

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Office of Invasive Species Coordination, 5th Floor**

625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-1052

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Website: www.dec.ny.gov



Joe Martens
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Invasive Species Council
FROM: Leslie Surprenant
RE: Meeting # 21
DATE: June 6, 2014

Council met at NYS Department of Agricultural and Markets Produce Room in Albany; 10:00 – 2:00 pm. There were not 6 council agencies represented; therefore, there was not 2/3 quorum for decision-making. Kathy welcomed new DAM representative, Cris Logue, and Thruway Authority representative David Curtis. Elizabeth Novak, new Thruway Authority representative, was not able to attend.

ISC Representatives Present: Also Present from Council Agencies:

Kathy Moser, DEC, Co-Chair	Leslie Surprenant, DEC (ISCU)
Christopher Logue, DAM, Co-Chair	Susan Waters, DEC
Pamela Otis, OPHRP	Peter Dunleavy, DOT
	Stephanie DeLano, DOT
	David Curtis, NYSTA
	Timothy Sweeney, DAM

Present from Non-Council Organizations and the Public:

Hilary Smith; TNC, APIPP PRISM, IS Advisory Committee Chair
Rob Williams, SLELO PRISM
Eric Carlson, ESFP
Dorothy Evans, NYHHP

Roundtable Highlights and Updates

Agriculture and Markets - Chris Logue

- Expansion of Asian Long Horned Beetle (ALB) on Long Island – found just outside existing quarantine; discussing with DEC Lands and Forests and investigating options for eradicating
- Plum Pox Virus in Western New York – strong eradication efforts underway
- Golden Nematode – working toward deregulation of lands on Long Island that have not been used as agricultural fields for ~ 70 years

Transportation - Peter Dunleavy

- No new initiatives underway; continuing work on existing projects *
- Working on customizing invasive species construction
- Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative is planning a June Webinar for a round-table “Around the Great Lakes” for states’ departments of transportation in
 - **ACTION: Peter to send information on this webinar to Leslie Surprenant to share**

Parks, Recreation, Historic Preservation - Pamela Otis

- OPRHP received an 18-month grant Great Lakes (GL) Restoration Initiative Grant for Boat Launch Stewards Program (about 13 stewards this year, 1 more next year); most of the GL drainage will have some boat steward coverage except Finger Lakes
- OPRHP has \$1.5 million in the State Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget and ~40% of it will support OPRHP’s invasive species projects including strike teams. Each team is assigned to a stewardship biologist. Vehicle shortage remains; leasing would reduce available funds for control / restoration projects.
- Hemlock wooly adelgid was detected in Allegany State Park
- OPRHP is working on boat launch regulations for its boat access sites and is communication with DEC on consistency, to the extent feasible.
- OPRHP has ~ 150 sites where a boat can be launched
- OPRHP and DEC are installing AIS disposal stations

Thruway Authority - David Curtis

- TA is mostly working on general awareness of invasive species
- Has a plan to identify and dispose of IS
- Guidance on IS is on TA maintenance internal website

Kathy Moser – DEC

- Internal draft of Statewide Aquatic IS Plan under Div. Fish, Wildlife, and Marine lead by Bureau of Fisheries (Phil Hulbert) is under internal review and has been shared with a limited number of ISC agencies and external stakeholders; DEC hopes to release and obtain comments on this in late May.
- Pam Otis requested Council be informed prior to
- Wants to train DEC Officers after boat launch and list bill regulations
- DEC is under substantial pressure to issue eradication grants but staff capacity to deliver this is problematic

Leslie Surprenant - DEC

- DEC Boat Launch Regulations - DEC (Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources) proposed regulations prohibiting launch or retrieval of boats and trailers with visible plant or animals on them and requires draining all boating gear and equipment. 100 comments were received and DFWMR is working on final regulations package.

