



SHERMAN CRAIG
Chairman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

DRAFT MINUTES
Park Ecology Committee
May 10, 2018
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MINUTES OF THE PARK ECOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING May 10, 2018

The Committee meeting convened at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Park Ecology Committee Members Present:

John Ernst, Chair, Dan Wilt, Bradley Austin (ESD), Robert Stegemann (DEC), Art Lussi

Other Members and Designees Present:

Sherman Craig, Chairman, Dr. Chad Dawson, Mathew Tebo (DOS), William Thomas

Local Government Review Board:

Fred Monroe, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present:

Terry Martino, Kathy Regan, Emily O'Mahony, Emily Tyner, Robyn Burgess, Keith McKeever, and Annemarie Peer

RASS Program Report (Ed Snizek)

Ed Snizek began his report by thanking John Ernst for his leadership on being the Chair of the Park Ecology Committee.

He provided an update on the draft Invasive Species Comprehensive Management Plan, including the eight proposed objectives to limit the negative impacts of invasive species. The public comment period ends on June 1, 2018.

Mr. Snizek then reported that New York will celebrate its fifth Invasive Species Awareness Week from July 8-14, 2018. The theme will be "What You can do to stop the spread!" which will focus on positive actions people can take to prevent the spread of invasive species.

He then gave the dates and locations for the Aquatic Invasive Species Identification and Survey Techniques trainings that APIPP will be conducting. The dates and locations for these trainings are June 19 in Bolton Landing, June 21 in Caroga Lake, and June 26 at Paul Smith's College.

In conclusion Mr. Snizek mentioned some updates on items of interest coming in the near future, including iMapInvasives which is developing a new survey tool for smart phones, repeal of the Emerald Ash Borer regulations by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and New York State Ag and Markets and reconstruction of the I-87 Exit 18 northbound welcome center, which will include a new boat wash inspection station that is scheduled to open in 2019.

Lake Champlain Basin Program Overview
(Dr. Eric Howe, Program Director, Lake Champlain Basin Program)

Dr. Howe began his presentation by explaining that the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) is a watershed based non-profit organization which covers 5.2 million acres, with 36% in New York State, 56% in Vermont, and 7% in Quebec.

He then went on to explain Opportunities for Action, which is the management plan for Lake Champlain. Dr. Howe identified the four themes of the Management Plan, which are: clean water, healthy ecosystems, thriving communities, and an informed and involved public.

He continued his presentation with upcoming events that include the Watershed for Every Classroom (WEC) and Teacher Training Workshops which will be held in 2018.

He then provided an overview of the State of the Lake Report which is published every 3 years. The report provides updates on some of the complex issues facing Lake Champlain including phosphorous loading from different land use areas, wounding rates from sea lamprey, and trend towards milder winters resulting in Lake Champlain not completely freezing over.

He then showed a break-down of the local implementation grants awarded between 1992-2016, and the number received by each county in the watershed. In 2017, a total of 1,060 grants were awarded with 32 awarded to New York based organizations totaling \$473,301.

Dr. Howe concluded his presentation with a thank you to Mr. Snizek for all his great work with the Champlain program, and all his work with the many other committees and grant review teams in which he has been part.

After a brief question and answer period, Dr. Howe was presented a certificate of appreciation by Chairman Craig, Terry Martino, John Ernst, and Ed Snizek.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:25 p.m.