



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Terry Martino

FROM: Daniel M. Spada

DATE: November 30, 2012

RE: RASS Division Report for November 2012

This is the last monthly report that I will provide to you in my capacity as Supervisor, Natural Resource Analysis. It has been a pleasure to work with you, other Agency staff and the Agency Board. I especially found it professionally and personally satisfying to be the leader of the staff of the Resource Analysis and Scientific Services Division. It was easy to do my job because of their competence, diligence and scientific rigor. I will miss you all.

Projects

Field visits were conducted for those projects preceded by an asterisk (*).

P2005-0123A, Peters, Town of Wells: Staff onducted a site visit to assess a new building envelope on a previously approved subdivision lot in a Recreational River Area that includes shoreline on the Sacandaga River. Issues assessed included mean high water mark, septic separation and wetlands. Other involved Agency staff: C. Parker. (LaLonde, O'Dell)

P2005-0261, Lowes, Town of Ticonderoga: RASS staff reviewed the annual mitigation report. It was satisfactory and complied with permit conditions.
Other involved Agency staff: C. Parker. (Rooks)

*P2007-0071, Rodzinski, Town of North Elba: Permit for 5 lot SD, 2 SFD's, recently renewed. Permit holder wants to harvest timber, permit requires amendment for cutting outside proposed limits of clearing, and for cutting on slopes steeper than 15%. RASS conducted forestry and slopes analysis. Advised to observe road setback, avoid steep slopes, and consider a forest management plan for long term management of the property. Other involved Agency staff: Yamrick. (Ziemann)

P2012-0071, Yanulavich, Town of Saranac: Application for single family dwelling in Resource Management. RASS review for soils

Memorandum to Martino

November 30, 2012

Page 2

verification and septic detail verification. Other involved Agency staff: Darrah. (Ziemann, Snizek, Bendell)

P2011-0103 White, Town of Putnam: RASS staff performed technical review on a 7 lot subdivision (four of which are jurisdictional) on the shoreline of Lake George. Significant issues which remain include roadway access, steep slopes, and stormwater management. Review has been coordinarted with the Lake George Park Commission and the application remains incomplete. Other involved Agency staff: McSherry, Phillips. (LaLonde)

P2012-0123, Black, Town of Black Brook: RASS staff reviewed the mitigation implementation report for a driveway crossing of a wetland. Other involved Agency staff: Darrah. Other involved agencies or municipalities: ACOE. (Rooks)

P2012-0137, Naumberg/Hoffman, Town of Fine: Project involves proposed boardwalk through wetlands. Staff met to discuss next steps. Decision was made to seek additional information from applicant regarding alternatives to impacting wetlands. Other involved Agency staff: McSherry, Weber, Van Cott, McAleese. (O'Dell, Bendell)

*P2012-0149, Carville, Town of Bellmont: Re-dredging of man-made pond that was dredged by permit in 1994. Staff is awaiting response to second NIPA which asked for more detailed plans and retention of additional wetland area. Other involved Agency staff: Walrath. Other involved Agencies: DEC and Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District. (O'Dell, Bendell)

*P2012-0161, Rulf, Town of Ausable: Application is for a two lot subdivision to create one lot with existing SFD and OSWWTS, and one vacant lot to remain in agricultural production. RASS conducted DHTP soils analysis on vacant lot, and verification of replacement area on lot with existing development. Other involved Agency staff: S. Parker. (Ziemann)

*P2012-0162, CHC Trust, Town of Franklin: Application is for a two lot subdivision involving wetlands, and the construction of one new single family dwelling. RASS attention for DHTP soils analysis, wetland delineation and navigability determination. Staff performed one deep-hole test pit examination, approving one conventional standard absorption system. Other involved Agency staff: McSherry. (Ziemann, O'Dell, Bendell)

P2012-0172 Paradise Point, Town of Mayfield: RASS staff performed technical review on a permit amendment to modify a previously permitted subdivsion on the shoreline of the Great Sacandaga. The modified proposal includes individual well supplies and a community wastewater treatment system. The amendment has been coordinated

Memorandum to Martino

November 30, 2012

Page 3

with NYSDOH and technical issues have been addressed. Other involved Agency staff: Yamrick. (LaLonde)