- Implementation / Funding - about 49 contracts, purchase orders, etc. have been executed or are planned to implement and deliver invasive species projects for a total value of ~ \$28.2 million dollars committed or expended
- All 8 PRISMS, IS Research Institute, Clearinghouse, Education and Outreach, Database, and non-native species assessment contracts were all in fully executed status as of mid-November, 2013.
- SLELO and APIPP PRISM contracts expired 12/31/13 and a new contract consolidating work that was delivered under 2 separate contracts into a single contract is in process; each PRISM will have a separate work scope and budget.
- Ballast Water - Dave Adams is representing NY on a Great Lakes States Ballast Water Task Force

ISAC - Hilary Smith, Chair NY IS Advisory Committee

Hilary Smith was re-elected chair of NY IS Advisory Committee.

Update on December and March meetings:

- NYISAC considering outreach and events for its members to organize and/or attend during NY Invasive Species Awareness Week
- Members are willing to help education and outreach efforts on new regulations; request Council guidance on content and messaging
- Some ISAC members were unhappy that there was no DEC press release on the invasive species list regulations
- Education Outreach – ISAC workgroup developed draft statewide Slogan and a Logo for IS outreach
- ISAC finalized its annual work plan
- ISAC wants to be involved in helping the ISC prioritize projects as well as providing feedback on Agency/ISC initiatives prior to public comment (e.g. mute swan mgt plan and AIS mgt plan) and desires increased transparency in the distribution of Environmental Protection Funds(e.g. sharing the list of funded projects)
- Discussed outreach for IS list regulations
- Four Primary Concepts for IS outreach:
 - Online bookshelf of info on NY IS Clearinghouse (under contract with Cornell)
 - IS Awareness Week (July 6-12, 2014)
 - Slogan and Logo to be used by all partners for unified message and brand logo
 - Public Awareness Poll – to determine level of awareness of public regarding invasive species and spread prevention
- Provided 3 options for Logo/Slogan to ISAC
 1. “The Empire State Strikes Back Against IS”
 2. “Prevent, Protect, Preserve NYS from IS”
 3. “Stop the Invasion. Protect NY from IS”

ISAC selected Choice #3 presented by Hilary and ISC agreed to use this logo and slogan

NY IS Awareness Week (NYISAW)

- NYISAW subgroup is working with Chuck O’Neill (*Project Manager Clearinghouse and Education Outreach*); NYISAW webpages are <http://nyis.info/blog>
- Hope to have Council Press Release and Governor’s Proclamation for NYISAW
- Each Council Agency was asked to lead or participate in one action during ISAW. Hilary Smith provided a list of 10 ways to take action during IS Week:
 1. Post invasive news on website
 2. Include IS in newsletters
 3. Send email, blog post or tweet to members
 4. Send presentation
 5. Host training sessions
 6. Conduct an IS control project
 7. Showcase an IS display
 8. Organize an IS mailing
 9. Post an IS message on a sign/marquee
 10. Create an IS Public Service Announcement

Rulemaking – Leslie Surprenant

- 4 public hearings in December went well; likely due to strong stakeholder engagement throughout process
- 264 Unique comments on Part 575 IS regulatory list regulations
- Still working on finalizing responses to comments
- No substantive changes in final rules
 - Native Species – should be parallel to NYS Non-Native
 - Proposed to put Japanese Mystery Snail as “prohibited”
- Expect to submit final version in June 2014; takes effect 6 month after final published
- Many comments to ban Burning Bush and Norway Maple; likely no changes

Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Long Horned Beetle Efforts – Chris Logue

- EAB –
 - Found in November 2013 North of Syracuse
 - Plan to include Madison County in the quarantine area
- ALB –
 - 1 new find in 2013; just outside quarantine - delimited infestation
 - Visited 50,000 properties – the area of infestation includes industrial property and cemeteries near Floyd Bennett Field
 - Plan tree climbing survey in the Spring
 - NY will get additional USDA funding for the find
 - DAM would like to increase the outreach for spread prevention

Boat Launch Proposed Regulations – Leslie Surprenant

DEC’s Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources (DFWMR) Proposed proposed aquatic invasive species transport regulations that apply to boaters on all of DEC’s waters and over 400 boat access sites administered by DFWMR

- DEC has express authority only on its own lands

Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan – Leslie Surprenant

- DEC inter-division team (7 staff) drafted an updated AIS management plan
- DFWMR (Phil Hulbert) is lead
- Overall goal is to prevent the spread of Aquatic IS in New York State
- Will share initial draft with select Council agencies and stakeholders for review and comment before Public Comment
- Aim to publish in Environmental Notice Bulletin in late June for public review and comment Phil Hulbert developed final draft

