

Coastal Watershed Invasive Plant Partnership
November 15, 2012 9 a.m to 11 a.m.
NH F&G- Durham, NH

Attendees: Brook Smart (NRCS), Joanne Glode (TNC), Lenny Lord (RCCD), Rachel Stevens (GBNERR), Florence Peterson (USFS), Doug Cygan (DADMF), Fred Borman (UNHCE), Kevin Lucey (NHCP), Sarah Demers (NHCP)

PARNTER UPDATES

Department of Agriculture

- Doug Cygan has procured an herbicide applicators license and approval for treatment along right of ways. The approval does not include areas covered by the watershed permit (i.e. within 25 ft of surface waters).
- Permit applications require 1:25K maps of project areas, which for treatment along highway projects isn't practical. Doug is working with Division of Pesticide Control on a solution.
- For woody species, Doug is primarily focusing on Autumn Olive and Glossy Buckthorn. He estimates that he treated 3,000 stems in 2012. Treatment for woody species has typically been low volume basal bark of Garlon 4.
- Doug also estimates that he has treated 38 acres of Japanese knotweed utilizing Roundup Pro.
- The Invasive Species Committee (ISC) is recruiting new members.
- The ISC is looking at a new evaluation process through NatureSev that allows for a ranking to be developed on the invasiveness of a species based on multiple parameters, which also allows comparison on a national scale.

University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension

- Fred Borman reported that he has given three workshops on invasives (plants and pests) that reached 50 people.
- Fred assisted with 85 acres of WHIP and EQUIP in Rockingham County.
- UNH CE is continuing to pursue grant funding to bring The Stewardship Network to NH. Specifically, they are working on grant applications that include a mobile tool lending component that will build upon the concept developed at GBNERR.
- Nothing to report on the Invasive Plant Outreach Group.

Rockingham County Conservation District

- Lenny Lord reported that he has upgraded his license to a Commercial for Hire, which allows him to do work outside of the county.
- Through WRP, RCCD is working under a new Cooperative Agreement to assist multiple landowners.
- RCCD is working with USFWS on cottontail restoration projects (15 acres).

- Odiorne: a supplemental funding request for the Coastal Salt Pond to the Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund was denied on the basis that invasive plant control projects don't receive multiple funding allocations from ARM.
- Odiorne: southeastern beach area: phragmites that was controlled 2 years ago came back in 2012.
- Odiorne: An inter-agency committee will be established to vet future invasive plant control activities; to convene in Feb 2013.
- Derry Sheppard Park: RCCD used a product call Florel during flowering to stop fruit production. Florel breaks down into ethylene.
- River Road: Tidal Marsh restoration at River Road is successful. Another year of phragmites control is planned.
- Goss Farm: invasive control work is on-going.

The Nature Conservancy

- Joanne Glode indicated that TNC is seeing positive results in the Lubberland Preserve, with marked reductions in abundance of a formerly densely infested area (from 70% cover down to 10%).
- Bittersweet is coming back (apparently from existing roots).
- Buckthorn is coming back by seedlings.
- Weed Watcher Program has been monitoring the Lubberland Preserve. Garlic Mustard has been popping up. TNC is considering offering an early detection rapid response EDRR training in 2013.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Brooke worked with the Natural Resource Stewards on mechanical control of invasive plants specially handpulling at WRP projects.
- Phragmites continues to be treated at Awcomin, Massacre Marsh, Fairhill and Wallis Rd. Little River at the Audubon property received an initial treatment.
- NRCS achieved 1600 acres of new enrollments in 2012.
- Brooke asked if anyone has seen any articles on the effects of herbicides on amphibians.

NHDES Coastal Program

- Kevin Lucey reported that the NHCP implemented the 5th year of pepperweed assessment in the Hampton Seabrook Estuary and on coastal marshes. No new population detected. The existing 3 population were assessed in June and handpulled in July and September.
- Service Learning Curriculum at Odiorne Point State Park with Plymouth Regional High School using weed wrenches.
- NHCP will also be attending the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species (NEANS) conference, which is being held in Portsmouth on November 27 and 28. Currently there is no NH representative following marine/estuarine invasive issues.
- The Nature Conservancy detected a new invasive algae (seaweed) in Great Bay and Isles of Shoals. This algae (*Heterosiphonia japonica*) is already present in MA.

- Here is a link to article about the impact the invasive seaweed is having in MA.
<http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2012/06/27/invasive-seaweed-threatens-environment-along-new-england-coast/uTX6ZNIhgmt0Kg3e5Q1rIP/story.html>

Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

- Rachel Stevens report that GBNERR has hired Mike Morrison to control invasives on GBNERR properties.
- GBNERR also continues to advance a landscape scale strategic prioritization plan for invasive plant control projects. One aspect of this is to identify early detection and watch list species for each of the eco-regional subsections of New Hampshire. GBNERR will be sending out 2 pagers that list the early detection and watch list species on a town by town basis.
- Rachel continues to provide technical support to the Lamprey River Watershed Association's project to control Japanese Knotweed along the river corridor. Sites at the headwaters in Deerfield are currently receiving treatment through NRCS funds. Other sites that were treated several years ago in Lee and Epping need touch up.

US Forest Services.

- Florence reported that she continues to participate in regional efforts including the Connecticut River Watershed Initiative, the Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN).
- Florence also sends out monthly newsclips about invasive plants.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The CWIPP Partnership Agreement expires in May 2013. There was discussion about where we should go from here. There were different opinions expressed but the general sentiment was that the Partnership should go on in one manner or another. The current partnership agreement, although simple, requires an annual plan and annual report. The partnership agreement also specifies that chairmanship should change hands on an annual basis, which has not occurred. To date, despite our efforts, CWIPP's track record of producing valuable Annual Plans and Reports is spotty. There was discussion about whether a formally signed agreement is necessary to achieve our goals. The majority of opinions favored a signed agreement because it designates buy-in on the part of each agency not just individuals serving on the committee. There was resounding agreement that the partnership agreement should be simplified and minimized, while identifying goals and priorities of the partnership. The partnership agreement can be found at the following website.

http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/cwipp/documents/agreement_signed.pdf

Meeting Schedule:

- The next meetings are being held on the third Thursday of the month from 9-11: January 17, February 21, and March 21.