

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Office of Invasive Species Coordination, 5th Floor

625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-1052

Phone: (518) 402-9405 • Fax: (518) 402-9028

Website: www.dec.ny.gov



Alexander B. Grannis
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Invasive Species Council
FROM: Leslie Surprenant
RE: 1 December - Meeting # 11 Notes

DATE: 8 December 2010

The 11th Meeting of the New York Invasive Species Council was held at the Department of Environmental Conservation headquarters, 625 Broadway in Albany, NY on Wednesday, December 1. Five of the 9 member agencies were represented:

Jackie Moody-Czub, Co-Chair, DAM
Chris Amato, DEC, Co-Chair, DEC
John Wimbush, DOS
Pam Otis, OPRHP
Howard Goebel, Canals

Also present from Council agencies were:

Kevin King, DAM
Leslie Surprenant, DEC (OISC)
Dave Adams, DEC (OISC)
Bruce Williamson, DEC (Div of Lands and Forests)
Shaun Keeler, DEC (Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources)
Patricia Reixinger, DEC (Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources)

Present from non-Council organizations and public:

Chuck O'neill, NYS Sea Grant / Cornell University (Chair IS Advisory Committee)
Hilary Smith, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (Advisory Committee member)
Meg Wilkinson, NY Natural Heritage Program, iMap contractor
Rick Morse, E&E, Phase 1 of the Comprehensive Management Plan contractor
Marc Fuchs, Cornell University

The Council worked its way through the Agenda as planned. Following are some of the key discussion points and deliverables:

1. Housekeeping

The meeting began with the usual housekeeping information. Next, the Agenda was reviewed with no comment. The minutes (October 1 Meeting Notes memorandum from LJS) from the previous meeting were adopted unanimously with the meeting date corrected.

Chris announced staffing changes to the OISC: Eric Kasza transferred to DEC's Northville office to work on Forest Preserve plans and Leslie Surprenant has been appointed to OISC director. OISC will be working to fill Eric's former position.

2. Public Comments

No public comment

3. Clean Stock Pilot

Marc Fuchs presented a PPT on the 2005 - 2008 clean stock pilot (CSP) results for grape imports. The goal of CSP is to test an alternative to the costly 3-year process currently in place to verify disease-free status of nursery stock after stock is imported to US (grape in first phase; small fruits to follow.) The pilot resulted in 1500 virus-free grape vines being imported, tested and released for further propagation and sale. Disease testing is in collaboration with the source country in a facility demonstrating good sanitary practice and certification of disease-free status prior to import. Next steps may be to implement the CSP through certification of the stocks to provide "foundation blocks" of clean stock for propagation and sale by nursery operators.

4. Baitfish Regulations

Shaun Keeler discussed the emergency baitfish transport regulations established in 2006 following outbreaks of viral hemorrhagic septicemia-induced fish kills. VHS likely arrived in ship ballast water and spread through bait fish commerce and transport. Current regulations require baitfish be certified disease free prior to sale, prohibit overland transport of uncertified bait, and require baitfish taken by anglers to be used in the same water body (defined in reg) from which they are taken with no overland transport. Anglers, particularly in western NY, have pressed for some relaxation of the overland transport prohibition. DEC Bureau of Fisheries (BOF) has conducted 3 stakeholder meetings and 2 internal video conferences to solicit stakeholder input. Three potential changes have been considered: permit overland transport in 1 limited corridor; permit overland transport in a few limited corridors; remove overland transport restriction. Any change made, if any, will occur only if good compliance is expected. Regardless of the outcome, the restriction requiring baitfish taken by anglers must be used in the same water body.

5. Implementation Updates

Kevin, Leslie, Meg, Hilary and Chuck updated the ISC on progress toward implementing ISTF recommendations through contracts with partners. The Comprehensive IS Management Plan survey is complete and the work group will convene via conference call on 17 December. Contracts with Cornell University for statewide IS education and outreach and with the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development for the Catskills PRISM were finalized since the last ISC meeting. Leslie provided a table with implementation elements and progress.

Chuck requested, and ISC approved, ISC meeting minutes, draft bills and other products may be posted on the Clearinghouse website.

Websites: Clearinghouse: <http://nyis.info/> ; NY IS Research Institute: <http://nyisri.org/>
iMapInvasives: <http://imapinvasives.org/> APIPP: <http://www.adkinvasives.com/>

Additionally, a document developed by Eric Kasza titled “*Rapid Response Framework for Invasive Species*” was shared with ISC. This document can aid resource managers in responding to newly discovered invasive species infestations.

Action Item: Leslie will send Scope of Work for NYISRI and CCE to ISC.

6. Advisory Committee

Chuck reported that ISAC met via conference call on 23 November. ISAC will be reaching out to partners and developing a white paper for the ISC recommending next pathways and a short list of priority species for consideration of further action by ISC. ISAC will be cataloging education-outreach activities. ISAC plans to meet 4x/year mostly via conference call due to fiscal constraints. ISAC needs more participation from members.

7. Public Comment

Hilary Smith thanked the ISC for inviting Shaun Keeler to discuss DEC’s baitfish transport regulations and stated that several Adirondack groups oppose any relaxation of the current regulations.

8. Wrap-up

Meeting # 12 will be scheduled for late February. Leslie will send a “Doodle Poll”. Topics to discuss:

- a. budget
- b. other TBA

These notes are intended to meet the Open Meetings Law requirement for minutes. Please send me any corrections or suggested additions as soon as you can. Thanks very much.

LJS

Director
Office of Invasive Species Coordination

cc: C. O’Neill
D. Adams