Exec's Proposed SFY 14-15 State Budget – Kathy Moser & Leslie Surprenant

(Handout)

- \$4.6 M in Env. Protection Fund line of Exec's proposed budget (*Editor's note: \$4.7 in Enacted*) for the budget
- ISCU (Leslie) shared table of IS funds spent to date and stated there are many competing priorities –
 - FWMR inquired about funding Sea Lamprey treatments; no decision by ISC
 - DEC Lands and Forests – requested and received funds to treat reemerged Oak Wilt in Schenectady County
- Hilary Smith stated that the NYISAC should be consulted on funding priorities and the allocation of funds should be distributed to members
- Pam Otis stated that proposed spending plans should be presented to the ISC for discussion before budgets are submitted
- Leslie Surprenant noted that ISCU is not asked to submit budget requests in advance and is requested only to submit EPF project proposal budgets for EPF cash management, once the State Budget is enacted.

Kathy – suggested ISC discuss budget and projects when the SFY 2014-15 Enacted Budget is in place

Presentation - on SLELO PRISM Accomplishments – Rob Williams

Accomplishments in the Past 2 to 3 Years

SLELO is administered by TNC; 13 partners working together
The 5-Year Strategic Plan includes a Steering Committee/Outreach Committee/Annual Work Plans and 7 Goals based on contract Scope of Work (*Prevention, Early Detection/Rapid Response, Control, Education and Outreach, Cooperation, Information Management, Site Restoration*)

GOAL 1 – PREVENTION (Swallowwort major problem)

- *Accomplishments – prevention zone at Tug Hill (ISPZ)
- *7 Forest Pest Prevention activities conducted and surveillance at all 21 priority areas
- *Partner activities such as stewardship, etc.

GOAL 2 – EARLY DETECTION/RAPID RESPONSE

- *Early detection on all 24 priority areas
- *HPA protocol – developed
- *Completed early detection at Tug Hill

- *Completed 5 rapid level responses (these are more complicated and time consuming)
- *Completed 2 level 2 rapid responses (these are easier)

GOAL 3 - CONTROL

- *Used: Eradication, containment and suppression
- *Treated 136 Giant Hogweed sites
- *Treated Japanese Knotweed along Salmon River, etc. – 3 Year Initiative to Suppress

GOAL 4 – EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- *Very active committee
- *Have 7 citizen outreach events
- *Supported Sea Grants Boat Launch
- *Distributed 700 Flyers
- *Develop Exhibits
- *Hold Conferences
- *Digital short on U-Tube
- *Live Interviews on Radio
- *Establish a Volunteer Monitoring Network

GOAL 5 - COOPERATION

- *Share resources, information, data and expertise
- *Work to add new species to the List
- *Cooperate on rapid response and field work

GOAL 6 – INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- *Posted all field reports on the website
- *Created interactive Resource Directory on the website

GOAL 7 – SITE RESTORATION

- *Develop, Implement and Restoration Methods
- Worked to suppress 86% of Japanese Knotweed along the Salmon River Corridor
- Helped to restore 50.02 acres of globally rare alvar communities in East Lake Ontario
- Restored 1952 acres of rare “Fen” habitat
- Worked towards restoring 3.6 acres of freshwater dune barrier

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

1. Reach beyond backyard conservation
2. Inter-PRISM collaboration
3. Pursuing bio control for Swallowwort and Water Chestnut
4. Conduct DNA sampling analysis
5. Establishing additional IZPSs
6. Partners make all the difference in protecting the ecological integrity of Eastern Ontario Basin, etc.

