



ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

MINUTES OF THE PARK ECOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 10, 2019

The Committee meeting convened at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Park Ecology Committee Members Present:

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

Other Members and Designees Present:

Dr. Chad Dawson, Lynn Mahoney (DOS), William Thomas

Local Government Review Board:

Gerald Delaney, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present:

Terry Martino, Christopher Cooper, Kathy Regan, Keith McKeever, Rob Lore, Mary O'Dell, Rick Weber, Kate-Lyn Knight, Ariel Lynch, Emily Tyner, Matt Brown, Aaron Ziemann, and Annemarie Peer

RASS Program Report (Kathy Regan)

Ms. Regan began by saying that field season is still in full swing for the RASS department and conference season has begun. Ms. Regan reported that she, Leigh Walrath, and Aaron Ziemann attended various sessions of the North American Invasive Species Management Association annual meeting. Leigh Walrath presented at the conference on the lake monitoring protocols he previously discussed with the Board. She said she will be participating in the New York State Staying Connective Initiative, via webcast, an Inter-Agency Climate and Resilience Work Group, and the Adirondack Champlain Region Salt Summit. Ms. Regan also noted that some RASS staff will be attending the 2019 Forestry Roundtable in Queensbury on October 15, 2019.

Overview of Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Mark Lowery, Department of Conservation (DEC) Office of Climate Change)

Mr. Lowery began his presentation by stating that on July 18, 2019, Governor Cuomo signed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). He said that CLCPA includes strong commitments to disadvantaged communities and environmental justice while ensuring a just transition to a low-carbon economy.

Mr. Lowery reviewed some effects that climate change has had in New York. He explained the CLCPA timeline, including Statewide Green House Gas (GHG) Limits and defined objectives that must be met in an ambitious time frame.

Mr. Lowery stated that the Climate Action Council (CAC) has two years to develop a draft Scoping Plan with recommendations for achieving the required GHG reductions. This council will be chaired by DEC and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) Commissioners and include representatives from ten other agencies. The Governor will appoint two non-agency members, and Legislative leadership will appoint eight additional members. In addition to the CAC, there will be several Advisory Panels and supporting working groups. Mr. Lowery also reviewed the process for developing and implementing the scoping plan.

Mr. Lowry discussed the main sources of greenhouse gases in New York State. Although people tend to think of emissions from power generation, the transportation sector is the largest source of emissions, both nationally and in New York, with emissions associated with heating water and space close behind. Identifying the primary sources of emissions enables the CAC to direct their efforts to minimize emissions.

Mr. Lowery also reported on a requirement to report on barriers to, opportunities for, and recommendations to increase access to, or community ownership of several services in disadvantaged communities. This could include energy efficiency and weatherization investments. The barrier report must be developed with input from the Environmental Justice Advisory Group and the Climate Justice Working Group.

Mr. Lowery concluded his presentation by reviewing how the CLACP Act bolsters the Community Risk and Resiliency Act. Applications for permits covered by the Uniform Procedures Act (almost all DEC permits) will be required to identify climate hazards and for DEC to require mitigation of climate risks. This does not include Article 24 permits issued by the Agency.

The committee meeting concluded following a brief question and answer period.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.