



PUBLIC AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

December 14, 2018

The Public Awareness and Communications Committee convened at 9:30 am.

Committee Members Present:

William Thomas, Committee Chair, Daniel Wilt, Bradley Austin (ESD) and Lynne Mahoney (DOS)

Other Members or Designees Present:

Karen Feldman, Acting Chair, Chad Dawson, John Ernst, Arthur Lussi, and Robert Stegemann (DEC)

Local Government Review Board Present:

Gerald Delaney, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present:

Terry Martino, Executive Director, Paul Van Cott, Associate Attorney, Keith McKeever, Mary Palmer

Approval of November 2018 Draft Minutes

By motion of Mr. Austin, seconded by Mr. Wilt, the November minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Outreach Report

Mr. McKeever noted highlights in the Agency's public relations including participation on a panel with Paul Smiths College freshman students. They discussed Adirondack issues, focusing on Boreas and the needs of local government. Mr. McKeever commended Kathy Regan for her work and professionalism during her time as Deputy Director of Planning.

Mr. McKeever said the Agency will be highlighted in an Adirondack Explorer article in February regarding subdivision planning, overall intensity guidelines and lot size. He said it is important to emphasize the excellent work done by staff reviewing subdivisions in the Park.

Mr. McKeever said Lake Placid News is doing a follow-up and posed some questions on climate change and five environmental issues that face the Park. To respond staff reached out to colleagues at Paul Smiths College. They provided a wealth of information on how climate change is ever present and affecting Park resources and communities. Mr. McKeever suggested having a panel come in from Paul Smiths and other colleges so they can share the data they have compiled. Ms. Feldman encouraged that idea. Mr. Lussi suggested asking Professor McKibben from Middlebury College in Vermont to also participate in the panel discussion.

Perspectives from Private Forest Landowners

John Bartow (Empire State Forest Products Association) provided an overview of the recent National Woodlands Owners survey.

Ms. Feldman asked what the response rate was on the surveys. Mr. Bartow said the response was greater than fifty percent, and the statistical accuracy is on a state-wide basis. The number of surveys that are done and coverage area is not as in depth as the forest inventory assessment. Mr. Bartow noted that they surveyed the family owned forests not the corporate owners.

Mr. Stegemann asked when regional data is compared to state-wide data if landowners look at land the same way. Mr. Bartow said there are a number of family forest owners that are in the slightly larger land category in the Adirondacks and Catskills that do not exist elsewhere in the state. He said there might be some variations statistically, but we do not have that data.

Tim Burpoe (Molpus Woodlands Group) provided an overview on current timber management practices, business models of timber investment management organizations (TIMOs) and discussed how sustainability and profitability can coexist. Molpus staff also presenting included Nick Burnett, Nate Dickerson and Jeff Dekenberger.

Mr. Stegemann asked for a general outline of the properties that Molpus owns, that were historically owned by others. Mr. Burpoe said some previous landowners include Champion, Niagara Mohawk, Lassiter, Yorkshire and Rayonier.

Mr. Lussi asked if Molpus sells land to foreign countries. Mr. Burpoe said they do export logs, but do not sell property directly.

Mr. Delaney asked if the colored flagging is industry wide. Mr. Burpoe answered affirmatively.

Mr. Delaney noted that the larger land owner is the backbone of the logging community. Mr. Burpoe agreed. Mr. Burnett said staff work with single owners to companies that have a lot of machinery. The main issue is liability and if they have the proper insurance requirements. Certification is another requirement. And their reputation comes into place too.

Mr. Stegemann said the economics of forestry goes hand-in-hand with the environmental stewardship of the companies.

Mr. Thomas said this was a thorough and informative presentation and thanked the Molpus Group. With this presentation and last month's presentation from the DEC, the Board is more informed about conservation easements, the private side of them and how the program works.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment:

Mr. Thomas, Committee Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:15 am.