Research Proposal – Leslie Surprenant (Bernd Blossey)

(Handout)

2 PRISMs (SLELO and LIISMA) and Bernd Blossey (Project Manager, NYIS Research Institute) submitted research priorities

- ISCU selected the two projects most ready for research (biocontrol for Phragmites and Water Chestnut) asked for Council to select the project to fund next
- Council consensus was to fund both projects with DOT funding the Phragmites via RFP and DEC funding the water chestnut through a contract amendment with NYISRI after the new coordinator is hired
- Hilary Smith asked if the process to submit research proposals will be formalized (i.e. template for content developed and advertised)

Next Meeting: June 11 10:00 – 2:00; NY Association of Counties, 540 Broadway, Albany

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Invasive Species Council; Hilary Smith, ISAC Chair
FROM: Leslie Surprenant, Leader Invasive Species Coordination Unit
RE: Meeting # 22 (June 11, 2014) Joint Meeting with IS Advisory Committee
DATE: August 14, 2014

Council and IS Advisory Committee met at the New York State Association of Counties in Albany; 10:00 – 2:00 pm. There were 7 council agencies represented; therefore, there meeting the 2/3 quorum for decision-making. Katie Vescio welcomed the group and invited ISC and ISAC to consider having future meetings in their large and well suited board room.

ISC Representatives Present:

Kathy Moser, DEC, Co-Chair
Jackie Moody Czub, DAM Co-Chair
Christopher Logue, DAM
Pamela Otis, OPHRP
Shelah LaDuc, DOT
Howard Goebel, CC

Also Present from Council Agencies:

Leslie Surprenant, DEC (ISCU)
Peter Dunleavy, DOT
David Adams, DEC (ISCU)
Ed Snizek, APA
Robert Romeo, Thruway
Bruce Williamson, DEC
Jason Denham, DEC
Francis Sheehan, DEC

Present from Invasive Species Advisory Committee:

Hilary Smith; IS Advisory Committee Chair
Eric Carlson, Empire State Forest Products Assocn.
Bill Harman, NYS Fed of Lake Assocns.
Charlie Scheer, NYS Farm Bureau
David Decker, Audubon NY
Meredith Taylor, NYC Dept. Env. Protection
Karl Schoeberl, Environment and Energy Alliance of NY
Richard Powell, NY Upstate Am. Soc. Landscape Architects
George Robinson, SUNY Albany, Biodiversity Research Inst.
Elizabeth Seme, NYS Turfgrass Assocn.
David Morabito, NY Forest Owners Assocn.
Troy Weldy, TNC
Katie Vescio, NYS Assocn. of Counties
Martin Lowney, The Wildlife Society
Dylan Parry, SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry
Mike Mitchell, NYS Flower Industries
Holly Cargill Cramer – NYS Nursery and Landscape Association

Present from Public:

Erin Vennie-Vollrath, APIPP

ISAC Update – Hilary Smith

ISAC March Meeting minutes – accepted unanimously (motion made by Bill Harman, seconded by Mike Mitchell)

Report from ISAC meeting – ISAC wants to have more input on EPF spending plans and management plans (e.g. Aquatic Invasive Species and Mute Swan plans)

IS Awareness Week logo developed and accepted at prior ISC meeting; noted Dept Motor Vehicles has link to DEC's aquatic invasive species spread prevention pages

IS Awareness Week July 6 – 12 Activities –

- Drafted a Governor's Proclamation for NY's first IS Awareness Week

- Clearinghouse webpages www.nyis.info/blog

 - Media kit for the web site under development; will include a fact sheet, DAM and DEC press contacts

 - Calendar of events

 - Added event leaders resource section

- Drafted two press releases – one for state agencies; one for PRISMs

- Exploring social media options (Twitter, FaceBook)

- Investigating possible interviews with WAMC reporters (Capital Press Room, The Roundtable)

- Developing talking points

- Encouraging all Council agencies, ISAC members and PRISMs to host events

- Contacting trade organizations and journals

- Considering metrics to evaluate the success

- Inviting local legislators to events

- Ordered banners, stickers and tattoos

ISC Meeting # 22 summary – accepted.

