



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

Committee members in attendance included Agency Chairwoman Leilani Ulrich, Member Cecil Wray, Designees Patrick Hooker Department of Economic Development, and Robert Stegemann Department of Environmental Conservation, and Committee Chair Valentino. Members Frank Mezzano, Richard Booth, William Thomas, and Designees Dierdre Scozzafava, Department of State and Patrick Hooker, Department of Economic Development, 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, Counsel James Townsend and Supervisor, Natural Resource Analysis Ed Snizek.

The Committee meeting convened at approximately 9:45 a.m.

Supervisor, Natural Resources Report (E. Snizek)

Mr. Snizek briefly reviewed the new monthly report format which was developed by RASS staff. The new format now includes a front page summary of monthly and year to date metrics being tracked by the Division. RASS hope to develop a time and activity tracking system in the future to accurately account for time committed to each task.

Presentation on the Use of the Aquatic Herbicide Renovate OTF in NYS Waterbodies Outside the Adirondack Park: Lessons Learned (Scott Kishbaugh, DEC)

Scott Kishbaugh presented a review of the role of DEC in approval of aquatic pesticides in New York State and lessons learned from the use of Renovate in waterbodies located outside the Adirondack Park.. He noted that the State of New York is one of a handful of states that has a distinct registration review process in addition to the USEPA review and registration requirements. Mr. Kishbaugh reviewed toxicological properties of the active ingredient, triclopyr and various sampling methods employed to evaluate the efficacy of treatments. He also provided summaries of Renovate treatments of waterbodies located outside the Park

Member Mezzano noted that some of the examples presented used containment curtains and some did not. He then asked if there is an environmental disadvantage to using a curtain. Mr. Kishbaugh responded that if there are potentially susceptible plants outside of the treated area, there is less ability to protect them without use of a containment curtain. He added that if treatment is not performed to control the troublesome plant, the desired plant will likely be lost regardless as it becomes crowded out by the invasive plant. The overall benefit needs to be weighed with the ecological impacts that might occur with implementation of a containment curtain.

Member Craig asked about the inter-relations of the staff from the Department and Agency. Mr. Kishbaugh responded that it is definitely a learning and sharing process for both agencies as staff conduct the review process for permitting and applying herbicides to waterways. He noted that the two agencies work very closely together.

Member Craig asked if there were other concerns that Mr. Kishbaugh would like to convey to the Board. He responded that if application is done according to the product label, the detriments are small compared to the overall gain. However, he cautioned that treatment must be done correctly and the appropriate products used. The scope of the application is determined via the review process done by both agencies.

Member Booth asked to what degree do weather and climate conditions impact an application. Mr. Kishbaugh responded that in a general sense both may have some impact but he does not have specific information available.

Member Booth asked if contained areas are subjected to more extensive surveys and evaluations. Mr. Kishbaugh responded that proposals before staff receive rigid monitoring requirements. He added that it is more of a challenge to evaluate what is happening outside of a containment area. The risk to the environment needs to be balanced by the positive benefits of application of the pesticide or herbicide.

Member Booth asked to what degree does the applicators' skill impact the outcome. Mr. Kishbaugh responded that the applicators' are licensed by DEC and are very knowledgeable and realize the importance and significance of impacts to the environment.

Designee Stegemann recognized DEC staff member John Bennett for his contributions and thanked Mr. Kishbaugh for his thorough presentation.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m.