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**CRISP Partners Meeting Minutes 2/21/2019**

**In Attendance**

John Thompson, CRISP Coordinator

Dan Snider, CRISP Field Projects Manager

Ian Dunn, NYS DEC Forester

Connor Young, Team Leader Environment and Natural Resources, Cornell Cooperative Extension Columbia-Greene

Chris Zimmerman, TNC Conservation Ecologist

Radka Wildova, Senior Scientist Ecological Research Institute

Thom Allgaier, NYSDAM

Jonathan Farbar, Landscape Architect

MB Lloyd, Landscape Architect

Donna Vogler, Professor SUNY Oneonta

Meredith Taylor, NYC DEP Invasive Species Biologist

Kris Gilbert, Senior Landscape Architect, NY DOT

Jessica Newburn, NPS Biologist

Tom Pavlesich, WAC Forestry Program Director

Catherine Skalda, Catskill Stream Buffer Initiative Program Coordinator Delaware

Ethan Angell, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Senior Horticultural Inspector

**Action Items**

Meredith Taylor: Send Kris Gilbert Rail Trail maps

**Who’s Doing What in Invasive Species Management – Creating a 2019 Invasive Species Management Plan/Review** – John Thompson

* Concern about a lack of coordination and unintended overlap and working gaps between invasive species management organizations in the Catskills
	+ The CRISP Strategic Plan identifies addressing this as a priority
* Future 2019 CRISP Partner Meetings will be used to identify gaps in geography, species and project coverage by soliciting presentations and discussions from partner organizations
	+ Partner organizations will present on their current invasive species work within the region and address audience questions
	+ Will be supplemented by surveys to get information from groups not able to attend the Partner Meetings
* Secondary goal of these meetings is to share grant funding sources

**Developing an Ulster County Rail Trail Invasive Species Management Plan** – Meredith Taylor

* 11 miles of new Ashokan Rail Trail will open this coming fall
* Easement on property allows for maintenance – an operating agreement with Ulster County requires they manage invasive species along the trail
	+ County must manage 32 total width – 12 foot wide trail and 10 feet on either side
	+ Large culverts, old foundations and old homes can be found along the 11 miles of rail trail
	+ Maintenance crews will be required to clean trucks and equipment before bringing them on site
* No concrete information from county on their management team’s applicator license or availability
* Initial surveys indicate that the trail has infestations of bittersweet, barberry, stilt grass, Ailanthus, among others
	+ Possible prioritization methods: Species that are high risk for spreading from rail trail to uninfested areas, species that are completely new to the area
* Planning for signage and boot brush stations at each parking area
* DEP asking for input on management plan and initial survey, with Catskill Center leading plan development

**Proposal: Rapid Detection of Aquatic Invasive Plants in the Catskills Using Environmental DNA** – Michael Tessler and Seth Cunningham

* Any interested collaborators reach out to mtessler@amnh.org

**Additional Partner Updates and Announcements**

* Jonathan: Can CRISP offer continuing education credits for landscape architects or other certified positions that require them? It might increase attendance to future partner meetings for the Management Plan/Review development