

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: INVASIVE SPECIES SUB-COMMITTEE

DATE: AUGUST 27, 2013

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS DICKINSON
 CONOVER
 MONROE
 BENTLEY
 MASON
 FRASIER
 LOEB

OTHERS PRESENT:

KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MARTIN AUFFREDOU, COUNTY ATTORNEY
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS KENNY
 MERLINO
 STRAINER
 TAYLOR
 WESTCOTT
 WOOD
MIKE SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
NICOLE LIVINGSTON, SECOND DEPUTY CLERK

Mr. Dickinson called the Invasive Species Sub-Committee meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Copies of the agenda packet were distributed to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda packet is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Dickinson apprised the only item agenda item listed concerned a referral from the Legislative & Rules Committee for consideration of a Local Law regarding mandatory boat washing and inspections on all bodies of water in Warren County. Mr. Dickinson asked Martin Auffredou, County Attorney, to explain what steps were required to enact the Local Law.

Mr. Auffredou advised in order to prove that the Local Law was justified the environmental aspects would have to be prudently investigated. He stated he felt the research and analysis completed by the LA Group for the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) could be utilized and expanded to encompass all bodies of water in Warren County with the assistance of a consultant. He opined that enforcement of the law would be difficult and emphasized the importance of an environmental review in compliance with State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) regulations.

He suggested continuing with the fact-gathering phase and contacting the LA Group to discuss the process they utilized and report back to the Committee as to the outcome of that meeting. He stressed the key to assembling a defensible program was to ensure the SEQRA review was completed correctly.

Mr. Dickinson reiterated the Local Law would encompass all bodies of water located in Warren County and advised he could contact the LA Group to request they attend the next Committee meeting for discussion on the process used for conducting research and analysis for the LGPC. Mr. Conover recommended contacting the Lake George Association (LGA) with regards to the information they had compiled in their database about inspections completed outside of Lake George, as well.

Mr. Monroe apprised that data was available for other bodies of water such as Schroon Lake, Brant Lake and Loon Lake. Mr. Dickinson asked Mr. Monroe whether stewards on the other Lakes were affiliated with the LGA and Mr. Monroe replied in the negative and explained the inspections were organized independently. Mr. Bentley apprised the stewards on Schroon Lake were overseen by the East Shore Association, while the stewards on Brant Lake were managed by the Brant Lake Association.

Mr. Auffredou advised that part of the SEQRA process required justification for a preferred alternative such as a County-wide mandatory boat inspection and washing law. He reiterated this would have to be defended through SEQRA documentation with solid data. Mr. Bentley apprised he could request individuals from the East Shore Association and the Brant Lake Association attend the next Committee meeting to discuss the processes they used.

Mr. Monroe questioned how long it had taken for the LA Group to complete the review and analysis for the LGPC and Mr. Auffredou replied that he was unsure. He explained that the LGPC was governed by distinctive rules and regulations that did not apply to the County. He said the timing would depend on who was selected to complete the SEQRA process. He pointed out that it was important to consider how the process was going to be paid for and enforced.

Discussion ensued regarding the SEQRA process, following which it was determined that the LA Group, the LGA, East Shore Association, Brant Lake Association, Schroon Lake Association and the Loon Lake Association would be invited to attend the next Committee meeting in order to further discuss the steward program.

Mr. Dickinson apprised the next item was not on the agenda; however, he said, he felt it was pertinent to discuss changing the name of the Committee as it needed to encompass aquatic invasive species as well as terrestrial invasive species. Mr. Auffredou advised Resolution No. 666 of 2012 established the Invasive Species Sub-Committee; therefore, he said a name change was not required.

Mr. Conover advised he felt the Committee should expand upon and discuss terrestrial invasive species, as the issue seemed to be mounting in the various Municipalities in Warren County. Mr. Monroe suggested inviting Hillary Smith from the Nature Conservancy to further discuss the issue, as she had extensive knowledge on the subject. Mr. Monroe stated there were growing concerns in the Adirondacks with regards to the Japanese Knotweed and Asian Longhorned Beetles. Mr. Dickinson said the discussion at the next meeting would be about the aquatic invasive species and the October meeting discussion would refer to the terrestrial invasive species.

As there was no further business to come before the Invasive Species Sub-Committee, on motion made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Mason, Mr. Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Livingston, Second Deputy Clerk
Prepared by S. McLenithan, Legislative Office Specialist