



**SHERMAN CRAIG**  
Chairman

**TERRY MARTINO**  
Executive Director

<p><b>DRAFT MINUTES</b> Park Ecology Committee November 16, 2017 ESS:ap</p>
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**MINUTES OF THE PARK ECOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING  
November 16, 2017**

The Committee meeting convened at approximately 1:00 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, Lynn Mahoney (DOS), William Thomas

**Local Government Review Board:**

Fred Monroe, Executive Director

**Agency Staff Present:**

Terry Martino, Sarah Reynolds, Annemarie Peer, Sara Staab, Kathy Regan, Keith McKeever, Emily Tyner, Mark Rooks, Mary O'Dell, Rick Weber, Kevin Pricket

**RASS Program Report (Ed Snizek)**

Ed Snizek went over some brief updates. He started with the Asian Clam update. Lake George volunteers completed a four-day lake wide survey this past summer. Approximately 35 volunteers conducted over 350 survey hours and identified four new Asian clam sites. This brings the total number of sites to 23 covering over 100 acres in Lake George. No new Asian clam treatments are scheduled at this time.

Mr. Snizek then went over the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), which was first detected this past July. A survey was completed by the Department of Environmental Conservation and Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP). A total of 1186 hemlock trees in a 250-acre survey grid were checked for HWA. A total of 3 hemlock trees were found to be infested and APPIP treated 218 hemlocks spread across 7 acres.

He also attended the third annual Road Salt Summit in Lake George in October. The conference targeted public and private winter road maintenance professionals and featured industry leaders presenting the latest equipment and methods for safely reducing road salt use.

**Determining the Regional Effects of Roads Salting on Adirondack Waterbodies**  
**(Dr. Dan Kelting, Executive Director of Adirondack Watershed Institute)**

Dr. Kelting began his presentation with the definition of road salt and the impact it is having on our ecosystems and drinking water. He explained that because salt is cheap and effective New York State DOT uses only road salt on its state roads. It is estimated that 108,000 tons are used on state roads annually. New York State has used 6,937,200 tons of salt since 1980. He did say that local roads use different applications including sand on their roads.

Dr. Kelting showed, via a GIS based model, the runoff effect: 192,700 tons of salt runoff per year affecting 6,000 miles of streams, and 195,000 acres of lakes. He also said that 832 miles of streams and 47,010 acres of Forest Preserve are affected. He then went on to describe the potential effects of salt on 1,600 square miles of groundwater in unconfined aquifers, most of which is overlain by salt contaminated surface water. He also described regional groundwater pollution, including the Upper Saranac Lake and Blue Mountain Lake Watersheds.

Dr. Kelting then described environmental impacts including the impacts salt has on our local fisheries and water clarity. Dr. Kelting continued by summarizing what is being done to address the problem, including expanding lake and stream monitoring, engaging New York State Department of Conservation and the Department of Transportation and engaging stakeholders at conferences, including 3 salt summits, among others'.

Dr. Kelting finished his presentation with a take home message. We use a lot of salt which is creating regional salinization issues and having impacts on ecosystems and drinking water. He pointed out if we care about our environment we should act.

After a brief question and answer period, Mr. Kelting was presented a certificate of appreciation by John Ernst, Terry Martino, Sherman Craig, and Ed Snizek.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:55 p.m.

