known infestations of arthraxon on Long Island; LIISMA and partners are managing both of them. Arthraxon is a direct threat to more than a dozen state rare and ET species.

- Aquatic: LIISMA worked with partners to manually control small populations of *Ludwigia peploides*. Preventing the spread of this species protects the nearby Carmans River and its biodiversity, including native brook trout. LIISMA continues to map and manually control small, emerging infestations of phragmites at coastal plain ponds, saving hundreds of acres of state and globally rare species.

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

- AIS Spread Prevention – Most Successful Season: Our 2022 Watercraft Inspection Steward Program could very well be our most successful season yet. This was the first year we were able to keep several stewards on into October and during that time we were able to engage over 3,000 additional people and intercept aquatic hitchhikers on an additional 150 occasions. During this extended season, we reached new audiences along the salmon river with anglers who traveled to the area from all over the globe. Preliminary results from 2022 include: • 1,250 AIS interceptions, • 13,250 surveys completed, • 29,900 people engaged, • 95% participation rate, • 18% no previous steward interactions, • Launch visitors from over 43 states and Canada.
- Managing For Resilience: Managing for resilience requires the suppression of terrestrial invasive plants allowing native plants the opportunity to thrive. This year's control work included work on 100 individual sites located on 15 Priority Conservation Areas (PCA's). This included 132.91 acres of active management for six Tier 2 and Tier 3 species.
- Ecological Restoration Combined, our South Sandy Creek Riparian Habitat Restoration project, our Eastern Lake Ontario Dunes Restoration Project and several other inland projects are helping to recover ecosystem resilience as recommended in the NYS Comprehensive Management Plan. This is accomplished by suppressing invasive plants and replanting with 25 native species.
- Urban Forest Sustainability Guide: This initiative is designed to educate communities on the impacts of invasive pests and pathogens and the importance of native trees and maintaining healthy urban forests for the benefit of nature and people. The Urban Forest Sustainability Guide may be downloaded from: UFSI GUIDE COVER front v2.psd (sleloinvasives.org)

Western New York WNY PRISM: (Andrea Locke)

- Updated Priority Species Lists: WNY PRISM maintains priority species lists in addition to the more expansive invasive species tier rankings. Updated lists have been reviewed and approved by the WNY PRISM Steering Committee and will go into effect for 2023. If you have questions about the changes, please reach out!
 - Early Detection
 - Added: Spotted Lanternfly, Red Swamp Crayfish, Goatsrue
 - Removed: Yellow Floating Heart and Japanese Angelica Tree
 - Approaching Region
 - Added: Hardy Kiwi, Parrot Feather, Kudzu, Primrose-willow
 - Removed: Northern Snakehead, Asian Carp
 - Data Gaps
 - HWA, Tree of Heaven, Burning Bush, Lesser Celandine, Callery Pear
- End-of-Year Reporting: WNY PRISM staff are busy with end-of-year reporting. Program Managers are finishing up the final drafts of program reports focused on WNY PRISM's Core Programs including the Watercraft Inspection Stewardship Program, Crew Assistance Program and Early Detection and Response

Program. Once complete, reports will be used to develop the WNY PRISM Annual Report. In addition, work has progressed on the 2023 Annual Work Plan.

- Aquatic Program Manager: WNY PRISM is in the final stages of hiring a new Aquatic Invasive Species Program Manager. We have completed interviews and are making our final decision. We hope to have someone start ahead of the new year.

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

- **APIPP Summer 2022 Terrestrial Report**
 - APIPP stewards have helped eliminate garlic mustard from several NYSDEC campgrounds.
 - APIPP's new forest pest research assistant monitored more than 60 sites and 17 traps for five different forest pests.
 - Volunteer forest pest hunters entered over 500 observations related to hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) and beech leaf disease into iMapInvasives.
 - Two species of interest are new to Adirondack PRISM: beech leaf disease and wineberry.
 - Over 1,400 trees have been treated on Dome Island for HWA.
- **APIPP Summer 2022 Aquatic Report**
 - This was the 21st season of APIPP's volunteer lake monitoring program; a record number of 108 surveys were submitted.
 - APIPP's early detection team, contracted through Adirondack Research, surveyed 42 lakes.
 - No new AIS were found in the Adirondacks, but five already-invaded waterbodies had additional AIS detected in 2022.
 - This was the fifth year of the lake management tracker program, which is used on lakes known to be invaded by AIS where management is or will occur. Five lakes participated.
 - APIPP worked with SLELO on an eDNA monitoring project, monitoring 66 locations for AIS.
- **APIPP Education and Communications Report**
 - APIPP received expanded media coverage this year in television, print and online media.
 - A highly informative and successful Adirondack Invasive Species Summit was held in October.
 - A full suite of educational programs was offered throughout the year, and the winter series will begin with an HWA training on January 24, 2023.

