

LIISMA Highlights
March 28, 2009
Pine Barrens Commission Office
Great River, NY

Welcome and Introductions:

Summary of 1/30/09 meeting approved with the following change-Region 11 and 10 were reversed in the discussion about Green TEA. The highlights have been change to read "The focus of the work would be on region 10 (Long Island) because there are not many EDRR areas in region 11 (NYC)."

Attendees:

Jennifer Higbie – Department of Energy (DoE), Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL)
Jordan Raphael – National Park Service (USNPS), Fire Island National Seashore (FIIS)
Kathy Schwager – The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
Alex Entrup – TNC
Marilyn Jordan – TNC
Gary Lawton – NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)
Alpa Pandya – TNC
Jane Jackson – North Shore Land Alliance (NSLA)
Rich Gass – NYS Dept of Transportation (DoT)
Joe Parent – NYS Dept of Ag. and Markets
Ann Carter – Central Pine Barrens Commission (CPBP)
Karen Eichelberger – CPBC
Alexandra Marcuso – OPRHP
Michelle Nannen – EEA, Inc.
Polly Weigand – Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District (SCSWCD)
Steve Clark – US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Alexis Alvey – Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)
Laura Bavaro - TNC

Roundtable:

Kathy Schwager (TNC)- Travelled to the Adirondacks to collaborate with the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) members to map and share lessons learned. They confirmed the first known infestation of mugwort and mapped it.

TNC is hosting a group of high school interns from NYC. They are planning on working in ISPZs for at least one week as well as spending a week pulling aquatic invasives—namely water chestnut in Oyster Bay and Wantagh and *Ludwigia* in Sweyze Pond.

Rich Gass – (DoT) DoT has two contracts which include invasive species control. It is good that invasives are being considered when doing DoT projects, but education on the importance of controlling invasives and prioritization of species is needed for DoT staff. LIISMA can help with this.

Jane Jackson – (NSLA) June 20th Mill Pond water chestnut pull at Mill Pond - Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Intersection of W Main St & Lake Ave, Oyster Bay, NY 11771). Parking is available on the street.

Polly Weigand – (SCWA) There will be a native plant sale at Suffolk County Community College in Riverhead June 12 & 13 and June 26 & 27 9 am to 1 pm.

Invasive Species control sheets that were created last year are still under development. Polly is looking for feedback to help improve them including control methods or species information.

Karen Eichelberger – (CPBC) Saturday June 13 is Discovery Day at Suffolk County Community College with CPBC staff (same day as native plant sale).

CPBC will not have a field crew this year, but is still looking to do follow up work on some of the projects that were addressed last year.

Steve Clark – (USDA) Emerald Ash Borer found in Eastern PA and also in KY and MN.

Joe Parent – (NYS Ag & Markets) *Viburnum* leaf beetle (VLB) confirmed at North Brother Island in the Bronx and samples from Prospect Park in Brooklyn and Alley Pond Park in Queens have been sent for positive ID. Photo ID has been confirmed by Cornell. VLB will likely be confirmed in various other parks in the NYC area. **Land managers in Nassau County and western Suffolk should be on the lookout for this species.**

Gary Lawton – (NYSOPRHP) State Parks just put down benthic barriers in Belmont Lake SP to test the efficacy of benthic barriers on *Cabomba*. State Parks is hiring a consultant for a restoration project in Sunken Meadow SP in Sunken Meadow Creek that is infested with *Phragmites*. They are going to attempt to restore the tidal flow. They are also examining methods for treating *Phragmites* in sensitive areas i.e. the cranberry bogs in Walking Dunes SP. State Parks may also get money for a Conservation Corps to control invasive species in Connetquot SP.

Jordan Raphael – (FIIS) FIIS is reassessing the treated areas from the invasive species control teams of last summer. They are planning on holding volunteer events at the William Floyd Estate. The NPS Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT) will be at FIIS in June. They will attack the highest priority infestations, primarily at the William Floyd Estate. Funding is ending this year for the invasive species team, and they are looking for alternative funding.

