

# New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

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Joe Martens  
Commissioner

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Invasive Species Council  
FROM: Leslie Surprenant  
RE: Meeting # 14 (20 April, 2012)  
DATE: 10 May, 2012

Council met at DEC HQ in Albany on 20 April, 2012; 10:00 – 2:00. Six Council representatives participated, meeting 2/3 quorum.

### ISC representatives present:

Kathy Moser, DEC, Co-Chair,  
Kevin King, DAM, Co-Chair  
John Wimbush, DOS  
Pam Otis, OPRHP  
Dan Spada, APA (6/17, 7/8)  
Shelah LaDuc, DOT (6/8, 7/22)

### Also present from Council agencies:

Leslie Surprenant, DEC (OISC)  
Dave Adams, DEC (OISC)  
Peter Dunleavy, DOT  
Matt Brower, DAM

### Present from non-Council organizations and public:

Hilary Smith, TNC, APIPP PRISM, IS Advisory Committee Chair  
Chuck O'neill, NYS Sea Grant / Cornell University (6/17)  
Meg Wilkinson, NY Natural Heritage Program, iMap contractor  
Jennifer Dean, NY Natural Heritage Program, iMap contractor  
Troy Weldy, IS Advisory Committee member/TNC  
Dorothy Evans, TNC, Natural Heritage Program  
Joelle Foskett, Adirondack Mountain Club

### **Introductions and Housekeeping**

- Introduced new DEC Co-Chair Kathy Moser, Deputy Commissioner for Natural Resources
- Council adopted meeting summary for 12-part 1, meeting 12 – part 2, and meeting 13

Meeting mostly catch-up last meeting held 9 months ago. Co-chairs are working together to revitalize Council.

### **Council Agency Focus – DOT**

Shelah LaDuc informed Council on DOT's progress on invasive species. Safety is top priority and can be compromised by invasive species (drainage, sight distance, hazard trees). Key points:

- 1000's DOT crew trained in invasive spp ID and awareness
- Use Integrated Vegetation Management approach
- Design/construction contracts include cleaning specifications (inspect and power wash)
- Does not allow hay
- Must be cost-effective
- NEED – partnerships to address off-ROW IS

*3 handouts (Five Yr Progress Report, Five Yr Progress Report Highlights, draft species list)*

**Action Items:**

- *Send Leslie construction specs to share with Council (Peter Dunleavy)*
- *Review Draft list of species not to be used in highway design "Landscape Architecture and Community Design For Transportation" (effective Sept. 2012); comments to Peter Dunleavy (Council, all)*

**Follow-up Discussion:** Council should address "weed free" soil, providers, and sources and develop region/ecosystem-specific seed mixes

**ISAC Report**

Hilary Smith provided 2012 draft annual objectives, updated operational guidelines approved by ISAC, and 12 new nominated representatives to replace those lost to attrition (total 25 members). Hilary is working to re-vitalize the ISAC and requested the council:

- Co-chairs approve the nominations and that DEC send package to Governor's office for approval
- Accept revised operational guidelines
- Provide a charge to ISAC

ISAC has a prior charge of identifying existing education and outreach efforts and needs. Subgroup to work with Chuck O'neill (Project Manager for statewide E-O contract with Cornell)

Next ISAC meeting: 20 June 10:00 – 2:30 at DAM HQ in Albany

*3 handouts (ISAC representative list; draft annual objectives, operational guidelines)*

**Feral Swine Management:**

Kathy Moser and Kevin King and updated Council on recent efforts: NY's feral swine primarily escapees and progeny from 13 hunting preserves, presented DEC PPT, DEC is working with DAM and USDA on a new inter-agency FS task force; legislation introduced this session but are not agency bills; sponsors are Assemblywoman Glick (A9438) and Senator Little (S6825). Pam Otis noted OPRHP has strong interest as FS have been seen in Minnewaska, Alleghany, and Finger Lakes State Parks

**"Five Year" Progress Report:**

Leslie Surprenant presented short PPT on highlights of draft progress report. Progress report's intended audience is elected officials and public; it will be < 20 pages with and executive summary and will feature highlights and bullets (not encyclopedic). Five Council agencies contributed content (Canals, DOT, DEC, State, and DAM). ISAC reviewed and commented on the report earlier this year.

**Action Items:** *Review and send any comments to Leslie; highlights of your agency's progress for inclusion are still welcome. (Council)*

**Council Draft IS Bills:**

No movement on boat transport bill; versions of list bill introduced this session (A9422 passed Assembly; S6826 reported out of Senate Environmental Committee)

**RFPs for Unfunded PRISMs (Western NY, Finger Lakes, Capital-Mohawk, Lower Hudson):**

Leslie Surprenant reported that the RFP for unfunded PRISMs has languished in DEC's Management and Budget / legal review for many months and has been the subject of several rounds of review to date. The first competitive bid package (Invitation for Bids) was submitted in July, 2008. Contracting requires about 30 steps with multiple reviewers at each step. Kathy Moser reported that DEC recognizes that procurement processes are dysfunctional and that DEC will address this, once the heavy workload imposed by the high volume hydraulic fracturing SGEIS is completed.