P2012-0182, Buckingham, Town of Croghan: Reviewed and approved an on-site wastewater treatment system design prepared by a licensed professional engineer submitted in response to a Notice of Incomplete Permit Application. Other involved Agency staff: Darrah. (LaLonde)

*P2012-0185, Bear Pond Ranch, Towns of Lake George & Queensbury: Staff met with the landowner, his attorney's, and representatives from the LA Group. The proposal involves a ~3400 foot long zip line tourist accommodation in an existing multi-use venue. Issues include stormwater and general safety along the steep sloped access road. The Agency is currently awaiting a response to the initial NIPA which included detailed requests pertaining to potential visibility and general requirements for successful ride operation such as vegetative clearing. Other involved Agency staff: McSherry. (Bendell)

P2012-0189 Westport Hospital Expansion, Town of Westport: This project is for the expansion of an existing medical facility located within a Resource Management Land Use Area and under the control of a previously issued Agency permit. RASS staff reviewed the application materials regarding stormwater management and for any potential traffic safety concerns. The Agency is awaiting a response to the initial NIPA. Other involved Agency staff: Darrah. (Bendell)

*P2012-0191, Rancour, Town of Moriah: Application is for a two lot subdivision (involving wetlands, also jurisdictional pursuant to previous permit and settlement agreement) to create one lot with previously permitted SFD and OSWWTS, and one vacant lot proposed to be developed with a mobile home and onsite wastewater treatment system. RASS performed six deep-hole test pit examinations and was unable to find a suitable location (deepest seasonal high groundwater @ 19"). Other involved Agency staff: Lynch, Wagner. (Ziemann)

P2012-0199, Sharlow, Town of Hopkinton: Proposed project is for a new commercial use: Recreational Vehicle and tent campground consisting of 38 sites with water, electric and septic hookups involving wetlands. The application is being reviewed and changes will be requested to increase wetland buffers and DHTP examination as soils details were not provided. Other involved Agency staff: McSherry. (O'Dell, Bendell, Ziemann).

Pre-Application

Field visits were conducted for those pre-application meetings preceded by an asterisk (*).

Memorandum to Martino

November 30, 2012

Page 4

*A2011-0003, D'Onofrio, Town of Harrietstown: RASS staff examined wetlands, discussed wetland and Agency regulations and procedures. Other involved Agency staff: McSherry. Other involved agencies or municipalities: DEC, Village of Saranac Lake. (Rooks)

*A2012-0128, AuSable Club River Restoration, Town of Keene: Agency staff visited the site of a potential river restoration project within the AuSable Club due to damage from Irene. A determination was made that the section of the river proposed for restoration is navigable and structures greater than 100 square feet in size within the shoreline structure setback would require an Agency variance. The Agency is awaiting design plans that should utilize softer approaches such as: bio-engineering and vegetative plantings hence avoiding the need for an Agency variance. Other involved Agency staff: Walrath. (Bendell)

*A2012-0153, McDonnell, Town of Harrietstown: Potential application is for a two lot subdivision with one proposed single family dwelling. Staff performed one deep-hole test pit examination. Other involved Agency staff: S. Parker. (Ziemann)

*A2012-169, DOT, Town of North Elba, Town of North Elba and Village of Saranac Lake: RASS staff continued checking LA Group wetland delineation for the proposed recreational trail beside RR tracks, phase 2 between Ray Brook and Saranac Lake. Other involved Agency staff: McSherry, Saehrig. Other involved agencies or municipalities: DEC, ACOE. (Rooks)

*A2012-0180, Town of Clare, Town of Clare: RASS staff flagged wetlands for a proposed large double culvert replacement on Tooley Pond Road, project being designed by County. NY DOT classifies it as a bridge and has red-flagged it. Other involved Agency staff: Saehrig, Bendell. Other involved agencies or municipalities: DEC. (Rooks)

*A2012-0183, Bend of the River LLC, Town of Lake Luzerne: Project is a proposed 20 lot residential subdivision on 42 acres involving wetlands. Staff is waiting plans showing vegetated buffers between wetlands and development and driveway locations outside of wetlands. Other Agency staff: Lynch. (O'Dell)

