USEPA Regional Science Workshop:
“Biodiversity/Landscape Change and Lyme Disease- Science and Application” - Sept 22-23, 2009

EPA-New England Regional Laboratory, Chelmsford, MA

FINAL AGENDA - Version: 9/18/2009 11:15am

Sponsored by: USEPA’s New England (Region 1) Regional Science Council, the Office of the Science Advisor and the Office of Research and Development

NOTE: Please wear casual, comfortable attire....

Tuesday, September 22nd

9:00-9:10am Workshop Logistics - (e.g. bathrooms, emergency protocols, lunch, meeting process, etc.) (Robert Hillger, P.E., Senior Science Advisor and Regional/ORD Science Liaison or Marcel Belaval, Chair, Regional Science Council and Ellie Tonkin, Facilitator, EPA)

9:10 - 9:25am Introduction and Welcome: Mike Kenyon, Director, Regional Lab

9:25 – 9:40am “Developing a Community of Practice on Biodiversity/Landscape Change and Lyme Disease” – Gary Foley, PhD, Director of the Executive Office of Earth Observations (EOEO), EPA’s Office of the Science Advisor and Montira Pongsiri, PhD, MPH, EPA’s Office of the Science Advisor

Keynote Address:

9:40 – 10:10am “Sustaining Life—Biodiversity and Human Health: an overview” - Eric Chivian, M.D., Founder and Director of the Center for Health and the Global Environment and Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

Biodiversity and Lyme Disease Linkages

10:10 – 10:50am1 “Mechanisms Linking Host Biodiversity to Lyme Disease Risk” (Funded under EPA STAR Program) – Richard S. Ostfeld, PhD, Senior Scientist, Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, NY

10:50-11:00am - Break

1 (Speakers in Morning and Afternoon Session – Biodiversity and Lyme Disease Linkages will be 25-30 minute talks with 5-10 minutes for questions and transition to next talk – 40 minutes total)
11:00 – 11:40am “Climate, landscape and host community diversity as predictors of Lyme disease risk at different scales in the US” (Funded under EPA Advanced Monitoring Initiative) - Maria Diuk-Wasser, PhD, Assistant Professor, Yale School of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases and Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies, Center for Eco-Epidemiology

11:40am - 12:00pm – Questions of Morning Speakers

12:00 – 1:00pm Informal Lunch (Sandwich Choice, Chips, Cookie and Drink @$7.50)

1:00 – 1:40pm “Landscape Fragmentation Model of Lyme Disease in EPA Region 3 and Beyond” – Laura Jackson, PhD, Research Biologist/Landscape Ecologist, USEPA – Office of Research and Development (ORD), NERL, RTP, NC

1:40 – 2:20pm “Evaluating effects of localized habitat manipulations on landscape-level dynamics of white-footed mouse populations” – Jason Grear, PhD, Ecologist, USEPA – ORD, Atlantic Ecology Division, Narragansett, RI

2:20 – 3:00pm “Lyme Disease Integrated Tick Management & Biodiversity” – Joseph Piesman, D.Sc, Chief, Tick-Borne Diseases Activity Bacterial Diseases Branch, Division of Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases/CDC, Fort Collins, CO

3:00 – 3:15pm - Questions of Afternoon Speakers

3:15 – 3:30pm Break

Landscape Futures and Green Infrastructure

3:30- 4:00pm2 “Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Landscape Futures as a Human Health Tool” (Speaker via webinar) Betsy Smith, PhD, USEPA, ORD, NERL, ESD - ReVA (Regional Vulnerability Assessment) Program Director

4:00 – 4:30pm - “Science-based Land Use Planning at the Local Level” – Theo H.B.M. Holtwijk, Director of Long-Range Planning, Town of Falmouth, ME

4:30 - 5:00pm “Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure: policies, strategies and the need for interdisciplinary collaboration” - Jack Ahern, PhD, FASLA, Professor, School of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

2 (Landscape Futures and Green Infrastructure talks – 20 minutes, with 10 minutes for questions and transition – 30 minutes total)
5:00 – 5:30pm “Landscape Conservation through Green Infrastructure Planning: Implications for Lyme disease” – Matt Nicholson, PhD, USEPA, Region 3, EAID, Philadelphia, PA

5:30 – 5:50pm Questions of Landscape Futures/Green Infrastructures Speakers

5:50 – 6:00pm Overview and Discussion of Wednesday’s Format

7:30 – ~10:00pm Mixer/Dinner @ The Brewery Exchange (www.thebreweryexchange.com)
201 Cabot St., Lowell, MA (978)-937-2690
- transportation via Hawthorne Suites Shuttle
NOTE: $20 payable in cash at workshop registration for choice of entrée, dessert and coffee
(1st shuttle from Hawthorne Suites to brewery @ 6:30pm)

Wednesday, September, 23rd

8:00 – 8:10am Overview of Wednesday’s Format

Tick Management and Public Health

8:10 – 8:45pm “Public Health Impact of the Further Geographic Spread and Increased Intensity of Risk of Lyme and Other Tick-borne Diseases in Massachusetts”, Alfred DeMaria, Jr., M.D., Medical Director, State Epidemiologist, and Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Infectious Disease Prevention and Response, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

8:45 – 9:20am “Ecological approaches to Lyme disease management on protected lands” – Howard S. Ginsberg, Ph.D., Research Ecologist and Field Station Leader, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Coastal Field Station, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

9:20 – 9:55am “Cultural, Biological, and Natural Tick Control for the Management of Lyme Disease” – Kirby C. Stafford III, PhD, Vice Director, Chief Entomologist, State Entomologist, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), New Haven, CT and Anuja Bharadwaj, PhD, Postdoctoral Research Scientist, CAES

9:55 – 10:15am BREAK

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3 (Day 2- 25-30 minute talks with 5-10 minutes for questions and transition to next talk – 35 minutes total)
10:15 – 10:50am “Managing white-tailed deer populations in Massachusetts” - Sonja Christensen, Deer/Moose Project Leader, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Westboro, MA

10:50 – 11:25am “The Revenge of Old Buck-What Can Go Wrong Will Go Wrong” - Timothy J. Lepore, M.D., Nantucket Cottage Hospital, Nantucket, MA

11:25 – 11:40noon Orientation to Four Breakout Groups

11:40 – 12:30pm Informal Lunch (Sandwich Choice, Chips, Cookie and Drink @$7.50)

NOTE: Breakouts 12:30-2pm will NOT be available by Webinar

12:30 – 2:00pm Four Breakout Groups (i.e. two meeting rooms, library, Allagash) (See your meeting badge for assigned group) (TBD)
Group/Question 1 Facilitator – Ellie Tonkin (TBD) & Robert Hillger
Group/Question 2 Facilitator – Jeri Weiss (TBD) & Greg Hellyer
Group/Question 3 Facilitator – Nora Conlon (TBD) & Montira Pongsiri
Group/Question 4 Facilitator – Katrina Kipp (TBD) & Hilary Snook

2:00 – 2:15pm Break

NOTE: Access from 2:15-4:00pm will be via Toll-Free Number – not Webinar
   Dial-In Number:    (866) 299-3188
   Conference Code:  6179188671#

2:15 – 2:45pm Report out of Four Breakout Groups (@~5minutes)


3:45 – 4:00pm Next Steps – Formation of a “Human Health and Biodiversity Virtual (WWW) Community of Practice (CoP)” (e.g. workshop/research products and possible CoP communication tools, including EPA Environmental Science Connector)

4:00pm Brief Closing Remarks (Mike Kenyon)

4:10pm Optional Short Guided Tour of Chemistry and Biology Laboratories