Capital Region PRISM CR-PRISM (Kristopher Williams)

- Partners Meeting December 13 the PRISM hosted over 43 people to hear from the partnership. Time was dedicated for partner reports which include round table discussions on challenges and success relating to invasive species management and conservation practices.
- The SLF volunteer early detection program: 13 traps were monitored throughout the season by volunteers and staff. Next year we hope to expand these efforts, if you are interested in volunteering with the CR-PRISM please contact the PRISM.
- The TIS field team surveyed 3,580.93 acres at 48 locations across the Capital Region, including 17 PCAs. Post-treatment monitoring and removal work has taken place at 26 sites covering a total of 126.31 acres.
- AIS Work: The CR-PRISM has revised and updated its Water Chestnut Site Prioritization document. This document assists in the justification of WC pull locations using identifiers such as: Benefit to the Public, Species Abundance, Disposal Feasibility, Ecologically Significant Habitat, Permitting, and more. Additional WC pull locations are being identified for 2023.

- Since 2018, the WISP Program has engaged 80,303 people while inspecting 50,998 watercrafts, intercepting 1,952 AIS from entering waterbodies. The 2022 WISP Program conducted the largest number of inspections, and saw its highest volume of people engaged
- Targeted Outreach Of recent the PRISM partnered with the CCE of Columbia and Greene County providing a forest health update and invasive pest for the NY logger Training Program. The program concluded with woods walk in the Siuslaw Model Forest; Discussions regarding best management practices that promote forest resiliency were explored.

Finger Lakes PRISM FL-PRISM (Sam Beck-Anderson)

- **Full Partner Meeting:** 40 participants registered for a virtual partner meeting on December 15th; invited-speaker topics include beech leaf disease in the Finger Lakes region, and evaluating community science programs
- **Steering Committee Engagement:** The first engagement of steering committee under new PRISM leadership included a general inquiry to previous committee members to gauge interest in future participation, and to set the stage for formal meeting planned for early 2023.
- **Outreach Events:** Our various programs hosted or supported over 140 outreach events reaching over 4000 people in 2022; events included tabling engagements, workshops, in person and virtual presentations, local and regional meetings, and more.
- **Hydrilla in Cayuga Lake:** Assisted in monitoring new Hydrilla populations identified on Cayuga Lake using meander surveys at Sheldrake Point, and expanded populations north of Aurora using SCUBA. Work continues to identify an effective path forward for Hydrilla management in Cayuga Lake through collaboration with partners including NYSDEC, US Army Corps of Engineers Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, Local Hydrilla Task Force. No Hydrilla detections at King Ferry treatment area for 3rd consecutive year.
- **SLF Traps:** All 250 traps have been removed for the winter. Traps that won't be redeployed in 2023 were returned to the FL PRISM.
- **WISP:** Over 34,000 inspections reaching over 70,000 individuals across 24 boat launches; 2900+ invasives found during inspections; 23,000+ new pledges to Clean, Drain, Dry; 177 decontaminations completed during pilot supported by local stakeholders and non-PRISM funding

CRISP PRISM Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (John Thompson)

- **Partnership Agreement:** The CRISP Steering Committee is developing a Partners Agreement to formalize the relationship and responsibilities of organizations that are on the Steering Committee. The committee is developing language that each of the Partner organization can sign and organizations that would like to serve as At-Large members of the Committee could sign.
- **Boot Brush Stations:** CRISP is working with partners to design and install boot brush stations at 6 priority sites by the end of the season. As an example, CRISP is working with New York City Department of Environmental Protection to install boot brush stations along the Ashokan Rail Trail, a recreational destination that sees some of the highest visitation in the Catskills.

- CRISP Brochure: CRISP is designing a new brochure highlighting 4 forest pests, 6 terrestrial plants and 6 aquatic invasive species. Each species is an important threat to the Catskills and the brochure includes a mix of Tier 1 Tier 2 species along with more established, underreported species.
- Incorporated Strategic Planning into 2023 Workplan: The priorities identified from the Group Concept Mapping strategic process have been incorporated into the CRISP 2023 Workplan. The priorities identified through stakeholders' input were refined by the Steering Committee this year, to be incorporated into the workplan and many of the most impactful tasks are already being implemented by staff and Partners.