## **NYS Invasive Species Management Strategy Recommendations (Ecology and Environment Report)**

Kevin King requested this topic be deferred due to time constraints. Report was completed in August, 2011 under DAM contract.

### **Agricultural Invasive Species Eradication Grant**

Two rounds aquatic and one of terrestrial eradication grants have been funded (a second round of terrestrial grants was announced, reviewed but no awards were made due to fiscal constraints). Council generally agrees that the next round of grants should be agricultural invasive species and DAM has capacity to work through Soil and Water Conservation Committee to expedite procurement similar to other Council agencies partnering with Land Trust Alliance.

#### **Action Items:**

- DEC investigate options for sub-allocating funds ([Kathy Moser](#), [Leslie Surprenant](#))
- Discuss with SWCC ([Kevin King](#))
- DEC and DAM develop grant application modeled on DEC's prior grant rounds ([Leslie Surprenant](#), [Kevin King](#))

#### **Five Year Action Plan**

OISC provided Council copies of discussion draft (revised from version given to Council at meeting 12-part 2 and reviewed by ISAC). Discussion and follow-up deferred due to time constraints; needs to be focus topic of a Council meeting with sufficient time allotted.

*1 handout (New York State Invasive Species Action Plan Framework FY 2011-2015 Discussion Draft 5 April 2012)*

**Action Item:** Review and comment to Dave Adams ([Council agencies](#))

#### **Spending Plan: \$3.4 M in Invasive Species line of EPF in SFY 2012-13 Enacted Budget**

*"...for the implementation of the recommendations of the invasive species task force...including not less than \$100,000 for Lake George, provided that not less than \$1,000,000 be made available for invasive species eradication, and including grants related to the control and management of invasive species. Such funding for grants shall be provided on a competitive basis in consultation with the New York Invasive Species Council."*

Leslie Surprenant provided information on existing contract obligations and proposed options for expending the \$3.4M. OISC requested assistance from Council members to form contract work groups to help develop measurable deliverables that meet Council needs for new 5 year contracts as contracts expire.

Establishing a center for invasive species research is an ISTF recommendation. DAM co-chair opposes a new NY IS Research Institute contract due to perceived poor performance; however several other Council agencies support, citing the need for expertise to guide science-based decisions and management and suggested the problems caused by frequent expirations and work halts during the initial contract would not occur under a 5-year contract. It was noted that the agriculture industry has a cadre of contract researchers to advise management while natural resource managers lack this resource.

OISC proposed that DAM contract with a consultant to lead a collaborative effort to develop Phase 2 of the Comprehensive IS Management Plan; DAM is not interested in contracting this out at this time and prefers funds be made available for the agricultural invasive species eradication grant. Budget language calls for funding grants but does not require the entire \$1,000,000 be used for grants (*Ed. Note- language is "including*

grants”; funding used to eradicate infestations outside a competitive grant process would satisfy this language)

OISC is developing 2 Request for Quotes for non-native species risk assessments to support development of regulatory lists for non-native species, as called for in the “Four Tier List Report”. Should the list bill in the legislature be enacted, we will have only 18 months to complete risk assessments, reviews, public participation, etc and promulgate a regulatory list.

*1 handout (Environmental Protection Fund – Invasive Species SFY 12-13 Spending Plan Discussion/Consent Draft V. 19 April 2012)*

**Action Items:** *Dave Adams will work with Dan Spada (APA) will assist to develop deliverables for new NYISRI contract and with Peter Dunleavy (DOT) and Pam Otis (OPRHP) on the iMap database deliverables. Any other Council representative is welcome to assist.*

**Other IS Funds in the Enacted SFY 12-13 Budget:**

Kathy Moser informed Council that the Budget also includes:

- \$500,000 in Aid to Localities includes
  - \$50,000 - Chautauqua Lake
  - \$100,000 - Lake George
- \$275,000 for Eurasian Watermilfoil Control (Ed. Note: not sure where this is in budget)
- \$775,000 Conservation Fund Non-personal Service IS contractual services (local stakeholders and elected officials assume this is for hydrilla control in Cayuga Lk. inlet)

**ISAC Charge:**

**Council co-chairs charged ISAC with identifying the “big issues” and to “define the problem”. Asked ISAC to review the goals and objectives in the 5 Year Action Agenda and the strategies outlined in the Section 4 of NYS IS Management Strategy (report from Ecology and Environment) and provide feedback to the Council for highest priorities for the next year. OISC recommended ISAC identify invasive species pathways of particular concern and identify representative species for each high priority pathway.**

**Action Item:** *Identify the major issues, highest priority goals and objectives and report recommendations to Council for consideration. Recommend priority pathways and representative species for Council to tackle next (Hilary Smith lead)*

**PRISM Agreements:**

**All PRISM administration contracts require a Cooperating Agreement be signed between PRISM partners. Council agencies have experienced long delays in reviews and signing. Leslie Surprenant shared a proposed 1-page Statement of Support as an alternative to Council agencies’ signing the documents.**

**Action Item:** *Review and comment to Leslie on document (Council)*

**Wrap Up:**

Next meeting in late July TBA

**Action Item:** *Poll for best date (Leslie Surprenant)*