*A2012-0187 Rothfus, White Lake, Town of Forestport: Conducted a site visit for a potential variance application for the expansion of a deck within the shoreline setback. Potential alternatives are being evaluated with the applicant. Other involved Agency staff: S. Parker. (LaLonde)

*A2012-0193, Mendelsohn. Potential application is for one new single family dwelling with onsite wastewater treatment system in

Memorandum to Martino

November 30, 2012

Page 5

Resource Management. Staff performed one deep-hole test pit examination, approving one conventional standard absorption system. Other involved Agency staff: Lynch, McNamara. (Ziemann)

*A2012-0196, Hayes, Town of Fort Ann: Potential application is for a two lot subdivision involving wetlands, and the construction of one new single family dwelling. Staff performed seven deep-hole test pit examinations and was unable to find a suitable location (deepest seasonal high groundwater @ 18"). Other involved Agency staff: S. Parker. (Ziemann, Rooks).

Town of Fort Ann-Hadlock Pond Association - RASS staff had telephone contact from a representative of Hadlock Pond Association. The association is interested in submitting an application for use of Renovate OTF to treat EWM during spring 2013. Staff offered to meet with the lake association and Town officials in the near future to discuss permit application requirements. No date has been determined for the pre-application meeting. (Snizek)

Town of Chester, Loon Lake - RASS staff had telephone contact with Supervisor Monroe. Mr. Monroe was meeting with several representatives of the Loon Lake Park District to discuss APA permit requirements for the use of the aquatic herbicide Renovate and had several questions concerning the Agency permit application. The Town of Chester will be submitting an application to the Agency and DEC by end of December in order to conduct a May 2013 treatment. The Town is proposing to do the treatment without sequestration curtains, but will also be submitting a proposal and cost estimate for a curtain to be used during the treatment. (Snizek)

Culvert Replacement, Tooley Pond Road, Town of Clare - This project has not been assigned a number yet and is still in preliminary talks. Agency staff met with DEC staff from Region 6, personnel from the Town of Clare and Clifton, and St. Lawrence County DPW staff. A dual culvert is presently failing and material is being compromised below Tooley Pond Road. The NYSDOT has failed the road crossing during their latest inspection. Issues discussed included: culvert re-alignment, culvert separation, wetland vegetation, alternative road crossing techniques, watershed characteristics, and potential detour routes. The Agency is currently awaiting design plans to evaluate potential wetland impacts from the culvert replacement. Other involved Agency staff: Saehrig. Other involved agencies or municipalities: DEC, Towns of Clare and Clifton, St. Lawrence County DPW. (Bendell, Rooks)

Enforcement

Memorandum to Martino

November 30, 2012

Page 6

Field visits were conducted for those enforcement cases preceded by an asterisk (*).

*E2001-0031 Slaybaugh, Town of Bleecker: This enforcement file is for the construction of a single family dwelling located within a recreational river and upon Resource Management lands. Staff visited the site to investigate alternative locations for the installation of an OSWTS. RASS staff visited the site previously to flag wetlands on the site. The Agency has received and approved a site plan locating a new absorption field along with a relocation of the potable water source on the property. Other involved Agency staff: Fravor. (Bendell, Rooks)

E2009-0078, Giacovelli, Town of Tupper Lake: Enforcement matter related to alleged shoreline setback violation. Staff provided information describing appropriate species of trees and shrubs for planting on the subject parcel. Other involved Agency staff: Burth. (Ziemann)

*E2012-0159, Pechtel, Town of Broadalbin: RASS staff investigated a report of wetland fill, found brush pushed into wetland, and marked the area of brush/fill to remove. Other involved Agency staff: Fravor. (Rooks)

Jurisdiction

Field visits were conducted for those enforcement cases preceded by an asterisk (*).

*J2012-0673, Town of St. Armand Wastewater Treatment Plant, Town of St. Armand: Proposal includes improvements to the existing wastewater treatment plant to comply with DEC requirements. Coordinated review with DEC and the Environmental Facilities Corporation (funding source for the Town). The project will require a permit due to wetland impacts and will be coordinated with appropriate agencies so as to maintain existing funding sources while protecting the community and the environment. Other involved Agency staff: Miller, Weber. Other involved agencies or municipalities: DEC, EFC. (LaLonde, Rooks, Spada).

