

## **NH Coastal Watershed Invasive Plant Partnership Meeting – April 3, 2008**

**Location:** NH Fish & Game Region 3 Office (Durham)

### **Attendees**

Rachel Johnson, UNH  
Tom Lee, UNH  
Rachel Phillips-Tibbets, NRCS  
Bob Fitzhenry, USFS  
Peter Wellenberger, NHFG  
Cathy Coletti, NH Coastal Program  
Rachel Stevens, GBNERR  
Frank Mitchell, UNH Cooperative Extension  
Eric Aldrich, TNC  
Doug Bechtel, TNC  
Mary Currier, Rockingham County Conservation District  
Kevin Lucey, NH Coastal Program  
Florence Petersen, USDA Forest Service  
Christine Perron, NHDOT

### **1. Signing Ceremony:**

The signing ceremony will be scheduled for May 20 (10:00 – 12:00) at the Great Bay Discovery Center. Most signatories have confirmed their attendance. It was decided that the ceremony would have two objectives: first, to celebrate the formation of CWIPP, the first CWMA in New England, and second, to raise awareness of CWIPP goals among the media and the general public.

#### Tentative schedule:

10:00 – 10:30 “Meet and greet” / posters and maps will be on display

10:30 – 11:00 Speakers

- Commissioner Burack: Welcome
- Ted Diers: Introduction to CWIPP / history / why we're here (perhaps using a powerpoint presentation created by TNC that includes maps, examples of data)
- Rockingham County Conservation District? (especially if CWIPP is awarded the grant)
- Others?

11:00 – 11:30 Signing of Partnership Agreement (using a PhragWrites pen)

11:30 – 12:00 Photo Ops with weed wrenches / Demonstrations (perhaps by contractors) / Site Review (phragmites, knotweed control projects have been undertaken at this site; also plenty of bittersweet at site that could be used in a demonstration) - This would be a good educational opportunity (for example, show distinction between native salt marsh and a marsh with invasive plants).

#### Event ideas:

- There should be many tools on site for demonstration/photo ops (GPS units, weed wrenches, stem injection tool, etc)
- A buffet of food made from invasive plants could be set out at the end of the ceremony (12:00) for an informal gathering.
- Coffee should be offered at the beginning of the ceremony (and donuts?)
- Invitees should be encouraged to carpool since parking at the site is limited.

- A *Save The Date* should be sent soon (via email).
- The CWIPP pamphlet should be enclosed with the formal invitation (sent via regular mail). Cathy offered to follow up with specific people by phone after the invitation is sent.
- Media advisory – Cathy will finish this and send to the group for review within the next week
- Press package – should be made available at the ceremony; should include: 1) 8 ½ x 11” map of watershed showing areas of WIMS mapping and other projects (TNC will work on this); and 2) list of signatories, steering committee members, and sustaining partners.
- The CWIPP pamphlet should be available at the ceremony.

Invitees:

Steering Committee members, Sustaining Partners, State representatives, Congressional delegation, media, Governor Lynch, local officials (Conservation Commissions, Selectmen, Town Administrators), Watershed groups, Land Trusts

**Action:** TNC will work on a powerpoint presentation that can be used at the ceremony, as well as a map that can be used in the press package.

**Action:** Cathy will draft a media advisory to invite the press and will send to the group for review.

**Action:** Rachel Stevens will contact Mike (contractor) to find out if he would be willing to participate in a demonstration.

**Action:** Kevin will work with the GBNERR to complete a Function Form for the use of the Discovery Center.

A subcommittee was formed to continue working on organizing the ceremony. Members of the subcommittee will be Cathy Coletti, Florence Peterson, Eric Aldrich, Peter Wellenberger, NRCS, RCCD.

**Action:** Rachel will find out when the Discovery Center is available for the subcommittee to hold a meeting at the site next week.

Doug Bechtel contacted NH Audubon and the Society for the Protection of NH Forests about joining CWIPP. Both groups would like to be Sustaining Partners. Kevin and Ted Diers will be meeting with the NH Dept. of Resources and Economic Development next week; DRED will likely become a signatory to the Partnership Agreement.

