



## **PUBLIC AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE**

**September 12, 2019**

The Public Awareness and Communications Committee convened at 1:00 pm.

### **Committee Members Present:**

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

### **Other Members or Designees Present:**

Arthur Lussi, Dr. Chad Dawson, John Ernst, and Robert Stegemann (DEC)

### **Local Government Review Board Present:**

Gerald Delaney, Executive Director

### **Agency Staff Present:**

Terry Martino, Executive Director, Christopher Cooper, Counsel, Robert Lore, Deputy Director Regulatory Programs, Keith McKeever, Mary Palmer

### **Public Outreach Report**

Mr. McKeever noted public relations highlights which included meeting with members of the Sierra Club, and also with students from Union College. He said upcoming events for October include meeting with students from St. Lawrence University's Adirondack Studies class, and students from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. We will also have the Cornell-Syracuse Humphrey Fellowship Program coming again. The Fellowship Program provides professionals from around the world the opportunity to enhance their leadership potential, and they come to the Agency to learn about our Land Use plan.

Mr. McKeever said planning will also begin for the Agency's 2019 Annual Report.

Mr. McKeever introduced Paul Casson, Operations Manager for the SUNY Albany Atmospheric Sciences Research Center (ASRC) on Whiteface Mountain, and longtime member of the Whiteface Mountain Ski Patrol. Mr. Casson currently serves as Vice President of the Whiteface Mountain Regional Visitors Bureau. He also worked as a field technician for the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation.

**SUNY Albany Atmospheric Sciences Research Center on Whiteface Mountain**

Mr. Casson gave a presentation of the ongoing research conducted at the state-of-the-art facility in the Town of Wilmington. Located high in the clouds, the mission of the research at ASRC's Whiteface Observatory is to enhance the fundamental understanding of the chemical and physical nature of the atmosphere, and to apply that knowledge to study the interaction of chemical, physical, geological, and biological processes that impact our environment.

Mr. Lore asked if there have been any comparative statistical differences of a decrease in pollutants with the sister monitoring sites since the Clean Air Act was passed. Mr. Casson answered affirmatively. He said there are whole networks, although there are not a lot of places that do cloud monitoring.

Mr. Stegemann asked if there has been any comparative integration of data with the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation (ALSC). Mr. Casson answered affirmatively and said the ALSC has done this work for quite a few years. The problem is that lake monitoring gets more complicated due to the watershed effects. He added that there are biological activities in lakes, and every lake is different in the way it drains and its geology. Mr. Casson said it is not like collecting a rain sample in a bucket.

Mr. Casson said he would like to get Whiteface to be Mt. Washington on a smaller scale. If we can emulate some of the things they do there we could be very successful. He added that there should be a way for people to get to the top of the mountain without using their own vehicle.

Mr. Thomas asked if people can contact him if they would like to go on a tour. Mr. Casson said he can always give people a tour of the lodge. Getting people up the highway is a little harder as space is limited, and ORDA uses parking spaces for customers.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Thomas, Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:35 pm.