



ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Terry Martino
FROM: Kathy Regan
Supervisor, Natural Resource Analysis
DATE: February 4, 2021
RE: RASS Program Report – September to December 2020

RASS Program Highlights

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

It was with great sadness RASS said goodbye to Shaun LaLonde in October. Shaun started his career at the Agency in in 2002 after state service that began in May 1988 and which included working at DEC. Shaun infused this Agency with the highest standards of professionalism while being involved in all aspects of the Agency’s regulatory, enforcement, planning and scientific work. As I mentioned at the October Agency meeting, his consistent approach to both the Law and the Agency’s clientele is a benchmark other Agency staff strive for and learn to do by watching Shaun. We wish him the best.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and professionalism RASS staff continue to provide to the public, particularly during these challenging times.

**RASS DIVISION 2020
Summary Chart**

ACTIVITY	September	October	November	December	YTD
ENGINEERING Project Reviews	73	61	37	51	602
ENGINEERING Site Visits	7	13	10	3	78
TERRESTRIAL ECOLOGY Reviews/Site Visits	3	8	2	7	49

FRESHWATER RESOURCE Reviews/Site Visits	15	13	8	6	120
FORESTRY Reviews/ Site Visits	8	12	8	9	101
WETLAND Reviews	33	44	43	32	325
WETLAND Air Photo Interpretations	16	22	14	18	253
DEEP HOLE TEST PITS Described	19	6	22	12	225
DEEP HOLE TEST PITS Site Visits	9	3	9	3	56

**RASS DIVISION 2020
Profile Reports***

2020 Engineering Profile of Project Review and Site Visits¹

	OSWWTS	Stormwater	Shoreline	Shoreline Variance Proposals	JIF/Legal/Agency Coordination	Enforcement	Planning Division	Total
Sept	49	38	43	24	21	1	2	178
October	43	38	49	28	27	9	5	199
Nov	30	17	26	12	16	7	2	110
Dec	28	21	18	14	74	1	4	160
Yearly Total	372	352	325	200	258	86	40	1633

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

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Deep Hole Test Pit Statistics	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Projects Involving DHTPs	5	3	1	1	3	9	23	11	13	4	13	4	90
DHTPs Described by APA	1	0	2	0	0	9	22	7	14	4	15	11	85
DHTPs Described by Consultants	5	60	0	1	12	8	27	12	5	2	7	1	140
Total DHTPs	6	60	2	1	12	17	49	19	19	6	22	12	225
Approved Conventional Systems	1	8	1	1	6	8	25	10	6	2	10	2	80
Approved Shallow Systems	5	48	1	0	4	7	19	9	10	2	10	2	117
Did not Meet Agency Guidelines	0	4	0	0	2	2	5	0	3	2	2	8	28
Approved Conventional Systems %	17%	13%	50%	100%	50%	47%	51%	53%	32%	33%	45%	17%	36%
Approved Shallow Systems %	83%	80%	50%	0%	33%	41%	39%	47%	53%	33%	45%	17%	52%
Did not Meet Agency Guidelines %	0%	7%	0%	0%	17%	12%	10%	0%	16%	33%	9%	67%	12%
 													
Approved Shallow Systems	5	48	1	0	4	7	19	9	10	2	10	2	117
Shallow Systems due to SHGWT	3	47	1	0	3	4	15	9	9	2	10	2	105
Shallow Systems due to Bedrock	2	1	0	0	1	3	4	0	1	0	0	0	12
Shallow Systems due to SHGWT %	60%	98%	100%	0%	75%	57%	79%	100%	90%	100%	100%	100%	90%
Shallow Systems due to Bedrock %	40%	2%	0%	0%	25%	43%	21%	0%	10%	0%	0%	0%	10%

2020 Forestry Profile of Project Review and Site Visits

	Vegetative Management Plan Reviews	Timber Harvest Reviews	River Areas Reviews	Shoreline Cutting Reviews	Total
September	6	1	0	1	8
October	8	2	0	2	12
November	6	0	2	1	9
December	6	0	0	3	9
Yearly Total	65	10	4	23	102

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
Sept	4	1	0	2	1	1	3	12
October	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	7
Nov	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
Dec	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	6
Yearly Total	36	13	2	16	2	5	10	84

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
September	28	30	13	12
October	32	33	11	11
November	9	20	3	0
December	1	1	1	0
Yearly Total	180	180	Avg=8	0

2020 Air Photo Interpretations

	JIF	Referrals	Project Review	Enforcement	Public	Other Staff	Other	Total
September	10	0	2	1	2	1	0	16
October	13	4	1	2	0	0	2	22
November	10	0	2	2	0	0	0	14
December	13	0	2	0	0	0	3	18
Yearly Total	136	47	27	19	10	4	10	253

COMMITTEE AND ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Committee and Working Groups

- Lake Champlain Basin Program Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, September 2.
- APIPP Adirondack Invasive Species Workgroup Meeting, September 14
- Lake Champlain Basin Program Dam Removal Task Force, September 18.
- NYSDEC Pesticide Stakeholder Meeting, September 22.
- Lake Champlain Basin Program Stream Wise Meeting, September 29.
- Invasive Species Council meeting, October 1.
- Lake George Watershed Action Plan meeting, October 2.
- Lake Champlain Basin Program Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, October 7.
- ICARWG support of the Climate Action Council's Land Use and Local Government Advisory Panel, October 20.
- Lake Champlain Basin Program Streamwise Project, October 29.
- APA, VTDEC, LCBP discussion regarding experience using ProcellaCOR to control Eurasian watermilfoil November 2.
- Lake Champlain Basin Program Technical Advisory Committee meeting, November 4.
- APIPP Partners Meeting, November 12.
- APIPP AIS meeting, November 13.
- LCBP, USACOE, VTDEC meeting to discuss use of drones (continuation of conversations which were cut short due to COVID), November 30.
- LCBP Technical Advisory Committee meeting, December 2

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- Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation meeting to discuss wetland research in permitted solar fields and the Vermont permitting process, December 4.
- Lake George HABS Stakeholder Meeting, December 14.
- Lake Champlain Basin Program meeting to discuss suction dredging technologies, December 14.

Education and Outreach

- Updated and posted on our web page the list of Consulting Aquatic Services.
- Updated and posted on our web page the list of Wetland Delineator Services.
- Interacted with numerous Lake Associations. These interactions range from providing guidance on aquatic invasive or native vegetation management, permit application issues, reporting requirements, reminding applicants of NYDEC permits needed for certain projects and the use of Lake Management Tracker.

Conferences and Training for Staff

- North American Lake Management Society Webinar Understanding and Managing Internal Phosphorus Loading in Lakes, September 30.
- Adirondack Research Consortium webinar: Science and Policy, October 9.
- Assessing the Risk of Invasive Plant Introductions at Trailheads in the Adirondack Park, October 28.
- Adirondack Research Consortium webinar: Forest Policy, October 30.
- Incident Command System, November 18.

PERMITTING

- Drafted an amendment to general permit 2014G-1A that would enable the use of herbicides and pesticides for terrestrial non-plant species. The new GP is 2014G-1B.
- Drafted Supplemental Information Request (SIR) for Dredging Permit Application.

ADMINISTRATION

Reporting

- Submitted weekly and monthly reports.

Agency Coordination/Efficiency

- Participated in Management and Staff calls.
- Participated in Coordination Action Response working group calls.
- Participated in DOT JIF Working group calls.

Other

- Reviewed draft Executive Law 94-c and the streamlined process it provides for permitting major renewable energy facilities that were previously subject to Article 10 of the Public Service Law.