## **2. Management Plan**

Brooke Smart and Tracy Degan created an updated draft outline (table of contents) for the NHCWIPP Management Plan. Kevin explained that all sections of the Management Plan will be written by the Steering Committee. The purpose of a full time coordinator will be to assemble these sections into a plan. The following suggestions were made for the table of contents:

- It is unnecessary to include species descriptions in the Plan; lists are sufficient.
- It was agreed that species should be grouped by habitat type (i.e. forest, tidal marsh, freshwater marsh, etc.) not by the terrestrial/aquatic designation. This is the grouping system used by the “shared database” currently being developed.
- Section III B iv should be given more significance in the plan.

- In Section II, "CWIPP Vision and Goals" should be moved to the beginning of the section.
- Section IV should be formatted to reflect CWIPP's goals. Disposal could be included Restoration; Enforcement and Legislation could be included in Education and Outreach.
- It was agreed that Research should be a CWIPP goal. It is important to keep track of research that is currently being done by others, and CWIPP should consider undertaking its own research at some point in the future (on control methods, for example). It would be beneficial to develop a list of research needs, which would guide not only CWIPP but also professors and graduate students. It was also stressed that it will be very important to ensure that data is shared.

### **3. GIS and Database Subcommittee**

Florence Peterson and Rachel Stevens gave an update on progress to date. The subcommittee met with GIS staff at the USFS and NRCS to transfer known databases. This data will be unified into one database – the "shared database". WIMS will be the basis for the shared database but will need to be tailored to fit CWIPP's needs. Joanne Glode is working with TNC on the possibility of modifying WIMS. One challenge that the subcommittee foresees is finding a place to host the shared database in the long term. It will be important that the database is accessible and publicly available. The subcommittee's vision for the database is to have it hosted by GRANIT, but this has not yet been discussed with GRANIT staff. There are issues that would need to be worked out before this could happen (funding, data permission), but it is something that may be worth pursuing in the future.

### **4. Plant List Subcommittee**

Florence gave an update on progress to date. When the subcommittee last met, it was suggested that invasive plants be divided into 3 lists: widespread, infrequent, and not known to occur. There was discussion about how to prioritize species. They are looking into the ranking system used by Nature Serve. **Action:** 1) This subcommittee will complete Section III of the Management Plan. 2) CWIPP members should contact Florence, Doug Cygan, or Joanne Glode if they know of any smaller invasive plant datasets from the coastal watershed.

### **5. Partnership Agreement**

Commissioner Burack has recommended additional changes to the PA, including the liability statement. He would also like the wording removed about members being replaced if they do not attend at least 2 meetings. It was agreed that removing this language was acceptable. The Commissioner asked that the PA be reviewed by the Attorney General's office. **Action:** Kevin will complete the changes to the PA. When it is given to the AG's office, he will forward the PA to the group as a draft "pending AG approval".

### **6. 2008 Annual Operations Plan**

Kevin developed an updated draft of the Annual Operations Plan and it was agreed that this draft is acceptable. Kevin said that he would like to develop a questionnaire to send to partners at the end of each year as a way to get a report on recent activities.

### **7. NHCWIPP Goals**

A few additional changes were recommended. **Action:** Doug Bechtel will incorporate edits and forward revised list to Christine for review before it is sent to the group.

### **8. NHCWIPP Pamphlet**

Kevin would like to receive comments on the pamphlet, as well as additional photographs (invasive plants, pepperweed project, and landowner outreach). It was suggested that an additional paragraph could be added to the Collaboration section that summarized CWIPP partners (i.e. local, state, and federal agencies and organizations). **Action:** Comments, suggestions, and/or photos should be sent to Kevin as soon as possible since the pamphlet will be included with the invitation to the signing ceremony.

### **9. Agenda Items for May Meeting**

Kevin asked the group for items that should be added to next month's agenda. Suggestions included: 1) an update on the signing ceremony from the subcommittee; 2) plans for the upcoming field season; 3) an update from Florence on the CWMA conference that she will be attending April 15-17. If anyone has anything else for the agenda, please email Kevin.

**Next Meeting:** 9 a.m-11:30 Thursday May 1st, 2008, US Forest Service, Durham.