

## Coastal Watershed Invasive Plant Partnership

Thursday July 22, 2010 at 9am

USFS office in Durham

Attendee: Rachel Stevens, Joanne Glode, Fred Borman, Christine Perron, Tracy Degnan, Kevin Lucey, Morgan Eastman, Jay Sullivan.

### 1. Symposium Debrief

- Participant evaluations indicated that the symposium was valuable to a wide spectrum of participants;
- ~20 people received CEU's (mostly Certified Wetland Scientists and Certified Soil Scientists);
- **ACTION:** Next Symposium: May 20, 2012 (at GBNERR).

### 2. Pesticide Rules

- NH Division of Pesticide Control is considering revisions to the rule that requires 5 years of experience to receive a 'Commercial for Hire' license. Draft verbiage has only recently been developed. Conceptually, the rule change might implement other stringent requirements in lieu of the 5 year experience requirement, such as college degrees, or specific training. The reasons for this change are two fold: 1) experience does not necessarily equate with competency, 2) The number of licensed herbicide applicators in the state are few. Those that support this rule change are invited to submit a letter to the chairperson of NH's Pesticide Board (Lorraine Merrill).
- Some non-profits and municipalities are also questioning whether the qualifications for "Commercial not for Hire" are too stringent.
- Overall those in attendance at the CWIPP Steering Committee meeting agreed that we were not knowledgeable enough on the subject of pesticide licensing to weigh in.
- Questions were also posed about a general lack of training available about pesticide licensing. Fred Borman indicated that Rachel Maccini (UNH Cooperative Extension) provides pesticide application trainings.
- **ACTION:** Fred Borman will check with Rachel Macinni about giving a beginners training for the license requirements for the "Commercial Not-for-Hire" license. This could take place in the fall as part of CWIPP's regular meeting schedule. An invitation could be made to members of the Invasive Plant Outreach Group and the extended CWIPP partnership.

### 3. Funding Opportunities

#### a. Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Funds: (admin by NHDES)

[http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/wmp/documents/arm\\_app.pdf](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/wmp/documents/arm_app.pdf)

- \$1.5 million dollars are available for ecosystem restoration and conservation projects in the Piscataqua Region through the NHDES Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund (ARM) through a competitive solicitation. The grant proposal is due September 30th.
- The ARM Selection Committee is interested in speaking with members of CWIPP to develop criteria for successful invasive plant control projects. The meeting will likely occur on August 20. In general, CWIPP supports projects that protect high quality habitats and those that prevent the colonization of new invasive plants. Projects should be accompanied by a monitoring plan.

#### b. Pulling Together Initiative (PTI)

- Although the pre-proposal for this funding source recently passed, CWIPP should submit a proposal next year for a robust project. Ideas include:
  - a watershed-wide roadside knotweed control project
  - early detection strategies for Black swallow wart, pepperweed.
- CWIPP submitted a proposal in 2007; however, the scope of that proposal focused on capacity building.

#### 4. Subcommittee Activities:

- a. Early Detection Rapid Response List
  - A need exists to develop species lists that identify: 1) species not yet present, and 2) species present with low abundance.
  - The Invasive Species Committee (ISC) may be aligned to complete this task as they have done the necessary research to develop early detection rapid response initiatives for the State based on watershed, county, region, or zone.
  - Preliminary discussion identified the following species for the coastal watershed: Black Swallowwart as present in low numbers, pepperweed as present in low numbers, and mile a minute as not yet present.
- b. Fact Sheets
  - In 2009, CWIPP developed factsheets for the following: Phragmites, Knotweed, Pepperweed, Purple Loosestrife, and buckthorn. The fact sheets were intended to provide species specific control techniques set in the framework of New Hampshire environmental and pesticide regulations. The factsheets received a considerable amount of peer-review; however, the effort was shelved because the Division of Pesticide Control was in the process of re-writing pesticide rules specific to invasive plants, the results of which would have impacted the content of CWIPP's Factsheets.
  - In June(ish) 2010, the Division of Pesticide Control finalized the rules changes that now allow for the more effective control of invasive plants. The pesticide rules (including the new revisions can be found): [http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/state\\_agencies/pes.html](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/state_agencies/pes.html)
  - **Action:** Make CWIPP factsheets a priority, with the intention of publishing the 5 aforementioned factsheets by spring 2011. Rachel Stevens has offered to provide page design services. Need to develop funding source for a limited printing, targeted distribution would be implemented (e.g. garden centers). If the effort is successful and demand is demonstrated, CWIPP could seek funding to complete a comprehensive invasive plant control handbook that would include: mechanical, chemical, and biological control options as well as references to necessary regulations. This later effort would require funding. Kevin will post existing factsheets to Google Docs.

#### 5. Partner Updates

- a. **The Nature Conservancy**
  - Trained 8 Weed Watchers to identify 10 species. They monitor the reserve for early detection rapid response species;
  - Volunteers want to see action result from their efforts;
  - TNC having difficulty implementing an EDRR strategy for singular plants in remote areas, particularly if herbicide is warranted (without a Commercial Not for Hire license).

- TNC will have a group of interns from the City helping to pull plants on the reserve for a couple weeks this summer.

**b. NHDOT**

- Continuing to work on a state-wide contract for invasive species control, which would eliminate the need for State Agencies to go out-to-bid for individual populations of invasives? This work will continue in the fall.

**c. NH Cooperative Extension**

- Fred Borman held a training at Brentwood Farm (3 new invasive plants were discovered on the reserve).
- Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB)- <http://extension.unh.edu/ALB/>
  - The ALB beetle blitzes are going to be in Keene on August 3rd and Nashua on August 17th.
  - Apparently Asian Longhorn Beetle can be found in swimming pool filters. The UNH Cooperative Extension is conducting surveys of pools.

**d. Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**

- Recently released a Request for Proposals for the experimental control of invasive plants on the Reserve. The goal of the initiative is to determine effectiveness of different control techniques on multiple species;
- GBNERR is building a tool lending program that will have up to 30 weed wrenches.

**e. NH Coastal Program**

- Implemented the third season of the Pepperweed Patrol.
- One new population was discovered near an existing population (<100 stems) and was hand-pulled immediately.
- The pepperweed population at Odiorne State Park is nearly eradicated through three successive years of handpulling (twice a year).

**f. Rockingham County Conservation District**

- RCCD is implementing invasive plant control projects at the Little River, Fairhill Marsh, and Hampton's Landing Road.
- Through the NHCP competitive grants program, the Rockingham County Conservation District was funded to implement the next phase of invasive plant control at Odiorne Point State Park

**Next Meeting is September 16, 2010 at the US Forest Service 9-11.**