Wetlands

Field visits were conducted for those jurisdictional inquiries preceded by an asterisk (*).

*W2012-0236, Barkeater Trail Alliance, Town of Wilmington: RASS Determined that a proposed culvert for bicycle/snowmobile trail development is NJ because the wetland is NJ. Other involved agencies or municipalities: DEC. (Rooks)

Memorandum to Martino

November 30, 2012

Page 7

*W2012-0241, New York State DEC, Town of Wilmington: RASS staff examined trail and wetlands, discussed potential projects and wetland impacts for a development of a handicap-accessible trail. Other involved agencies or municipalities: DEC. (Rooks)

*W2012-0242, Town of Ausable, Town of Ausable/Village of Keeseville: Town Hall and highway garage complex on old Key Chevrolet site. Issues include wetland impacts and existing wetland fill placed by prior owner. Information was sent to enforcement for advice on how to guide applicant regarding wetland fill for planning purposes. (O'Dell)

*W2012-0244, Slaybaugh, Town of Bleeker: RASS staff marked the wetland edge to assist in locating septic leach field. Other involved Agency staff: Fravor. (Rooks, Bendell)

*W2012-0245, Town of St. Armand: RASS staff delineated wetlands to assist in siting of a new sewage pumping station. Other involved Agency staff: Saehrig. (Rooks)

RASS staff provided 20 air photo interpretations for wetland determinations or GIS projects for: JIFs, Landowners, Enforcement cases, Reg Program projects, and towns. (Mark Rooks, Mary O'Dell)

Meetings/Events/Teleconferences Attended

RASS staff represented the Agency at the APIPP Fall meeting. Last summer activities were outlined and a strategic plan and mission statement were discussed. (Snizek, Rooks)
Technology Information Committee meeting. Discussed software needs for new computers and got an update on State IT consolidation.
(Rooks)

Agency staff met with the Ranger School Adirondack Cultural Ecology class, led by Director Chris Westbrook and Instructor Jamie Savage. We discussed the Agency's history and regulatory role and used a couple of subdivision permits as examples. I took them down and demonstrated our Planar/Stereo Analyst system for digital air photo interpretation. This is the second year meeting with this class. They show keen interest and are fully engaged in the discussions. This type of outreach is very valuable because these students will be interacting with us in the future as surveyors and environmental consultants. They also form a pool of future staff members who will have connections to the Adirondacks. (Rooks, McKeever)

LCBP Technical Advisory Committee - Topic of discussion at the 11/7/12 LCBP TAC meeting: Officials from LCBP will be meeting with DEC representative within the next month to discuss the draft LCBP Flood Resilience Report which is meant to inform legislators,

Memorandum to Martino

November 30, 2012

Page 8

municipalities and individuals on impacts of the flooding events of 2011. LCBP is looking for information from DEC concerning current management strategies and also identifies information gaps and data required to address management needs. This might be a good opportunity for Agency staff to be involved in the discussion with LCBP and DEC staff in order to address Agency policies and management/data needs. (Snizek)

Invasive Pest Forest Survey - Training provided by USDA and Hamilton County Soil and Water in Lake Pleasant. Focus on identification and signs of forest pests.
(Ziemann)

DOT, DEC, APA Conference Call - Conference call with representatives from the three agencies to initiate a working group to collaborate on the issue of hazard trees in relation to State Highways. Topics included establishment of a consistent tree list procedure for identification of hazard trees, update of the DOT Green Book, implication of leaning trees, cold spots and conifer management, and scheduling of future conference calls. Other involved Agency staff: Saehrig, Regan. (Ziemann)

Soil Science Society of America Online Review Course
Class #11, Land Use (Make-Up for canceled 10/31 class) -
Topics: Erosion/Sedimentation, Water Quality, Wetlands/Hydric Soils, Regulatory/Resource Agencies.
Soil Science Society of America Online Review Course
Class #12, Land Use - Topics: Soil Quality, Soil Management (Urban Soils, Forest Soils, Agricultural Soils). (Ziemann)

The RASS Supervisor participated in a regular meeting of the partners involved with the EPA grant "Detecting Climate Change Effects To Wetlands in the Adirondack Park". (Spada)