Roundtable – ISC Agency and ISAC Member Plans for NY's First Annual IS Awareness Week

ISC Agencies:

APA – Ed Snizek

Will provide links to materials on their web site and are considering the use of social media and resolution

DAM – Chris Logue

Exploring media options

OPRHP – Pamela Otis

Several events, mostly focused on terrestrial species planned

DOT – Shelah LaDuc

No ISAW-specific plans; may have a display at DOT HQ

Canal Corp – Howard Goebel

CC may use social media during ISAW; no ISAW-specific events planned (is in 2nd year of boat stewards with 10 stewards for education and outreach)

Thruway Authority – Robert Romeo

Will place DEC's aquatic invasive species tip strips in Thruway rest areas and would host PRISM or other groups to have information tables

DEC – Jason Denham, Bruce Williamson

DEC Forest Health Lab will be involved with a Balsam Woolley Adelgid event in the Adirondacks, an EAB event at Five Rivers, and a possible kudzu pull on Long Island

(Note: DEC ISCU was not called upon for an update; however, the record should reflect that ISCU was planning and assisting with events including a boat inspection demo and outreach on DEC's new AIS spread prevention regulations and was scheduled to present a talk at Huyck Preserve and working on the "roll out plan", Governor's Proclamation and a DEC Press Release)

ISAC Members:

Flower Industry – Mike Mitchell

Will email constituents with information and are interested in any available brochures or wallet cards

NYS Assocn. of Counties – Katy Vescio

Association of Counties will use social media to alert constituents and considering a proclamation of support

USDA – APHIS – Martin Lowney

No ISAW-specific events planned (involved in Eurasian boar and mute swan work)

NYS Turf Grass Assoc. – Elizabeth Seme

No ISAW-specific events planned; interested in use of logo and e-mail

Biodiversity Research Institute – George Robinson

BRI will host a talk by Leslie Surprenant, DEC ISCU, as part of its summer guest speaker sessions; volunteer events

Landscape Architects – Dick Powell

Policy statement on invasives

Environment and Energy Alliance – Karl Schoeberl

Possible public radio interview and field trip

The Nature Conservancy – Hilary Smith

TNC will support PRISM events via social media; Hilary working on supporting documents as AIPPP PRISM leader

NYC Dept. Environmental Protection – Meredith Taylor

Planning two ISAW events - earthworm survey/I Fish NY event and an AIS plant display; training with Westchester County Parks; will use social media and email blasts (also noted that DEP has a newsletter article on spiny waterflea)

Audubon – David Decker

Invasives pull at the nature center; possible social media

NY Farm Bureau – Charlie Scheer

No ISAW-specific events planned; mentioned Cornell Coop Extn efforts (weed wagon – funded under PRISM contract, alternatives to Suffolk Co “Do Not Sell” species brochure)

Federation of Lakes Associations- Bill Harman

No ISAW-specific events planned. Offered to advertise at NYSFOLA and develop poster.

(Reported on other events and projects over last decade: FOLA conference, newsletter, Otsego Lake clean-up day, waterchestnut removal at two sites, purple loosestrife biocontrol follow-up surveys, walleye stocking to reduce alewife, field programs for 1200 pre-college students, Otsego Lake festival, and a training program for PRISM boat stewards)

NY Forest Owners Association – David Moribito

No ISAW-specific events planned except plans to use email outreach; hosts ~ 20 woods walks annually which often include invasive species content, plan to use for ISAW, would like handouts

NY Nursery and Landscape Association – Holly Cargill-Cramer

Will post information online; encouraging members to host events possible Long Island event

Kathy Moser ended discussion, commented ISAW will raise awareness and may benefit future resource availability

Report on E. Rochester School District Curriculum – Collette Moribito

Reported pre-K through 6th grade and grades 7, 10 and 11 in East Rochester that includes invasive species concepts, in part due to potential jobs. The primary example used is the zebra mussels. SUNY ESF has a course on invasives that all students in the Ecology/Field Biology programs take.

- ✓ **ACTION ITEM:** Collette will explore possible Department of Education contacts for future Council meetings. (*DONE*)

Mission Statement – Leslie Surprenant (2 handouts)

Provided a draft mission statement and examples from other States. Discussion/debate on use of term “prevent” in the mission statement; suggestions to reorder the statement; suggestion to review enabling legislation for ISC; favored CA, AK and the US Forest Service invasive species-related mission statements.

- ✓ **ACTION ITEM:** Leslie will review enabling legislation, redraft the Mission Statement and share MS in advance of next meeting for consent.

