

GESC AND ESC/HERF MEETING

January 30, 2015

DATE/TIME: 30 January/1pm

LOCATION: NYSDEC Buffalo Office, 273 Michigan Ave, Buffalo, NY 14203

ATTENDEES: Ben Lenz (NYPA); Timothy DePriest (NYSDEC); Connie Adams (NYSDEC); Paul McKeown (NYSDEC); Dave Frazier (Gomez and Sullivan Engineers); Erin Redding (Gomez and Sullivan Engineers); Scott Schlueter (US Fish and Wildlife Service); Rene Rickard (Tuscarora Nation); Renata Kraft (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper); Jeff Tunkey (Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper);

AGENDA:

I. Status Update Presentations

A. SUNY Buffalo State Great Lakes Center graduate students updated the Committee on the progress that they have made for the *Investigating Lake Sturgeon habitat use, feeding ecology, and benthic resource availability in the Lower Niagara River* project.

The research team has made progress towards the project objectives, including:

1. Created a benthic map of the lower Niagara River and Niagara Bar
2. Sampled 147 sites to assess diversity and community structure of benthos
3. Collected stomach samples from 25 Lake Sturgeon to document diet
4. Implanted 27 acoustic tags in Lake Sturgeon for tracking habitat use and behavior

B. Alicia Perez-Fuentetaja delivered an update presentation regarding her lab's project *Emerald Shiner Habitat Conservation and Restoration Study in the Upper Niagara River*. Progress made toward grant objectives included the following:

1. Collected several types of samples between May and October 2014 in order to assess habitat and diet preferences
2. Collected Emerald Shiners in order to test genetic differences among populations in the Niagara River
3. Analyzed water velocities throughout the Niagara River (with funding from USACE)

C. Loren Smith of Buffalo Audubon updated the Committee on the status of the *Niagara River Birding Trail Site Evaluations and Niagara River Greenway Bird Habitat Restoration and Protection projects at Buckhorn Island State Park and North Tonawanda Audubon Preserve* project.

1. Acquiring necessary permits for invasive species treatment and removal.
2. Preparing to send our RFQ for treatment contractors.

III. Project Discussion

A. The Committees will discuss the Projects and release of funding via email and phone.

IV. Action Items

- A. Tim DePriest will notify grantees of Committee decisions regarding release of funds.