

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: INVASIVE SPECIES SUB-COMMITTEE

DATE: JULY 11, 2013

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS DICKINSON
 CONOVER
 MASON

OTHERS PRESENT:

KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
SUPERVISORS MONTESI
 STRAINER
 TAYLOR

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR MONROE
 BENTLEY
 FRASIER
 LOEB

MICHAEL SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER
WALT LENDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LAKE GEORGE ASSOCIATION
DAVE WICK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LAKE GEORGE PARK COMMISSION
WALTER APPELLE, WARREN COUNTY RESIDENT
VITO LAPENNA, WARREN COUNTY CONSERVATION COUNCIL
THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
AMANDA ALLEN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

Mr. Dickinson called the meeting of the Invasive Species Sub-Committee to order at 9:39 a.m. and he noted that due to a lack of Committee member attendance, Chairman Geraghty would serve to achieve the necessary quorum.

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

Mr. Dickinson noted Dave Wick, Executive Director of the Lake George Park Commission, was in attendance to give a presentation on the results of the recent matting efforts in Lake George relating to the Asian Clam eradication effort. He advised a new process had been implemented to leave the mats in place during the winter months with the hopes of an improved kill rate.

Mr. Wick gave a Power Point Presentation to the Committee members and reviewed each slide in detail; *a copy of the Power Point Presentation is on file with the minutes.* He distributed copies of the Lake George Asian Clam Post-Treatment Survey; *a copy of same is also on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Montesi questioned the depths at which Asian Clams had been found and if they were located on the floor of the Lake and Mr. Wick replied the deepest the Clams had been found in Lake George was approximately 15 feet. Mr. Montesi asked if the Asian Clams required sunlight in order to thrive and Mr. Wick replied they were unsure because every time they thought they had located the Clams maximum depth, they had been located at a lower depth. Mr. Wick added that in Lake Powell, Utah Asian Clams had been found at a depth of 25 feet.

Chairman Geraghty referred to the map which showed only one dot for the English Brook area and asked if it was possible to clean up the area in the summer to prevent further spread of the Clams and Mr. Wick replied the current boat traffic in the area made it difficult to lay mats during the summer months. Chairman Geraghty commented the one dot represented a small amount of Clams and matting the area now could prevent the spread. Mr. Wick mentioned only a few Clams had been found at the site and the entire site would be re-surveyed. He said they could do as Chairman Geraghty suggested but that was not the protocol. He explained the additional survey would ensure this was the only site in the area and once the total size of the site was determined the treatment area would go well beyond the site's boundaries. Walt Lender, Executive Director of the Lake George Association, commented the areas on the map which appeared as if the Asian Clams had expanded

actually represented the fact that the divers surveyed beyond the treatment area in order to ensure full coverage.

Walter Appelle, Warren County Resident, mentioned that many boats anchored in Log Bay and he had noticed some bays on Lake George did not allow anchoring. He asked if prohibiting anchoring on Log Bay would help to control the spread of the Asian Clams. Mr. Wick responded that anchoring was the leading cause of spreading the Asian Clam population. He added the Lake George Park Commission had the authority to prohibit anchoring and he noted Supervisor Conover had done so with Boon Bay in Bolton the previous year. He explained prohibiting anchoring on Log Bay would need to be a Town level consideration and enforcement would be difficult.

Mr. Conover said the presentation represented the first fall to spring program conducted for the eradication of the Asian Clams and prior to that mats were only placed in the spring. He commented he liked the technique of taking samples from around the mats and taking additional samples once the mats were removed. Mr. Conover asked if there had been collaborative efforts with communities which had dealt with the issue before and Mr. Wick replied affirmatively and gave examples of some of the efforts. Mr. Lender mentioned collaboration efforts were important but he noted the Asian Clams in Lake George were slightly different than those found elsewhere. He added information gathered from the scientific studies completed was helpful and gave direction, but it was vital to study the version of Asian Clams which were present in Lake George.

Mr. Appelle referred to new high powered bubblers which were directional and he opined the use of these bubblers would hamper the efforts to treat Asian Clams in the winter. Mr. Wick replied the Darrin Fresh Water Institute was studying the transport of Asian Clams under currents. He noted there was a valid argument that the high powered bubblers were problematic to the efforts to control the spread of Asian Clams.

A discussion ensued pertaining to the matting process involved in the eradication of the Asian Clams.

Mr. Montesi asked if there were any countries which had successfully eradicated the Asian Clams that would have knowledge which would be beneficial towards the efforts on Lake George. Mr. Wick responded he had attended an International Invasive Species Conference in Niagara Falls a few months prior and an expert from Ireland had shown video of two rivers in Ireland that were completely infested with Asian Clams. He said the expert had reported that they were trying various methods to eradicate including using rippers on the bottom of the river bed in order to disturb the Clams. He added disturbing the Clams seemed to work well as the expert had indicated a 90% kill rate. Mr. Wick stated each area was different and needed to use the method which worked best. He informed of a researcher in South Africa who was attempting to eradicate the Asian Clams with chemicals and they were having 100% success. He commented the cost and effort involved in using chemicals was significantly higher and the environmental restrictions were lower in South Africa. He noted the eradication efforts on Lake George had very good success rates without the use of chemicals. In answer to a question, Mr. Wick affirmed there were chemicals available which could kill the Asian Clams and there were oxygenation chemicals which removed the oxygen from the water at a faster rate, killing the Asian Clams quickly.

Vito LaPenna, Warren County Conservation Council, noted the presentation showed the majority of the Asian Clams were at the bottom of the Lake and he inquired about the reason behind this. Mr. Wick replied the most likely cause was due to boat anchors. He said the Asian Clams had originally been found on a beach in the Village of Lake George which underwent immediate treatment; however, he added, transport from that area to the Southern Basin was most likely the cause of the spread of the Asian Clams.

Mr. Dickinson asked if the final report on the success of the eradication efforts had prompted any grantor agencies to award funding and Mr. Wick replied in the negative and noted they had not discussed the report with these agencies yet. Mr. Wick advised there was an Asian Clam Task Force meeting scheduled for Monday, July 15, 2013 and the next steps would be discussed in more detail. He said the areas to be treated next fall would be identified at the meeting and establishing a Lake wide survey would also be discussed. He explained once the Asian Clam Task Force established the plan and determined the costs involved, they would present the plan to grantor agencies and request funding. Mr. Wick advised they were not prepared to request funds from the County or the State at this time but he noted to date, the County had been the largest contributor towards the efforts. He opined they were a victim of their own success, in that the eradication efforts had been so successful that people were unable to see the Asian Clams as a problem.

Mr. Dickinson stated there was one pending item for the Committee pertaining to requiring mandatory boat inspections which should be removed as the issue had been handled by the Lake George Park Commission. He advised the County Attorney would continue conversations with Essex and Washington Counties and he would report any progress to the Committee. Chairman Geraghty asked if Essex County had passed a local law regarding the transport of invasive species and Mr. Lender replied Essex County had passed a local law pertaining only to transport on Lake George and not County-wide.

As there was no further business to come before the Invasive Species Sub-Committee, on motion made by Mr. Conover and seconded by Mr. Mason, Mr. Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene DiResta, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist