



LEILANI CRAFTS ULRICH
Chairwoman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

Draft Minutes
Park Ecology Committee
March 2016 Agency Meeting

**MINUTES OF THE PARK ECOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING
March 10, 2015**

The Committee meeting convened at approximately 3:45 p.m.

Park Ecology Committee Members Present

Arthur Lussi, Acting Chair, Daniel Wilt, Bradley Austin, Robert Stegemann.

Other Members and Designees Present

Lani Ulrich, Karen Feldman, Sherman Craig, Richard Booth, Dierdre Scozzafava, William Thomas.

Local Government Review Board

Fred Monroe.

Agency Staff Present

Terry Martino, James Townsend, Ed Snizek.

Park Ecology Report (Ed Snizek)

Mr. Snizek reviewed the monthly division report. He spoke about the various conferences RASS staff will be involved with in the next few months. He gave an update on Phase II of the EPA Grant. He noted that a one-year extension has been given for the program which will provide four more citizen scientist trainings as well as data collection and database management applications. He also provided an update on the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) Boat Inspection Program. The pilot program expired in December 2015. Draft regulations for permanent mandatory boat inspections will be released for public comment. He noted there is a public hearing on the LGPC Boat Inspection Program scheduled for March 30.

Adirondack Park Moose Research (Sharon Tabor, DEC)

Ms. Tabor presented research data collected by the Department and its partners in assessing and documenting moose populations within the blue-line boundaries of the Park. Data concerning overall health of the population as well as reproductive rates and

general survival rates were discussed. The information presented will be used to develop a moose management plan for the State.

Ms. Feldman asked if the moose species adapt to the rugged terrain of the Forest Preserve. Ms. Tabor responded that moose have been seen on State lands but the greatest number of moose have been seen on Conservation Easement lands due to the greater availability of food.

Ms. Ulrich asked if a conclusion could be made about the habitat in Vermont versus New York in relation to the moose populations. Ms. Tabor responded that this is something that will be evaluated more closely this upcoming field season.

Mr. Stegemann asked about the range of territory for winter tick. Ms. Tabor responded that it has been seen in New York State but it has not impacted the moose population as it has in Maine and New Hampshire. She said perhaps the reason for this is the lower density of population of moose within New York State.

Ms. Scozzafava asked if moose remain in an area for periods of time. She also asked if they remain in groups or if they are independent roamers. Ms. Tabor responded the moose that have been monitored seem to remain in an area depending on the availability of food.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m.