

Coastal Watershed Invasive Plant Partnership Meeting- March 6th, 2008

Attendees

Doug Bechtel, TNC
Tracy Degnan, Rockingham County Conservation District
Doug Cygan, NH Department of Agriculture
Kevin Lucey, NH Coastal Program
Brooke Smart, NRCS
Florence Petersen, USDA Forest Service
Ted Diers, NH Coastal Program
Christine Perron, NHDOT

1. NHCWIPP Partnership Agreement

Suggested changes to the Partnership Agreement from the 2/15/08 meeting were incorporated by Kevin Lucey and the 'final' Agreement was reviewed by Mary Currier. The PA is now before the NHDES Commissioner for final okay. **Action:** NHDES Commissioner to provide final say concerning liability statement; Kevin will update the PA liability statement as appropriate.

2. Signing Ceremony:

It was decided that the NHCWIPP will organize a Signing Ceremony Event to kick off the formation of the NHCWIPP. The location options include: Creek Farm property (Portsmouth) and the Great Bay Discovery Center (Greenland).

Event Format ideas:

- Site must have existing invasive populations and control examples,
- Event should have a hands on project (weed wrenches, tools);
- Event could have contractors provide demonstration with equipment (Mike Morrison, Jeff Wilson);
- Provide existing visuals from partners: have booklets, pamphlets available for distribution;
- Contact Dave Kellam to get Phragmites for the signing ceremony
- Inform Governor and congressional delegation

Action: 1.) Steering Committee Representatives to determine availability of signatories for the target date(s) of Tuesday, May 20th and Wednesday, May 21st and contact Cathy Coletti with their responses: 559-0024, Catherine.coletti@des.nh.gov. 2.) Ted to contact NHDES Commissioner and confirm his involvement and to garner his support in encouraging the involvement of other NH State Signatories. 3) Kevin to determine availability, pros/cons of proposed locations.

Action: Cathy Coletti will draft a media advisory to invite the press and start developing an outreach strategy and will also: a) send out a list (to the Signatory representatives) of those Signatories that have committed to attending the event; b) coordinate with media/ public relations folks from each Signatory Organization to develop media products; c) facilitate in the development of a list of invitees.

It would be opportune to have the signing ceremony coincide with the award of the NFWF PTI Grant to the NHCWIPP (if we are so fortunate!). **Action:** Ted to contact Ellen Gabel 202-857-0166 to update NFWF about the progress of CWIPP and of the upcoming media event.

With the PA near completion and with the upcoming ceremony it was determined that several partners are missing from the Partnership. **Action:** The following organizations will be contacted to gauge their interest in participation (and provide a last chance to join the partnership): Kevin will contact Eric Derleth (USFW private lands partnership), Graham Taylor (USFW refuge system); Ted

will contact DRED; and Doug Bechtel will contact SPNHF and the New England Wildflower Society.
Someone to contact NH Audubon?

We need to develop NHCWIPP outreach material for the event. **Action:** Kevin will develop a NH CWIPP Pamphlet to include: Signatories, Sustaining Partners, Goals, Management Area map, etc and Joanne will develop a draft threat statement for review at April 3rd meeting.

3. Review NHCWIPP Goals

Doug Bechtel developed a draft list of common goals for Partners to review. Reviews were compiled and presented to the Steering Committee. A lengthy discussion yielded many comments and edits. **Action:** Doug Bechtel and Christine Perron to incorporate edits and forward revised list to Kevin for further discussion and review at April Meeting.

4. Management Plan

Brooke Smart and Tracy Degnan created a draft outline (table of contents) for the NHCWIPP Management Plan. The outline was based off of the Adirondack Aquatic Nuisance Plant Management Plan. The outline was reviewed by the Steering Committee and many edits/comments were provided to Brooke and Tracy.

There was a brief discussion about the intended audience of the management plan. It was agreed that the completed plan should be available to the public but not written specifically for the public and not actively disseminated to the public.

The Management Plan Subcommittee was created with an initial membership of: Brooke Smart, Tracy Degnan, and Kevin Lucey

Action: 1.) The Management Plan Subcommittee will incorporate edits and forward revised outline to the Partnership prior to the April 3rd meeting; 2) Brooke to start working on developing contacts list for municipal, NGO, and agency reps, which will serve as an appendix in the Management Plan. 3) Christine to forward Municipal Directory to Brooke.

5. GIS and Database Subcommittee

The GIS and Database Subcommittee: NRCS (Don Richards) and USFS (Tom Luther), Florence Peterson, Joanne Glode, and Rachel Stevens will meet on Monday, March 10th to continue their objective of consolidating existing data and GIS layers and creating an accessible geospatial database. The products of the subcommittee's work will be instrumental in the creation of the Management Plan.

6. 2008 Annual Operations Plan

Kevin developed a draft Annual Operations Plan for 2008. The AOP was reviewed by the Steering Committee and several comments and edits were provided. In particular, there was discussion about what constitutes an activity of the Partnership and what is just a Partner activity. The delineation between the two should be made; however, the AOP and the CWIPP Annual Report should be a mechanism for tracking data and accomplishments of all activities occurring within the Management Area. **Action:** Kevin to edit the AOP to reflect comments provided by the Steering Committee and will have final 2008 AOP available by April 3rd.

7. Other

Christine suggested that there is a need to find disposal solutions and suggested that a subcommittee be formed to find solutions and to provide guidance within the Management Plan. Discussion to continue at April meeting.

Next Meeting: 9 a.m. Thursday April 3rd, 2008, USFS Field Office, Durham.