

New York State Invasive Species Council

Meeting # 1 Summary

**13 February, 2008
2:00 – 5:00**

Public Assembly Room 129A

**NYS Dept. Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, Albany**

Meeting started 2:10 pm

Present –

Steve Sanford - DEC Director Office of Invasive Species Coordination (OISC)
Chris Amato - DEC Deputy Commissioner for Natural Resources
Jackie Moodie-Czub, DAM Deputy Commissioner
Curt Stiles –APA Chairman (call in)
Dan Spada – APA Supervisor, Natural Resources Analysis
Cliff Siegfried – NYS Dept. Ed. Director, NYS State Museum
Dave Curtis – NYS Thruway Authority (NYSTA) representing Carrie Laney, Director
Office of Transportation Planning
Carmella Mantello – Canals Corp. (CC) Director
Tom Lyons – NYSOPRHP Director, Resource Management
Andy Beers – NYSOPRHP Executive Deputy Commissioner
Mary Ivey – DOT Director, Office of Environment
Greg Capobianco - DOS Assist. Bur. Chief, Bureau of Resource Management
Geo Stafford - DOS Deputy Secretary of State for Coastal Resources
Lori Williams – Director, National Invasive Species Council (NISC)

(also present: representatives from ISTF steering committee and interested orgs, DEC;
event webcast [15 viewers for live feed])

Welcome and Introduction –

Chris Amato and Jackie Moodie-Czub – opening comments
Chris stated that procedure for any council decisions would be made by a “vote and second” (Note: assume this means motion, a second and a vote?). Jackie noted that NY’s

status as a major port of entry and border state with Canada makes invasive species a large issue with major negative impacts on agriculture.

From Task Force to Council - Presentation – Steve and Bob Mungari

Key points:

- Most ISTF recommendations being implemented
- New OISC
- 4-tier recommendation list; develop process

Member Reports

DAM – Jackie – Bob Mungari

- *Handout* – Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey (CAPS) under coop agreement w/ USDA
- Apiary inspection; annual; honeybee reduced 70% since 1980's (noted that honey bee introduced in 1600's)
- Plum pox inspection network
- Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB) quarantine
- Golden Nematode – contained in NYS for 70 yrs through quarantine and control program in cooperation w/ USDA; similar nematode in ID, golden nematodes in Quebec and Alberta, CAN. Seed potato and soils spread. Golden nematode due to coop control program.
- Partnerships w/ DEC – firewood, ALB response

DEC – Chris and Steve

- OISC and staff
- Coordinate inter-dept activities
- Provide tech assist to ISC
- Ballast water regulation; Fed leadership needed
- Firewood regs – response to Emerald Ash Borer
- Habitat management and species management
 - eradication grants,
 - species management (≥ 13 spp) (examples: feral pigs, lamprey, Didymo, Chinese Mitten Crab, Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia monitoring and regs)

Dept. of Ed. (NYS Museum) - Cliff

- 200 yrs research; collections, taxonomic expertise, publications, botanical guides
- IS research – zebra mussel (ZM) impact on water quality, patented bacteria for ZM control; soon to be licensed for market
- School groups
- Natural History Conference

- “Invaders” exhibit – open April 15, 2008 through March, 2009.
- Constructing permanent natural history gallery including IS and exotics
- Biodiversity Research Inst (cooperating with OPRHP and SUNY)
- Looking for Chinese mitten crab specimen

DOT – Mary Ivey

handout

- *Phragmites sp.* research support – 4 yr project w/ interim deliverables, DEC and DAM advisory roles
- Best Management Practices Japanese knotweed
- Statewide Policy Changes – ex. Discontinue hay mulch (weed source)
- Roadside Weed Mgt guide
- Inter-agency coordination – participates in Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM); coordinators for each PRISM
- Staff awareness; workforce education – “IS knowledge team”
- Strategic priorities –
 - Prevention,
 - Monitoring
- Working with partners – ex. Assoc. of Gen Contractors (suggested AGC as ISAC member)

DOS – Greg and George

- Self-regulating tide gate to reconnect wetland to Long Island Sound(Oyster Bay); *phragmites sp.* Reduced and native *Spartina sp.* returning
- Grants - 2 boat wash stations on Lk George (2000 boats inspected)
- \$30,000 EPF grant to Darren Fresh Water Institute – ZM research
- Sandy Creek watershed – Great Lakes Conservation Council – ecosystem-based mgt.
 - Eradicated 160 ac swallowwort, more to come.
 - Working w/ SLELO PRISM and TNC
 - Coop between Cornell, DEC, DOS releasing PL weevils
- Ocean and GL Cons Council – need comp mgt plan
- What can Smart Growth cabinet do to push IS agenda
- Look at DOS grant programs, adjustments needed?
- Regulatory programs – evaluate for any changes needed
- Municipal training programs

Canal Corp (CC) – Carmella

- Mission is to operate, maintain and promote all NYS Canals
- Partnering w/ Lk Champ Basin Program – looking at species migration
- Partnering w/ DEC for so Lk Champ weed harvesting (desire transfer of weed harvesting equip to DEC)

- Distributing IS info via website, weekly radio address, link to Empire News
- 04 – 05 – inventory of six IS throughout canal system (per ISTF request)
- Participated in Finger Lakes PRISM meeting and monthly PRISM conf calls
- Local grant projects – allow access for IS removal
- Future Plans
 - Continue partnerships including Lk Champ
 - Canal users education, fishing and env groups
 - Distribute IS info
 - Boater education
 - Work force training including NYS Police boat patrol
 - Signage at locks and harbors
 - Routine inspection of CC boats

