



**MINUTES OF THE PARK ECOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING
January 10, 2013**

Committee members in attendance included Agency Chairwoman Leilani Ulrich, Arthur Lussi, Cecil Wray, Designees Patrick Hooker Department of Economic Development, and Robert Stegemann Department of Environmental Conservation, and Committee Chair Valentino. Members Frank Mezzano, William Thomas, and Designee Dierdre Scozzafava, Department of State joined the Committee. Also participating in the meeting was Executive Director Fred Monroe of the Local Government Review Board. Staff included Executive Director Terry Martino.

The Committee meeting convened at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Annual Report on Terrestrial Invasive Species Management Efforts for 2012 (Brendan Quirion, APIPP)

Mr. Quirion reviewed the initiatives that are underway to manage invasive species in the Adirondack Park. He noted the need for funding and reviewed the work plan for 2013.

Mr. Quirion noted the importance of the rapid response team to management of invasive species. In addition, a campground manager hired by the Department has also aided in the management of invasive species in the campground areas. He added that with the additional funding for these two vital positions, success has been realized in the noted decline of the spread of invasives in monitored areas.

Mr. Quirion provided before and after treatment photos of native plant recovery processes in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness area and the Town of Elizabethtown. Invasives treated in these areas included Yellow Iris, Black Swallow-wort and Japanese Knotweed.

Three trainings were held in Saranac Lake, Old Forge and North Creek to educate private landowners on mitigative measures for the control of invasive species. Additional trainings for landowners will be slated for 2013.

Mr. Quirion noted that Member Booth concurred that dedicated funding for the control of invasive species is imperative to successful management and control of continued infestations.

Committee Chair Valentino asked if the Governor's State of the State address may have included funding provisions for the coming year.

Chair Valentino asked if indiscriminate treatments are used or if a species can be targeted to minimize impacts to native plants. Mr. Quirion responded that the industry has improved application methods to minimize impacts during the application process.

Agency Chairwoman Ulrich asked if funding is primarily considered public. Mr. Quirion responded that APIPP is funded through the Environmental Protection Fund. The funding for the response team is provided by a private foundation.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:40 p.m.