



ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Terry Martino
FROM: Kathy Regan
Supervisor, Natural Resource Analysis
DATE: July 8, 2020
RE: RASS Program Report – March, April, May and June 2020

RASS Program Highlights

All meetings, workshops, training and webinars are listed at the end of this report.

“New” employees Kelly McKean and (even newer) Sam Boese have both been great additions. Kelly has been with us for a full year now and Sam will mark his first-year anniversary at the end of August. It is hard to believe they have been here for a relatively short amount of time, given the volume and quality of their contributions.

Shaun LaLonde, Alicia Purzycki and Sam Boese continue to review complex projects, in some cases consisting of hundreds of pages of electronic documents and plans, within statutory timeframes. They use sound science and engineering principles based upon facts on the ground, while treating the regulated community with respect, and ultimately come up with solutions that protect the Park’s resources.

Staff sent certain GP holders letters reminding them of the need to submit annual reports, as per permit compliance conditions. This friendly reminder was effective, we received all the required reports. Our next step will be to get all the reporting deadlines in our GPs due on the same date, which will simplify tracking.

Leigh Walrath worked with Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program’s (APIPP) Terrestrial Invasives Project Coordinator to assess the utility of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) for mapping floating-leaf and deep-water marshes. Having up to date, high quality mapping of floating leaf and deep-water marshes, and adjacent riparian habitats during the height of the vegetative growing season could greatly reduce delays in the issuance of jurisdictional determinations and could aid in the review of regulated activities.

Mary O’Dell, Kelly McKean and I continue our work with DOT at crafting mitigation guidance for Department of Transportation projects. Mary, Leigh, Shaun and I continue to work with other Agency staff on the Development in the Adirondack Park (DAP) project guidelines for Biological Surveys.

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Aaron Ziemann attended the 2019 Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative Conference in Burlington. The theme of this year’s conference was “Monitoring for Impacts of Climate Change: Tracking and measuring outcomes in northeastern forests.” Aaron also attended the New York State Society of American Foresters 2020 Annual Meeting. The theme for that conference was “New York’s Forests and Climate Change Policy.” Aaron has also updated the SIR for Timber Harvesting, which is being reviewed by Legal and Regulatory Programs.

Shaun LaLonde and I worked with Regulatory Program staff to coordinate an efficient schedule for conducting site visits.

Molly Jordon helped RASS with some Web page updates. Some subtle changes were made that will make it easier for the public to find our materials, including updated lists of consultants for engineering, surveying, wetland delineations and aquatic services, as well as our wetland mapping data.

RASS DIVISION 2020 Summary Chart

ACTIVITY	March	April	May	June	YTD
ENGINEERING Project Reviews	49	44	32	42	267
ENGINEERING Site Visits	2	0	0	8	23
TERRESTRIAL ECOLOGY Reviews/Site Visits	3	3	4	3	22
FRESHWATER RESOURCE Reviews/Site Visits	8	6	8	10	44
FORESTRY Reviews/ Site Visits	3	4	9	2	38
WETLAND Reviews	13	25	19	20	103
WETLAND Air Photo Interpretations	25	23	14	18	119
DEEP HOLE TEST PITS Described	2	1	12	17	98
DEEP HOLE TEST PITS Site Visits	1	0	0	6	11

RASS DIVISION 2020 Profile Reports*

2020 Engineering Profile of Project Review and Site Visits

	OSWWTS	Stormwater	Shoreline	Shoreline Variance Proposals	JIF/Legal/Agency Coordination	Enforcement	Planning Division	Total
March	21	26	24	13	17	9	3	113
April	20	25	18	16	18	4	2	103
May	18	26	16	9	10	7	3	89
June	27	27	23	11	18	12	3	121
Yearly Total	148	169	129	88	92	41	21	688

2020 Forestry Profile of Project Review and Site Visits

	Vegetative Management Plan Reviews	Timber Harvest Reviews	River Areas Reviews	Shoreline Cutting Reviews	Total
March	1	1	0	1	3
April	2	1	0	1	4
May	7	1	0	1	9
June	1	0	0	1	2
Yearly Total	24	5	2	7	38

* Individual project reviews and site visits may include multiple profile categories.

2020 Freshwater Resources Profile of Project Review and Site Visits

	Aquatic Invasives Species	Aquatic Nuisance Species	Lakeshore or Stream Stabilization	Dredging	Dams	Water Quality	Other	Total
March	2	1	0	2	0	0	4	9
April	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	4
May	5	2	0	0	0	0	1	8
June	2	2	0	1	0	2	0	7
Yearly Total	14	7	1	5	0	4	6	37