Regulatory and Legislative Updates – Leslie Surprenant, Kathy Moser, et al

DEC – released final boat launch aquatic invasive species spread prevention regulations, effective June 4, 2014.

OPRHP – working on regulations similar to DEC's

Three NYS Legislative bills related to IS introduced: statewide AIS spread prevention bill similar to DEC regulation (Lifton and O'mara); bill requiring DEC to produce downloadable AIS spread prevention signs and to post signs (Little), and bill authorizing Soil and Water Conservation Districts to control invasive species (sponsor?) (*Editor's note: SWCD bill signed by Gov*). Also introduced: bill regarding feral cat neuter and release

Part 575 Invasive Species Regulations – final regulations under DEC Exec review; plans to train Environmental Law Enforcement to be developed; TNC interested in assisting in developing labeling language for regulated invasive species.

It was noted that standardized messages and education and outreach modules are important for the regulations. Suggestion was made to also reach out to growers and growers meetings, as well as big box stores, over the winter if possible.

Invasive Species Funding - Leslie Surprenant (1 handout)

Enacted budget language for SFY 2014-15 has EPF Invasive Species line of \$4.7 Million with carve outs for Lake George Park Commission (\$550,000) and invasive species management including grants (\$1,000,000)

Proposed new SFY 2014-15 Spending: Invasive Species Coordination and Administration Services - \$250,000; Emergency Response - \$370,000

Discussion on priorities for ISCU work: consensus focus on action/strategic planning and education and outreach. ISCU noted need to increase rapid response capacity; discussed and deferred to future meeting with possible focus on DEC's 2010 draft RR guidelines.

Invasive Species Grants – Chris Logue, Kathy Moser

DEC investigated possibility of budget language allowing a specific non-profit to administer grants but was not successful. Now investigating other options on delivering IS "eradication" grants

Agricultural invasive species project funding and grants – \$1.2 Million sub-allocated DAM; \$363,000 committed – plum pox virus, sudden oak death monitoring, research on biocontrol for spotted wing Drosophila, Support for Cornell Plant Diagnosis and ID, and Potato Variety testing to ensure compliance with Golden Nematode de-regulation. Considering IS small grants using remaining ~ \$660,000. (*attachment to summary*)

Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan Update – Kathy Moser

DEC shared first draft with select stakeholders for review and comment; incorporated input as appropriate, briefed Governor's office, will brief DEC Exec; hope to release for public comment this summer.

Next Meeting: Suggestion that Fall meeting focus be on priority setting and spending plan and Spring meeting focus on planning with (K. Moser). Also suggested next meeting include discussion on how to raise resources (funding and staff) and gain positive press (K. Moser). Canal Corp (H. Goebel) offered to provide an update on the Erie Canal at Tonawanda hydrilla control project.

NOTE: Meeting # 23 will be Friday, Sept. 26 from 10:00 – 2:00; DEC Albany HQ Rm 526

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Invasive Species Council; Hilary Smith, ISAC Chair
FROM: Leslie Surprenant, Leader Invasive Species Coordination Unit
RE: Meeting # 23 (Sept. 26, 2014) NY IS Council
DATE: October 21, 2014

Council met at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in Albany on September 26, 2014 from 10:00 – 2:00 pm. There were 6 council agencies represented; therefore, thereby meeting the 2/3 quorum for decision-making.

ISC Representatives Present:

Kathy Moser, DEC, Co-Chair
Jackie Czub, DAM Co-Chair
Christopher Logue, DAM
Pamela Otis, OPHRP
Shelah LaDuc, DOT
Howard Goebel, CC

Also Present from Council Agencies:

Leslie Surprenant, DEC (ISCU)
Peter Dunleavy, DOT
David Adams, DEC (ISCU)
Dave Curtis, Thruway
Francis Sheehan, DEC
Melissa Plemons, OPRHP
Jeanne Konz, DEC
Joseph Therrien, DEC

Present from Invasive Species Advisory Committee:

Present from Public:

Brendan Quirion, TNC / APIPP
Bernd Blossey, Cornell University
Carrie Brown-Lima, Cornell University / NYISRI
Meg Wilkinson, SUNY ESF / NHP
Rob Williams, TNC / APIPP

Meeting #22 Summary – Leslie Surprenant

Meeting summary with slight corrections was accepted.

