

Revised Capital/Mohawk PRISM Minutes  
December 11, 2008  
The Nature Conservancy, 195 New Karner Road, Albany

Welcome/Attendance

Meeting was called to order by Peg Sauer. Attendees included:

Mike Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh Communications  
Diane Goetke, NYS Dept. of Ag and Markets  
Maria King, NYSDEC  
Emily Kurth, NYSDEC  
Diane Peapus, USDA, APHIS  
George Robinson, Biology Dept, SUNY Albany  
Steve Sanford, NYSDEC  
Peg Sauer, American Wildlife Conservation Foundation (AWCF)  
Leslie Surprenant, NYSDEC  
Dave VanLuven, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)  
Peter Weisbecker, Canal Corp

Aquatic Invasives in the Canal System

Peter Weisbecker gave an overview of the priority programs of the NYS Canal system. The basic function of the canal system is navigation. The canal runs 543 miles with 57 locks, which handle about 100,000 lockings a year. It also has a 260-mile trail system. Lock operators (300) hand out educational material. Canal Corp is dredging to a depth to make commercial shipping profitable. Shipments have increased from 16-17 to 60 during the past year. There is no international traffic yet, but shipments have come from as far as Norfolk, VA. Ballast water transfers become an issue and barges can be used to make the transfer. Big head carp are an issue in many waterways from the Hudson River to the Mississippi River. Canal Corp places organism collection boxes at the locks, encouraging people to place extraneous fish and plants in them. Canal Corp will be presenting a full session on canals at the December 2009 biennial invasive species conference.

Communications Update

Website development for PRISMs has been delayed because development money is locked up. A parallel opportunity for posting PRISM information is available through the Clearinghouse. NYIS can host PRISM websites through Cornell University for a fee of \$2,500-3,000 per PRISM.

Mission and Goal Statements

The mission and goal statements were approved with the addition of “for citizens of our region and New York State” to the last sentence of the mission statement.

## Don't Move Firewood

Maria King and Emily Kurth of NYSDEC Lands and Forests provided an excellent presentation on the Asian longhorned beetle and the emerald ash borer, stressing the need to restrict firewood transport in order to prevent the spread of these invasive forest insects. Current NYSDEC regulations match APHIS requirements preventing the transport of firewood more than 50 miles from the site where it is cut. Movement of firewood was probably responsible for the spread of the emerald ash borer throughout Michigan and the spread of the Asian longhorned beetle from Brooklyn to Amityville, Long Island.

## Champlain Canal Meeting

On November 6<sup>th</sup> a Champlain Canal Aquatic Invasive Species Stakeholder Summit/Informational Meeting was held in Fort Edward. Partners gave an overview of their programs, of aquatic invasives, and of mitigation options. One of the immediate needs resulting from the meeting was the control of spiny water fleas in Great Sacandaga Lake. Steve Sanford reported that a Federal feasibility study is needed, but that an immediate investigation of existing control techniques will be done. The Great Sacandaga Lake Association has funding and outreach capabilities. APPIP will be assisting with spread prevention plans by developing outreach materials.

## Member Announcements

Peg Sauer, AWCF, reported continued progress on the development of a DVD on invasive forest insects. Also, as a result of the Champlain Canal Meeting, she discussed the possibility of producing a DVD on preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species with APPIP.

Diane Goetke, Ag and Markets, reiterated the need for money for invasive species control.

Leslie Surprenant, DEC, reported that contracts have been approved for the Clearinghouse, the GIS database and the Research Institute. DEC also has permission to proceed with development of bids for Cornell Cooperative Extension for outreach and bids for management of CRISP, SLELO and LI PRISMs.

Dave VanLuven, TNC, reported on the need for support of ballast discharge legislation. He also summarized their plans to undertake phragmites removal with herbicide treatment at Ramshorn Marsh in Catskill and West Flats in Athens in 2009.

## Meetings for 2009

The first PRISM meeting will be held in April with the date and location to be announced.