

## **Adirondack Park Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes – Friday August 14th, 2009**

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

Attendance: Hilary Smith and Tyler Smith (APIPP), Mark Malchoff (LCSG), Dan Kelting (Paul Smiths), Meg Modley (LCBP), Emily DeBolt (LGA), Jason Smith (LGA), Eric Holmlund (Paul Smiths), Mary McLean (Chateaugay)

#### **1. Regional Watershed Stewardship Program brochure debrief:**

- Several committee members involved in boat launch programs met before the meeting to discuss the development of a new rack card to hand out to the boating public. The goal is to produce an information card that can be published jointly for 2010 and used by a variety of boat launch programs and lake communities across the region. Key message points will be to provide brief information about some of the top aquatic invasive species, include a line drawing of inspection points and list spread prevention measures, and describe the collaborative regional effort to implement paid and voluntary inspection programs.

#### **2. Lake Pleasant Transport Law:**

- The town of Lake Pleasant drafted a local ordinance barring the transport of aquatic invasive species between water bodies within the town's jurisdiction. The ordinance is modeled after the language developed by the ANS Committee but adapted for local implementation. The local Sheriff's department has been involved and is willing to enforce the law once it is passed. A public hearing will be held September 21.

#### **3. Lake Champlain updates:**

Meg provided several updates to the committee from Lake Champlain:

- The LCBP Rapid Response Plan was approved in May and is in the final coordination phase with the lead agencies.
- Senator Pat Leahy secured a \$500,000 appropriation in the Great Lakes Fishery Commission budget to help implement Lake Champlain water quality and habitat improvements. Specifically \$100,000 is designated for a feasibility study on a barrier for the Spiny Waterflea (and other invasives) on the Glens Falls Feeder Canal.
- Fred Dunlap from NY DEC collected 4 samples along the Feeder Canal and did not find the Spiny Waterflea present.
- The Lake Champlain Research Consortium will hold a research conference on Monday, June 7 and Tuesday, June 8, 2010 at the Davis Center at the University of Vermont. Details of the conference are forthcoming and will be posted on the web here: <http://academics.smcvt.edu/lcrc/>
- The LCBP will release RFPS for Local Implementation Grants in early September. This money comes from the EPA and is used to address priorities in *Opportunities for Action*.

**4. Lake George E&O updates:**

Emily shared updates from the Lake George region:

- The Lake George Stewardship Program released a summary of key findings by their stewards this year. As of August 14<sup>th</sup>, stewards surveyed 2663 watercraft and removed 64 invasive species in 2009.
- The stewards also participated in several education and outreach opportunities at fishing tournaments and the North Country Triathlon.
- Emily is drafted an educational rack card on how to properly disinfect wet suits when moving between water bodies.

**5. Aquatic Coordinator Report:**

- The B.A.S.S. questionnaire is online and available for NY BASS anglers to complete. Burnie Haney, Director of Conservation for BASS has taken the responsibility of distributing the survey and believes that most anglers will respond during September 2009.
- Tyler described several lake surveys he has conducted this summer at Harris Lake, Lincoln Pond, and Stark + Carry Falls Reservoir.
- Lake Management Reports:
  - Aquatic Invasive Management, LLC. finished harvesting the Variable Leaf Milfoil infestation in Lake Placid and is now focusing on early detection surveys.
  - Paradox Lake Association members implemented an early detection milfoil “scout program” and are working with their lake manager to identify new patches for management.
  - Tyler spent a day on Follensby Clear Pond with the Adirondack Watershed Institute’s Dive Team hand-harvesting Eurasian watermilfoil. Last year the team harvested over 500 bags of milfoil. This year only 150 bags were harvested, showing a significant decrease in plant matter. Diving is currently funded by the DEC Eradication grant but plans will need to be made to continue harvesting via volunteer efforts. The group discussed whether insurance is provided for volunteers via the DEC’s Adopt A Natural Resource Agreement.
  - Dan reported that his crew detected Eurasian watermilfoil in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> lakes during their surveys of the Fulton Chain. Dive crews harvested the small populations that were discovered.
- Tyler will be working with the Fulton County Chamber of Commerce to conduct outreach at fishing tournaments on the Great Sacandaga Reservoir.

**6. Funding Opportunities:**

Hilary presented several funding opportunities to the committee:

- The two priority projects that APIPP is currently working with partners to secure funds for are 1. Regional Watershed Stewardship Program and 2. Adirondack Response Teams.
- The Great Lakes Restoration Fund is a pot of federal dollars designated towards restoring the natural ecosystems of the Great

- The NY Department of State has funding for the local waterfront revitalization program. This may be a potential funding source for the Regional Watershed Stewardship program.

**7. ISAW Activity Report:**

- Events occurred around the region. Emily reported successful events at the Lake George Visitor Center. Reaching out to the VICS and Wild Center to have display tables or programs during the weekdays may be additional ways to reach the public and have captive audiences.

**8. Other?**

- The committee expressed interest in the idea to hold an invasive species conference at Paul Smith's college next year. More on this in subsequent meetings.
- Tyler will be onsite at the 90 Miler with volunteers from Raquette and Blue Mountain Lake performing visual inspections of boats along portages.
- Hilary passed around a draft invasive species poster that APIPP developed to distribute to businesses in the region. Feedback was requested.
- Hilary said that DEC's David Winchell offered to explore opportunities to better integrate aquatic invasive species information into Region 5's webpages; mainly noting which lakes are infested and better highlighting spread prevention measures to take.

**5. Next meeting:**

Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 10-12, DEC Ray Brook.

October, TBD, joint meeting among terrestrial and aquatic committees