ISAC Update – Dave Adams

Dave Adams relayed Hilary Smith's report. Hilary has taken a position with the US Department of Interior in Washington, DC. The last meeting of the AC was jointly held with the ISC on June 11. The next AC meeting is 11/24 from 10:00-2:00 at DAM. Elections will be held for a new Chair and Vice-Chair to serve two-year terms. Rob Williams, SLELO PRISM, will replace Hilary Smith as the PRISM representative. 2015 priorities will be discussed. A draft 2014 Annual Report will be completed by the Vice-Chair by 12/31.

ISAW Report – Leslie Surprenant

ISAW report was relayed by Leslie Surprenant. More than 100 events were held across the State. Metrics were compiled by Hilary Smith and forwarded to Leslie. There was consensus to hold ISAW again in July 12-18, 2015. The Council suggested the PRISMs weigh in on the date as they are the core of ISAW. Kathy suggested compiling press stories and submitting them to the Governor's office.

ACTION ITEM: Kathy Moser will contact DEC's Press Office for the stories and package them for the Gov's office.

Public Awareness Poll – Leslie Surprenant

Cornell (under Education – Outreach Contract extension) initiated a geographically-stratified Public Awareness Poll in September via telephone to determine the level of awareness the public has of invasive species issues. A more in-depth survey of a selection of those having a basic understanding will be conducted. Three stakeholder groups will be evaluated. Initial results will be available in November, draft results in December, and final results in January.

Mission Statement – Leslie Surprenant

A Council mission statement was revised based in input during meeting #22. Concern was raised that the proposed mission statement was not sufficiently action-related.

ACTION ITEM: Kathy Moser will solicit suggested alternative language Council and re-revise the proposed mission statement and circulate it to Council members for a consensus vote before the next ISC meeting.

Regulatory and Legislative Updates – Chris Logue, Dave Adams

Part 575 (Prohibited and Regulated Invasive Species) – actions in the coming months focus on outreach, cultivars, and permits. Outreach to DEC law enforcement is planned for winter 2015. Outreach to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) was suggested. DAM is sending information in license renewal packages to growers (~3000) and dealers (~10,000). Need to develop method of reaching regional buyers for the “big box” stores.

ACTION ITEMS:

- ✓ **Dave Adams will share link to Invasive Plant publication on NY IS Clearinghouse website** (link is:

http://www.nyis.info/user_uploads/files/DEC%20Prohibited%20Plants%20-%20web%20-%20091014.pdf)

- ✓ **DAM will consider what outreach to pet industry should be conducted**

AIS Boat Launch Law – Passed and signed by Governor. DEC staff are working on regulatory language for “reasonable precautions” needed to slow the spread of AIS by boating. Divisions

of Lands and Forests and Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources are coordinating stakeholder. Takes effect 9/2/15,

SWCD invasive species law – Passed and signed by Governor. Law authorized SWCD to control invasive species.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Sign Law – passed and signed by Governor. DEC is required to develop a downloadable standard AIS spread prevention sign of a specific minimum dimension for use at all boat access sites statewide. All “public” boat access sites must have this sign displayed within one year of the law’s enactment (9/23/15). DEC has concerns with the language which specified certain dimensions for the signage which differs from the current signs used at public access facilities.

DOT staff noted that a Presidential memorandum pertaining to pollinators was signed 20 June 2014 and sent to State DOTs asking what measures are being taken that support pollinators

ACTION ITEM: Peter Dunleavy will send memorandum to Leslie to share with the ISC

Priorities / Action Plan – Dave Adams

Council discussed 2011-15 Action Plan. Plan Outline was circulated to ISC Council members (a longer version is from ISCU). Of 42 actions described in the Plan, 28 (70%) were completed or in progress. It was noted that additional progress could be made in the areas of control, management and research. Kathy Moser asked Council members to send 2015 planned actions to DEC to incorporate into a 2015 Annual Action Plan.