The RASS Supervisor participated in the fall meeting of the Adirondack Research Consortium board. (Spada)

The RASS Supervisor was guest lecturer at Cornell University in Dr. Barbara Bedford's Wetland Ecology class, and at Paul Smith's College in Joshua Bakelaar's Ecosystem Ecology class. The topic was, "History of Wetland Conservation in the Adirondacks". (Spada)

The RASS Supervisor represented the Agency at the regular meeting of the NYS Invasive Species Council. (Spada)

Summary of RASS Activities for November, 2012			
Activity	Number of Interactions (Site Visits)	Year To Date (Site Visits)	Other State Agencies Involved¹
Projects	16 (6)	204 (74)	
Pre-Application	12 (9)	72 (52)	
Permit Compliance	0 (0)	5 (3)	
Enforcement	3 (2)	61 (44)	
Jurisdiction	1 (1)	63 (18)	
Legal	0	4	
Planning	0	3	
Map Amendment	0	2	
Wetlands	5 (5)	353 (202)	
Airphoto Interpretation	20	239	
Soils	3 (14)	55 (69)	
Meetings/Events	10	224	∞
Literature Reviewed	0	44	na
Total	70 (37)	1278(469*)	

*Does not add up due to overlap among activities

DMS:lhb

cc: RASS Staff

¹ May tally individual agencies more than once if they were involved with multiple activities. Does not include numbers of individual staff involved.

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Daniel M. Spada
FROM: Mary O'Dell
DATE: November 26, 2012
SUBJECT: Updated 2012 wetland field visit statistics

Year 2012 Wetland Field Visits

Time Period	Number of requests received during month	Number completed	Interval for processing. (Date received to date scheduled for those received in that month)	Number pending
January	2	2	N/A	0
February	6	3	N/A	3
March	25	8	N/A	20
April	33	36	15	17
May	38	48	8	7
June	26	23	14	10
July	26	27	12	9
August	27	31	9	5
September	28	27	10	6
October	20	22	7	4
November	14	19	5	0
Cumulative for 2012	245	246	Avg = 10	0

c: M. Rooks

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Dan Spada
FROM: Aaron Ziemann
DATE: November 26, 2012
RE: November Deep-hole Test Pit Statistics

To date in November of 2012, a total of 14 deep-hole test pit (DHTP) evaluations were conducted in review of 3 projects or pre-applications. All 14 of these evaluations were performed by Agency staff. Of the 14 DHTP locations, none met Agency guidelines for conventional standard absorption wastewater treatment systems, one met Agency guidelines for a conventional shallow absorption wastewater treatment system, and thirteen did not meet Agency guidelines for installation of an onsite wastewater treatment system.

Deep Hole Test Pit Statistics	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Year To Date
Projects Involving DHTPs	7	5	1	11	11	5	7	7	3	9	3	69
DHTPs Described by APA	13	7	2	24	6	8	13	21	7	22	14	137
DHTPs Described by Consultants	5	4	0	1	5	0	1	3	0	1	0	20
Total DHTPs	18	11	2	25	11	8	14	24	7	23	14	157
Approved Conventional Systems	9	1	0	4	4	4	4	4	0	8	0	38
Approved Shallow Systems	3	5	0	14	6	4	4	9	6	12	1	64
Did not Meet Agency Guidelines	6	5	2	7	1	0	6	11	1	3	13	55
Approved Conventional Systems %	50%	9%	0%	16%	36%	50%	29%	17%	0%	35%	0%	24%
Approved Shallow Systems %	17%	45%	0%	56%	55%	50%	29%	38%	86%	52%	7%	41%
Did not Meet Agency Guidelines %	33%	45%	100%	28%	9%	0%	43%	46%	14%	13%	93%	35%
 												
Approved Shallow Systems	3	5	0	14	6	4	4	9	6	12	1	64
Shallow Systems due to SHGWT	3	5	0	14	6	4	3	9	3	11	1	59
Shallow Systems due to Bedrock	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	5
Shallow Systems due to SHGWT %	100%	100%	0%	100%	100%	100%	75%	100%	50%	92%	100%	92%
Shallow Systems due to Bedrock %	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	25%	0%	50%	8%	0%	8%

ACZ:acz