

## **Adirondack Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes – Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Location and Duration:** NYS DEC, Ray Brook, 1 to 3 pm.

Attendance: Hilary Smith and Tyler Smith (APIPP), Carol Treadwell (Ausable River Association), Bob Snow (Chateaugay Lakes Foundation), Susan Smith (Lewis Creek Association), Ed Snizek (APA), Mark Malchoff (LCSG), Eric Holmlund (Paul Smiths), Tom and Pat Willis (Rainbow Lake Association), Dan Levy (DEC Lands and Forests), Meg Modley (LCBP), Dan Kelting (Paul Smiths)

#### **1. Announcements:**

- a. Carol announced the “Fly Fishing Film Tour”, a compilation of fly fishing videos from around the world which will be shown at the Lake Placid Center for the Arts at 6pm on March 21<sup>st</sup>. She will have a table at the event with information about invasive species, spread prevention and education.
- b. The Adirondack Watershed Institute is hiring several seasonal positions for summer 2009. The positions are: Adirondack Watershed Stewards, Milfoil Harvesting Divers, and Top Water Dive Crews. Contact Eric Holmlund for more information: eholmlund@paulsmiths.edu

#### **2. PRISM News:**

- a. No new news about PRISM contracts or EPF funds has been released; however, we expect to hear something about EPF funding levels in the next two months. The next NYS Invasive Species conference call is Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 11-12. Call-in information will be distributed via the PRISM listserve.

#### **3. Updates:**

- a. NEANS Panel Meeting:  
The next NEANS (Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel) meeting will be at the Double Tree Hotel in Burlington, VT on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will showcase regional updates on AIS issues from around the northeast. The panel will examine the Canadian Risk Assessment model for invasive species and organize a zebra mussel field trip on Lake Champlain. Meg will be at the meeting to present the Lake Champlain Basin Rapid Response Plan.
- b. ISAC / Ad hoc Transport Law Committee / Economic Stimulus:  
The New York State Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) met on March 4<sup>th</sup> in Albany, NY. The ISAC held preliminary discussions about an AIS transport law. Initial feedback about such a law suggested that it should contain a funding mechanism to pay for itself. The ISAC believed a “sticker” program would be the best method to generate revenue. A sticker could be purchased during the boat registration process and clearly displayed on boats registered in New York State (both motorized and nonmotorized craft and in-state and out-of-state are under consideration). Monies generated from the purchase of stickers would fund enforcement and other AIS programs around the state. The ISAC reviewed the draft law prepared by the Adirondack AIS Committee as a starting point and will continue to review laws from other states.

The ISAC is also reviewing the 4-Tier invasive species regulation list. The list is legislated to be finalized by January 2010. The purpose of the 4-tier list legislation is to develop a process to review species being imported and transported throughout the state. The list will designate a species as; Prohibited, Regulated, or Unregulated. One of the concerns with the law is how to deal with prohibited plants that have already been established in a given area. Mark suggested that they could have Prohibited A and B to “grandfather” in established invasive species sites.

The ISAC is looking at proposals for economic stimulus package money to fund invasive species projects around the state. They requested that members send in additional ideas for review. A few suggestions included a state-wide Lake Stewardship Program, Response Teams, and Water Chestnut Eradication.

c. Lake Stewardship Programs:

The Paul Smith's College Watershed Stewardship Program is a successful program to prevent the further spread of AIS into Adirondack water bodies. It is well known that prevention is the most economical solution to invasive species management. Recently, several lake associations from distant parts of the region have expressed interest in participating in the program. Due to resource limitations and the long distances required to travel in the landscape there is not enough administrative capacity to provide local support to stewards. This problem highlights the greater need to expand the Watershed Stewardship program so it can sufficiently cover the entire Adirondack region. Members of the AIS committee are discussing ways to facilitate the expansion and make it a PRISM-wide program. The concept is to identify administrative and supervisory needs (eg. having mid level supervisors deployed throughout the park in specifically designated geographic areas) based on the number of stewards required for coverage at a regional scale. The next step is to outline the framework and cost.

d. Milfoil Movie:

Hilary mentioned to the committee that she received an email from Andrew Lewis about a movie he is working on. Andrew Lewis, from Aquatic Invasive Management, LLC, is working on a documentary about Eurasian watermilfoil in the Adirondacks. Hilary suggested that the documentary could serve a broader audience if it took a broader view of the issue, such as, aquatic invasive species are the threat, and milfoil is an example of one of AIS threats to the region, rather than focusing on milfoil as the primary threat. The author is currently looking for funding to complete the video. A short trailer can be found here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXymvBPJhMw>.

**4. Discussion:**

a. BASS Survey:

Last fall Mark and Tyler had the opportunity to meet with Burnie Haney, conservation director for the New York State BASS (Bass Anglers Sportsman's Society) chapter. Burnie believes in the importance of AIS spread prevention and would like to partner with conservation organizations in the state to increase awareness in his membership on AIS issues. Mark and Tyler (and other interested organizations) will work with Burnie during the spring and summer to organize an education campaign for BASS members. Before we begin educational programs we will assess current knowledge of AIS among BASS members so that we can measure our effectiveness at the end of the education campaign. Mark and Tyler have been working on a survey to achieve this goal. The draft survey was presented at the meeting. Several comments from the ANS committee include incorporating information about different conservation projects prospective volunteers can participate in and assessing whether BASS members would support a NY AIS transport law.

b. Spread Prevention Action Plan Template:

Tyler and Hilary have been developing education and outreach guidelines for resource managers to use once a lake has been infested with AIS. The guide is still in early draft form but they requested input from the committee to see if it was worth pursuing. Several members thought that it was worth pursuing and suggested it should include all forms of water bodies (rivers, ponds, and lakes) and be described as a spread prevention plan, rather than education and outreach. Tyler and Hilary will bring a more developed draft to a future meeting.

c. Revision of ANS Mgt Plan:

Next year the Adirondack ANS management plan will be 5 years old and one of the actions within the plan is to periodically update it. Hilary suggested that it may be worth updating the plan since several key changes have occurred: we have expanded our geographic boundaries to include the rooftop communities and increased our coverage to non-plant species. Also, there has been significant progress made since 2005 in the state's invasives program. As per a requirement from the state contract APIPP will prepare a PRISM specific invasive species management plan. Hilary suggested that we could use the ANS plan as a foundation for the PRISM plan, updating the ANS portions and integrating terrestrial actions. The committee felt this was a good idea and several members volunteered to help.

d. IS / WQ Conference:

Paul Smith's College has held several Water Quality Conferences in past years. The last Water Quality Conference was held in 2007 and focused on shoreline development. The committee discussed the possibility of organizing an invasive species symposium/conference. Several members expressed interest in organizing a conference but agreed that it is probably too late for summer 2009 but 2010 is a good possibility, perhaps during Adirondack Invasive Species Awareness Week. Interested members will discuss ideas and bring them back to the committee in the future.

5. **Next meeting: \*\*Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1-3pm, DEC Ray Brook\*\***