



Adirondack Lakes Alliance
Regional Meeting at Piseco, NY
10:30AM – 2:00 PM December 5, 2014

MEETING NOTES

Adirondack Lakes Alliance (ALA) Regional Director for Region C, Brian Rudes, called the meeting to order. After thanking everyone for coming and welcoming them to Piseco, the meeting 47 participants were asked to introduce themselves and state their affiliation: Lake Association, Government representative, or other Organization.

Following introductions, Hamilton County Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Farber also welcomed the group to Hamilton County, noting the significant importance of the issues associated with Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) threat management.

ALA Executive Director Ed Griesmer thanked everyone for attending and gave an overview of the agenda for the day. Ed spoke briefly of the history of ALA, and then the important historical role of Lake Associations in the trenches fighting against the spread of AIS. Ed noted that Lake Associations need to get more involved and take a seat at the table in advocacy for needed policy decision making with local and State government as we all wrestle with the threat of the AIS problem and present some ideas for mediation. Ed stated that ALA needs to get more Regional Directors, so we will have 2 from each of the 5 ADK Regions, and asked those present to consider if anyone was interested in helping in this capacity. He indicated that the meeting today presents an important opportunity for all to get information on some successful approaches to dealing with AIS, to identify resources that can be tapped for future needs, and leave today with some good ideas in their pockets to take back home and use.

Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) Aquatic Invasives Coordinator, Erin Vennie-Vollrath, presented the group with a brief overview and history of APIPP, and then she gave an update on the latest initiatives that the organization is involved in:

- APIPP recently issued a new report titled “The Actual and Potential Economic Impact of Invasives on the Adirondack Park: A Preliminary Assessment.” Erin Vennie-Vollrath noted that APIPP has issued previous reports about AIS that concentrated on their biology and ecological impacts, strategies to control them, and methods to restore invaded habitat. This new report looks at the actual and potential impact that invasive plant and animal species can have on the regional and local economies within the Adirondack Park. Erin gave an overview of the report and noted that the Executive Summary and Full report are available on the APIPP website: ADKinvasives.com
- Rapid Response Team Approach – This is a new initiative that APIPP is developing, which will provide us with tremendous resources to call upon when invasive species are identified. The Rapid Response Team established by APIPP will monitor alerts and calls from local sources

regarding the identification of invasive species. The information will then be reported on the APIPP webpage, and a response will be organized to address the new infestation. The idea is to provide early detection and then management of AIS contamination. The Rapid Response Plan is currently under development and the plan should be in place by summer 2015.

- APIPP as a resource program – APIPP currently has a myriad of resource information available upon request. APIPP is a major player in the ADK Park for help with the control and to prevent the spread of invasive species. Many Lake Associations have received APIPP assistance in developing and implementing Lake Steward programs and Lake Inspection activities.

Town of Chester/Warren County Board of Supervisors Fred Monroe reviewed:

- Recommendations for a Regional Strategy for Boat Inspection/Decontamination programs- Fred Monroe spoke of his experience in dealing with AIS problems in Warren County. The ADK Park is threatened throughout. A regional approach to confront the real problem can have better results than scattered uncoordinated programs. Trailered boats are a major threat because they can transport AIS from an infested lake to clean lake unless they are decontaminated. The Regional Strategy would establish Monitoring of microscopic forms of mussels, clams, spiny water fleas, etc. must be improved. Hot water High pressure boat washing can eliminate much of the threat if it is mandatory of all boats and watercraft. Funding must come from various sources: NYS (Environmental Protection Fund); Local Government - County, Town, Village; Property Owners (via Tax Districts); and Lake Associations.
- Town/County Relationships with Lake Associations – Fred Monroe noted the need to establish working relationships between Lake Associations and local government with written Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) that state agreements of each partner's role and responsibilities.

Lunch was followed with an Open Forum with Resource Guest Speakers who spoke about their organization's potential support for Lake Associations which are struggling with AIS management issues. APIPP Showed a Power Point slide show of the Economic Impact report.

Boat Inspection Programs – The Lake George Model – Joe Thouin, Environmental Analyst, Lake George Park Commission (LGPC).

- Joe Thouin related that the LGPC is a small NYS agency with 10 employees.
- The result of a comprehensive planning process provided alternatives for AIS management. The alternatives were: Education and Outreach on AIS; Lake Steward Programs; Mandatory Self-Certification and/or Mandatory Inspections.
- Mandatory Inspections, the preferred option, establishes Boat Inspection/Boat Washing stations at several locations near Lake George.
- Mandatory Inspection is the strongest protection against AIS; it sets a universal standard for all boats – Clean, Dry, Decontaminate, and has requires mandatory compliance.
- Funding for the Lake George model comes from NYS Environmental Protection Funds (50%) and 50% from other sources – Grant money, local government, etc.

Lake Stewardship Programs – Jane Smith, ALA Associate Executive Director/President, ESSLA – Schroon Lake and River.

- Bill McGhie and Vince Blando made this presentation since Jane was unable to be there at that time. The components of their model include development of an AIS management plan.
- The management plan established zones around the lake for program activities, such as voluntary inspection of shorelines to provide 100% surveillance, and a Lake Steward Program staffed with paid stewards and volunteers.
- Town governments were involved with the funding, some came from special taxing districts, some money from Warren County, and the lake associations also contributed significant financial support.

Wrap Up Panel – Ed Griesmer – Question and Answer Presenters

Ed thanked all the participants for coming to this first ALA Regional Meeting.

- He gave special credit to the resource people from the Adirondack Council, Adirondack Park Agency, APIPP, AWI-Watershed Institute of Paul Smith's College, Hamilton Co. Soil and Water District, Lake George Park Commission, and Protect the Adirondacks.
- In addition Ed recognized the participation of local government - Town of Chester (Fred Monroe), Town of Horicon (Matt Simpson), Town of Morehouse (Bill Farber), and NYS DEC (Barbara Luces-Wilson).
- In conclusion Ed thanked the numerous Lake Association representatives for their interest and dedication to AIS management.