Alexis Alvey – (CCE) Has been working with nursery and CCE staff on an “Alternatives to Invasive Species” list. The list is nearly complete, and still needs to be reviewed and finalized. They are going to post the list and guidebook online. The date of publication is not yet finalized. CCE has broken ground on a demonstration site at the Sound Ave. office which will feature native and non-invasive alternatives to invasive plants.

Green TEA appropriation for invasives management (Alpa Pandya):

Green Tea is a funding bill for transportation infrastructure for hundreds of billions of dollars. Some money will be set aside for roadside remediation. NYS PRISMs have joined together with the DoT to create a proposal for invasives species control and remediation in roadsides. PRISMs and DoT will work together to prioritize invasive species projects. The money would go to the individual NYS DoT regions to fund field crews, or other means of control.

Tim Bishop has not yet committed to sponsoring the bill. **Please reach out to your Senators to get their support and talk to local “Friends” groups to garner support as well. We’ll need them to send support letters to Senators. Contact Alpa for more information (apandya@tnc.org).** We are working with other PRISMS to garner statewide support.

Rich Gass – It is a good overall project. DoT does not typically work with seasonal crews, but has used contractors for similar work. The dollar amount may not be enough to qualify as a good project. There is need for further collaboration with the DoT to make the proposal fit better with DoT practices and standards.

LIISMA Website (Kathy Schwager):

The website is up and running. There will be some changes, but the outline will remain the same. The address is www.liinvasives.org. There is a need for current projects to be highlighted on the website, please send a *small* paragraph along with a photo.

Ag and Markets will send a description of trapping. LINGI and CCE will be added to the natives species section. List of LIISMA member agencies will also be added.

Office of Invasive Species Coordination Four-tier List Team (Laura Bavaro):

The four-tier team is tasked with the review all non-native plants and animals for NYS and to decide whether the species should be regulated, unregulated or banned.

The assessments are both scientific and socio-economic. The adopted scientific review process is the state assessments that have been approved by the Scientific Review Committee (see SRC discussion).

What should the assessment be for socio-economic value?

The protocol under consideration weighs both detriments and benefits instead of only adding benefits.

LIISMA unanimously agreed that the socio-economic forms need to consider negative and positive socio-economic impacts. Questions should be able to both add and subtract points depending on their impacts.

LIISMA firmly stated that prohibitions and regulations should be uniform and state-wide and NOT regional.

Scientific Review Committee update (Marilyn Jordan):

The Scientific Review Committee reviews the NYS invasive plant assessments. These assessments are then in turn used by the state four-tier list team and the Suffolk and Nassau county invasive species task forces. So far, 123 of 179 species have been assessed. SRC is still looking for documentation of certain invasive species. SRC needs info and samples of *Salix atrocinerea/cinerea* (stems needed min. ¼ in.), *Pyrus calleryana* (stems with flowers), *Rhodotypos scandens* (stems with flowers), *Ligustrum ovalifolium* (flowers), *Miscanthus sinensis* (flowers), *Clematis terniflora* (flowers), *Centaurea jacea* and *stoebe* (flowers). Also, please note any known escapes of *Spiraea japonica*.

LIISMA Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands General Permit (Kathy Schwager):

The process is moving through TNC requirements and Kathy will keep LIISMA informed on the progress. DEC is supportive of the idea. The permit will allow LIISMA members to manually remove EDRR species in freshwater wetlands.

County Banned Species Legislation (Alpa Pandya):

Revisions to Suffolk County's current invasive species Do Not Sell (DNS) List will be introduced at the June 9th legislative meeting. Public hearings are scheduled for June 11 and June 23rd, with a full legislative vote on August 4th. Informed by the invasive plant assessments, some invasive plant species have moved off the DNS list, and some have been added. A cultivar exemption process has been added to the legislation so in the future if a cultivar has been shown to be effectively 100% male and female sterile, it may be sold.

The department of consumer affairs is named as the enforcement agency. Suffolk and Nassau Counties are including the invasive species list on their websites, including links to Consumer Affairs.

LIISMA funding & eradication grants (Kathy Schwager):

LIISMA is still on track to receive the NYSDEC funding sometime in the next 18 months. Eradication grant funding is not looking likely for this year.

The next meeting will be July 30, 2009 10AM – 12:30PM at Oak Ridge in Forest Park, Queens, NY