ACTION ITEM – ISC Reps send Planned 2015 Actions to Dave Adams

Rapid Response Guidance – Dave Adams

Council discussed 2010 Final Draft Rapid Response Framework. Copies were distributed. Public review and comment needs to be conducted as per SEQRA. Framework was provided to US FWS to satisfy GLRI funding requirements. The updated state AIS Plan will contain a RR component. PRISMs each have (or will have) strategic plan and priority conservation or invasive species prevention areas identified. RR teams may be funded as PRISM contracts are renewed. APIPP teams are funded under the new TNC contract. Jackie Czub suggested that for DAM, using IPM or SWCD models might be more useful to RR than the PRISM model. A statewide RR standby contract would be useful. ISCU is working on a draft RFP. DOT staff asked if all agencies have access to such a contract.

ACTION ITEMS:

- ✓ **ISCU - send the 2010 draft to the original writers for review and any needed edits; Framework Writers - send edits to Leslie by November 14.**

- ✓ **Council Reps – review Framework and send comments on the draft to Leslie by November 14.**

□ **ACTION ITEM: Leslie Surprenant send draft RFP to DOT for information.**

Rapid Response – Update of Hydrilla in Erie Canal at Tonawanda – Howard Goebel

Howard Goebel presented an overview of the 2014 response to a hydrilla found in Erie Canal at Tonawanda in Fall, 2012. The major challenge was establishing a lead agency. No treatment was accomplished in 2013. The Corp of Engineers assumed lead agency status had Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding and nationally known aquatic plant management experts on staff. In July, 2014 Tonawanda Creek was treated with endothal and pre- and post-treatment vegetation and water quality surveys were completed. The western portion of the infestation was re-treated in September due to poor concentration levels in the first treatment. Treatments were closely coordinated with the local hydro plants to maintain adequate flows. Plan to repeat treatment in 2015. Eradication is the goal.

Champlain Canal Update – Howard Goebel

NYS Canal Corporation and the US Army Corp of Engineers signed an agreement to explore barrier/ separation options for the Champlain Canal and Lake Champlain. The Lake Champlain Basin Program will provide matching funds. Canals inspections tours will be held this fall, Council members are invited to participate.

NY IS Research Institute – Bernd Blossey

Dr. Bernd Blossey introduced Carrie Brown-Lima, the new Invasive Species Research Institute coordinator administered under a DEC contract with Cornell. Carrie worked on invasive species issues for her Master's Degree and spent the last few years working on sustainable fisheries issues in Latin America. Carrie's initial efforts will be to acquaint herself with NYS invasive stakeholders and program components and then begin crafting a strategic strategy to help improve outcomes of invasives-related work. Dr. Blossey spoke briefly on the idea of EAA or "Enable, Assessment and Accountability" as a core fundamental. Questions include: Are we collecting the right information? Are we improving the situation for native species? Of multiple stressors that exist on the landscape, which are the most important to control? Are programs receiving funding being accountable for their outcomes? When is it appropriate to walk away from past initiatives? The goal of ISRI is to develop better tools to help stakeholders work smarter. DOT commented that a decision making tool would be useful. The TNC tool was noted and a copy of such will be circulated to Council agencies.

□ **ACTION ITEM: Leslie Surprenant will arrange to have TNC's most recent strategic decision-making tool sent to ISC.**

Biological Control Agent Review – Joe Therrien

Joe Therrien, (DEC Division of Fish Wildlife and Marine Resources), led discussion on the biological control permit process and presented a PPT on agency authority, federal permitting, SEQR, application review, and follow-up monitoring. Joe requested that the Council agencies assist with creating a multi-agency, multi-discipline team to review applications for initial

biocontrol agent releases in NYS. Leslie committed the ISCU to assist in such a request. A PDF version of the presentation will be provided to Council agencies.

□ ACTION ITEMS:

- ✓ **ISCU will initiate efforts to assist in convening a review team**
- ✓ **Leslie Surprenant will share the PPT with the ISC**

Public Comment - Public

Meg Wilkinson, SUNY ESF / Natural Heritage Program announced that an iMapInvasive User Survey was in progress to help the iMap team meet the needs of current users and encouraged ISC agencies were to participate.

Wrap Up – Kathy Moser

Meeting # 24 will be scheduled for late January

DRAFT