NYS Thruway - Dave

- Future: Looking for guidance from DEC, the Council, and DOT.
- Summer of 04, inventoried select invasive species along its infrastructure. Collected information as two separate efforts.
 - First, as location of MS4 outfalls were recorded, location of IS was also recorded using GPS for incorporation into GIS.
 - Second, maintenance staff was given field identification sheets to assist in further inventory. Resulting info was entered into GIS.
- TA utilizes DOT's Project Development Manual/Environmental Procedures Manual as guidance. IS identification & control wording is starting to be used in scope of services for IS identification/control on capital projects.
- Capital projects are reviewed & comments made to designers on IS issues.
- Coordination/participation in PRISMs most likely will occur at Division level, as appropriate.

APA – Curt

- Regulatory agency; no IS regulatory authority; working collaboratively on IS
- Priorities
 - APIP is most important partner for IS management in Adirondacks
 - Streamline permitting process
 - Identify opportunities to address IS through permitting, inventory, ed/outreach

OPRHP – Tom

Handout

- Minnewaska State Park IS mgt plan (Bob O'brien) – nearly complete, plan development and on-the-ground control projects (over 50 in '07) occurring simultaneously; actively participating in PRISM
- Finger Lakes and other PRISM involved in small projects
- Wood pest control – participating in education at campgrounds

- OPRHP to remain active in ISTF Steering Committee, databases, mgt plans, etc
- Master plan initiative – 3 new planners to be hired; includes IS identification and control
- 5 new stewardship biologists to be hired (4 in Albany) – habitat restoration and management
- Statewide Comprehensive Recreation Plan (SCORP); includes IS control
- Regional work group

Federal Perspective - Lori Williams

Presentation - “Federal Perspective on IS”

IS – federal definition EO 13112

- Not native to ecosystem, introduction causes or likely to cause harm to environment or humans

NISC established by EO – function is to coordinate many Fed agencies and depts.

- \$1.3B budget; 90% to USDA
- Promote action at state, local, tribal levels
- Develop web-based info network
- Draft/update National IS mgt plan (currently under public review)
- Structure
 - Council members
 - Co-chair principals – Depts. of Agriculture and Commerce and Interior
 - Policy liaisons – one per dept. or agency
 - ISAC – feedback and advice from diverse stakeholders to NISC

Draft National IS Mgt Plan 2008 – 2012

- Comment period open – seeking input
- Includes performance goals

Prevention

- Develop and test risk assessment tools for intentional introductions of IS
- Rank key pathways; develop means to reduce movement through key pathways
- Best Mgt Practice and Codes of Conduct
- Education
- ID industry alternatives to invasive species – research, positive message
- Early Detection –Rapid Response (ED-RR) – improve detection, flexible funding
- Legislation – 60 bills introduced
 - Not national priority,
 - Bills separately address aquatics, plants, etc.
 - No funding

ISCs established in 26 states, others w/ Invasive Plant Councils (IPC)

- How can NISC link more states together to interact w/ NISC? Establish regional approach (similar to Aquatic Invasive Species regional panels).

New Issues

- Climate change
- IS as biofuels
- Upcoming discussion of IS at Convention of Biological Diversity

2008 NISC initiatives

- New NISAC (TBA)
- Revise National IS Mgt. Plan
- Work w/ state IS councils and other stakeholders (Lori – NY is poised for success; IS legislation addressed key points contributing to failure of other efforts)
- Revise website
- Focus on partnerships

ISC Questions for Lori –

Lori mentioned a need for better coordination of biocontrol research priorities; states should have more input on identifying research problems.

Q.What is NISC – ISAC relationship?

A.ISAC is NISC's communication w/ stakeholders. ISAC can make recommendations to NISC, provide early feedback on potential rule making and help with plans. ISAC must know its task and have procedures explained. ISAC meetings and all documents are public.

Q. Are there any good examples of comprehensive IS mgt. plans in other states?

A. FL, CA, HI, OR and WA have plans. Some states have mgt plans but no council (FL and CA). CA plan is good though segregated into aquatic and terrestrial. OR plan is good and WA is new. Have deadlines!

Q. Any advice on dealing with lists?

A. Approach process with:

- Stakeholder input
- Transparent process
- Learning from others' successes and failures
- Flexibility - mechanism to modify when new info comes
- Consensus; don't be overly ambitious

- Beware Federal agency involvement (angered aquaculture industry in WA)
- Know what species the pet and nursery industries depends upon; target economically marginal having large impacts; industry must be confident with process; will need to know to whom to go above staff level (decision makers)

Q. What can NYISC do to help NISC and ISAC?

A. Lori – success stories, web content re: what states are doing; get states' communications out to leverage funding (few groups are pushing agenda that may not be best for states)

Forward any questions for Lori to Steve.

ACTION: OISC will prepare recommendations for NY ISAC – membership and suggest operational guidelines

Next meeting – May? Steve / Leslie will poll. Location must permit web-casting. Please send any agenda suggestions to Steve.

(NOTE: Meeting # 2 May 12, 1:00 – 4:30 at NYS Museum)

Carmello suggested ISC see the canal on tug boat ride through locks; perhaps a meeting side trip.

Prepared by:
Leslie J. Surprenant
Invasive Species Management Coordinator
OISC
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