



KAREN FELDMAN
Acting Chair

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

DRAFT MINUTES
Park Ecology Committee
KR:ap
December 13, 2018

**PARK ECOLOGY COMMITTEE
December 13, 2018**

The Committee convened at 1:00 p.m.

Park Ecology Committee Members Present:

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

Other Members and Designees Present:

Karen Feldman, Acting Chair, Dr. Chad Dawson, William Thomas, and Lynne Mahoney (DOS)

Local Government Review Board:

Gerald Delaney

Agency Staff Present:

Terry Martino, Executive Director, Paul Van Cott, Associate Attorney, Kathy Regan, Keith McKeever, Mary O'Dell, Emily Tyner, Leigh Walrath, Rick Weber, and Annemarie Peer

RASS Division Report (Kathy Regan, Supervisor, Natural Resource Analysis)

Kathy Regan began by reporting to the Board that she is slowly making the transition to her new position. She has attended invasive species meetings and a conference on acid rain.

Little Moose Field Station (Dan Josephson, Cornell University)

Mr. Josephson began his presentation with the guiding principle for the Adirondack Fishery Research Program: to develop knowledge that informs policies and management actions to “protect, sustain and enhance the heritage (native) fish communities of the Adirondack Mountain Region”

His presentation included a list and discussion of the Native Fishes of the Adirondack Mountain Region. He reviewed factors impacting native fish populations and non-native Adirondack fishes and control methods used for these species.

Mr. Josephson described the bass removal project on Little Moose Lake and First Bisby Lake and the Wild Brook Trout Initiative which began in 2003.

His presentation continued with a discussion of the chemical and biological recovery of Adirondack Mountain region lakes from acid deposition. This discussion included reference to areas impacted by acid precipitation, aluminum effects, with a case study of Honnedaga Lake, and its ecosystem response to 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act. Mr. Josephson also discussed mercury contamination in Adirondack waterbodies.

Mr. Josephson concluded his presentation by reviewing what the future threats and risks are to Adirondack fisheries which include:

- further introductions and expansion of the range of invasive predator fishes
- shifting paradigm from the impacts of acid rain to the impacts of climate change on fish
- the persistence of mercury in aquatic food webs.

After a brief question and answer session, Mr. Josephson was presented a certificate of appreciation from Acting Chair Feldman, Ms. Martino, Ms. Regan, and Mr. Ernst.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.