2020 Deep Hole Test Pit Statistics

Deep Hole Test Pit Statistics	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	YTD
Projects Involving DHTPs	5	3	1	1	3	9	22
DHTPs Described by APA	1	0	2	0	0	9	12
DHTPs Described by Consultants	5	60	0	1	12	8	86
Total DHTPs	6	60	2	1	12	17	98
Approved Conventional Systems	1	8	1	1	6	8	25
Approved Shallow Systems	5	48	1	0	4	7	65
Did not Meet Agency Guidelines	0	4	0	0	2	2	8
Approved Conventional Systems %	17%	13%	50%	100%	50%	47%	26%
Approved Shallow Systems %	83%	80%	50%	0%	33%	41%	66%
Did not Meet Agency Guidelines %	0%	7%	0%	0%	17%	12%	8%
Shallow Systems Breakdown							
Approved Shallow Systems	5	48	1	0	4	7	65
Shallow Systems due to SHGWT	3	47	1	0	3	4	58
Shallow Systems due to Bedrock	2	1	0	0	1	3	7
Shallow Systems due to SHGWT %	60%	98%	100%	0%	75%	57%	89%
Shallow Systems due to Bedrock %	40%	2%	0%	0%	25%	43%	11%

2020 Wetland Field Visits

	Number of requests received during month	Number completed	Interval for processing. (Date received to date scheduled for those received in that month)	Number pending
March	0	0		0
April	0	0		0
May	0	0		0
June	30	23		7
Yearly Total	33	26	N/A	7

2020 Air Photo Interpretations

	JIF	Referrals	Project Review	Enforcement	Public	Other Staff	Other	Total
March	17	6	2	0	0	0	0	0
April	19	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	8	5	0	0	1	0	0	0
June	9	2	2	5	0	0	0	0
Yearly Total	67	25	12	9	4	1	0	119

COMMITTEE AND ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Committee and Working Groups

- Lake Champlain Basin Program Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (March 4).
- Adirondack Invasive Species Workgroup Meeting (March 24).
- Adirondack Lakes Alliance Workgroup Meeting (March 24).
- Assisted in assembling action items contained in the 2005 Adirondack Region and 2015 NYS State-wide AIS action plans for purposes of initiating review by ADK AIS Workgroup (April).
- Lake Champlain Basin Program Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (April 1).
- APIPP Spring Partner Meeting (April 22).
- Lake Champlain Basin Program Stream Wise RFP Review Meeting (May 5).
- Lake Champlain Basin Program Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (May 6).
- Lake Champlain Basin Program Dam Removal Task Force Meeting (May 22).

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- Lake Champlain Basin Program Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (June 3).
- APIPP Adirondack Invasive Species Workgroup Meeting (June 4).
- Met with VTDEC, NYDEC, LCBP staff to discuss the Lake Champlain Water Chestnut Management Program (June 12).
- LCBP Environmental Sensitivity Index Mapping for rail corridor along Lake Champlain (June 16).
- Statewide PRISM Meeting (June 24).

Education and Outreach

- Lake Association Consultations and Support (6 lakes in March, 4 Lakes in April, 5 Lakes in May, and 4 Lakes in June: Lake Gay, Upper St. Regis, Minerva, Lake Pleasant, Chateaugay Lake, Raquette Lake, Lake Gay, Highland Forge Lake.)
- Met with Chateaugay Lake to discuss their use of Lake Management Tracker (June 2)

Conferences and Training for Staff

- Webinar : NAISMA Weed Free Forage & Gravel Certification Program and How to Participate (March 25)
- Webinar: NAISMA Webinar: Invasive Ornamental Plants (April 1)
- Webinar: APIPP Hosted HWA Training and Update with Charlotte Malmberg (April 3)
- Webinar: Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative; Remote Sensing of Forest Clearing in New Hampshire (April 27)
- Webinar: Lake Champlain Sea Grant Webinar: Pharmaceuticals in Lake Champlain (April 29)
- Webinar: Sustainable Timber Harvest Metrics; Dave Jackson, Forest Resources Extension Educator, Penn State Extension Center (May 12)
- Webinar : Update on Beech Leaf Disease with Dr. Enrico Bonello, Professor, Department of Plant Pathology, The Ohio State University (NYS PRISM Monthly Meeting) (May 27)
- Webinar: The Importance of Wetlands in Floodplain Function and Ecosystem Services (May 29)
- Webinar : Climate Change and Adirondack Lakes (Adirondack Lakes Alliance) (June 17).
- Webinar : Crude Oil Transport along Lake Champlain (Lake Champlain Sea Grant) (June 24).

Other

- Worked with APIPP to assess 2020 drone survey work (March 16).
- Assisted Adirondack Watershed Institute by answering questionnaire in their work to develop a new long-term watershed management plan for Upper Saranac Lake March 26).
- Reviewed APIPP 2020 priority lakes for AIS monitoring (March 27).

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- Meeting with LCBP, APIPP, VTDEC, NYDEC, and USACOE regarding use of drones to map wetlands (April 13)

PERMITTING

A permit was issued for a one-time application of the pesticide ProcellaCOR EC (EPA Registration Number 67690-80; New York Special Local Needs Label Registration #SLN NY-19001) for purposes of controlling Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) in Minerva Lake (Town of Minerva, Essex County).

ADMINISTRATION

Reporting

- Submitted weekly reports.

Agency Coordination/Efficiency

- Participated in Management and Staff Meeting calls.
- Reviewed policy and procedure documents pertaining to working remotely and re-entry to the office.
- Reviewed DAP documents on Biological Surveys.
- Participated in JIF DOT working group.
- Site visit scheduling.

Other

- Participated in Department of Labor calls for Unemployment Insurance and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.
- Updated Wetland Consultant list for our web page.