

CRISP Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2008

1. Decision making authority?
2. Work Plan for 2008
3. Reporting Protocol/ County Agency Contacts
4. WAC Private Forest Landowner Invasive Program
5. SWG Recommendations
6. Aquatic Invasive priorities
7. Education/Outreach Efforts update
8. WAC/CCE Invasive Species Survey
9. Announcements/Scheduling next meeting

1. The coordinator raised the issue again of the possibility of a steering committee or executive committee to have decision making authority for CRISP. As this was outlined, we have two decisions
 - i. Full CRISP group makes all decisions
 - ii. Executive Committee is charged with making decisions, and reports back to larger group

As we continue moving ahead as a partnership, there will be instances when a decision will need to be made quickly (especially in terms of early detection and rapid response). With CRISP members meeting only every other month, this could be a hindrance.

If an executive committee is formed, CRISP members will need to detail exactly what powers and limitations this committee will have.

While we are currently in limbo regarding funding, this large decision was tabled. (Coordinators Note: It is my feeling we will need to have this discussion prior to receiving any state funding, so we will have decision making guidelines in place regarding the distribution of these funds amongst partners and CRISP projects.)

2. The existing October 2007-October 2008 Work Plan for CRISP was used as a starting point for our discussion of a 2008 work plan. This plan was originally developed for our proposal to DEC for funding, and as a broad target for our work. Given our current lack of financial resources, we will be unable to complete some of the items listed in this plan. However, one item that stood out was the Firewood campaign launched last summer. Alan White, Tom Pavlesich, and many others felt this program was essential, and both Alan and Tom will pursue further actions in 2008. CRISP will also invite John Schwartz to an upcoming meeting to summarize and report on the 2007 Firewood program.

It was determined that the various existing working groups (Research and Management, Education and Outreach, and the newly formed Firewood Group) will each create a work plan for 2008 based on our existing resources. These plans will focus on projects we can begin now, as well as lay out a plan for work to be

completed once funding is received. These plans will be completed by our following CRISP meeting and will be presented and discussed there. It was also expressed that it should be the expectation of all working groups to report back to the larger CRISP body on any work underway or completed. There will be time set aside in all future agendas to allow for this reporting.

3. Chris Zimmerman has revised the Reporting Protocol, and has created a written description of each step. This is great work and will enable CRISP to move forward with inventorying and database creation.

One aspect of this protocol is the County Agency serving as a medium between CRISP and the individual reporting the occurrence. Marilyn Wyman has confirmed with Greene, Ulster, and Sullivan County Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program that they will serve in this roll. Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie have yet to respond. In the event that these three counties will decline, CRISP will pursue SWCD involvement in this roll.

- A master gardener training on invasive and the reporting protocol took place in late-January at the Ulster County CCE, and one is planned for Greene County in mid-March.

Kris Gilbert reminds us that DOT should receive all reports of invasives spotted on Interstates in our region (88, 87, and eventually 86 (currently Rte. 17)).

4. Tom Pavlesich and Heather Hilson of the Watershed Ag. Council discussed their current Invasive Species Eradication and assessment work with private landowners within the NYC Watershed.
 - a. Through the WAC Forest Management Program, landowners with over 10 acres within the watershed are eligible for a Forest Management Plan. As this plan is created, the forester will note invasive species, and provides information to the landowner on management techniques.
 - b. With the landowner doing the management, this provides a cost effective management option, and circumvents permitting for herbicide application.
 - c. Currently work has been done on Mile-a-Minute, Barberry, and Nuisance species like Beech and Grapevine.
 - d. There is the possibility, that with a funding source outside of NYC (such as CRISP) WAC could move this program beyond the watershed boundaries.
5. The State Wildlife Grant Recommendations are currently being developed by Dr. Adams. He was not in attendance at the meeting and the coordinator will follow up with him on this.
6. The Aquatic Invasive Priorities list circulated after last meeting was discussed briefly. Bill Harman seems to be our only expert on aquatic invasives. Any members familiar with these issues are encouraged to give input on this list. Based on Bill's recommendations, the Research and Management group will create an aquatic priority list similar to our current priority list. This should be available at our next full meeting.

- a. Barbara Dibeler brought up a concern of the number of ponds built throughout our region, and the prevalence of Invasive Species being stocked in these ponds. SWCD may have data on their past work with pond building which may prove useful for education purposes. The education and outreach group will keep this issue in mind at our next meeting.
 - b. The Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasives has posted an RFP for their next round of grants. Applications are due Feb. 29th. This short notice limited any CRISP member from interest this year, but it was discussed that an application should be developed and ready for next years round.
7. Education and Outreach working group has not met in several months. An upcoming meeting is proposed for late February or early March. Members will receive a notice of this. If you wish to be included in this working group, please notify Ben at bmurdock@catskillcenter.org
 - a. Several education events have taken place. These include the CFA led Consulting Forester Training and the previously mentioned Ulster County Master Gardener training. Efforts such as these will be continued.
 - b. A discussion of the CRISP website took place with WAC offering to possibly create and host it. This will be flushed out in the section below.
8. WAC/CCE Invasive Species Awareness Survey
 - a. This survey was intended to give WAC and CRISP members a baseline to judge effectiveness of education/outreach and management against and to track progress.
 - b. An executive summary of the findings is included in the report, and pertinent findings were highlighted in the email you should have all received. Any questions regarding the report may be addressed by Tom Pavlesich at WAC.
 - c. One finding in the report indicates respondents were more receptive to printed, tangible material. CRISP's education and outreach group will keep this in mind and may focus on published material which directs readers to our forthcoming website for more information.
 - d. WAC has offered to construct the CRISP website. Full details of this have not been fully discussed, however WAC would need information by May if they intend to pursue this. Information requested includes:
 - i. What is the focus? Published or Website materials?
 - ii. What features and what level of detail should the website have?
 - iii. What kind of scientific assistance can WAC expect when developing information for the site?

These questions will be discussed by the Ed./Outreach group and they will report back to CRISP and WAC prior to May.

9. a. Jamie Myers brought to our attention that current oil and gas well speculation in Pennsylvania, and the Millennium Pipeline project (affecting Delaware and Sullivan Counties) could create major vectors for Invasive Species throughout

our region and beyond. Similar prospecting is taking place within CRISP boundaries. Jamie is developing Sample Lease language pertaining to Invasive species mitigation and the responsibilities of the utility. There are also several educational opportunities for potential leasers regarding the concerns they should keep in mind (including invasives) when developing a lease. Further information on this will be forwarded to the list serve.

b. Nominations for the National Invasive Species Advisory Committee (which advises the National Invasive Species council) are open until February 13th. This is 2 year term position. Individuals can nominate themselves for consideration. Any CRISP member interested in this roll is encouraged to pursue it and contact the coordinator for further information.

Our next full member meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday April 2nd, from 10-12** here at the Catskill Center. A reminder and agenda will precede this meeting.