



**DRAFT MINUTES**  
Public Awareness and  
Communications Committee  
November 15, 2012  
Agency Meeting  
FWV:KPM:mp

**PUBLIC AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 15, 2012**

The Public Awareness and Communications Committee convened at 1:05 pm.

**Public Awareness and Communications Committee Members Present:**

William Valentino (Committee Chair), Frank Mezzano, Sherman Craig and Dierdre Scozzafava (DOS)  
Not present - Patrick Hooker (DED)

**Other Members or Designees Present:**

Lani Ulrich (Agency Chairwoman), William Thomas, Richard Booth, Arthur Lussi and Robert Stegemann (DEC)

**Agency Staff Present:**

Terry Martino (Executive Director), Sarah Reynolds (Acting Counsel), Keith McKeever (Public Information Officer), Mary Palmer, Dan Kelleher, Kathy Regan, Dan Spada, Mark Rooks, Shaun LaLonde, Ed Snizek, Emily Tyner, Rick Weber and Aaron Ziemann.

**Others Present:**

Frederick Monroe (Executive Director, Local Government Review Board)

**Approval of Draft Committee Minutes of October 2012:** Frank Mezzano made a motion to approve the October 2012 minutes. Sherman Craig seconded the motion, and the October 2012 minutes were approved unanimously.

**Adirondack Climate and Energy Action Plan (ADKCAP):** William Valentino (Committee Chair) began the meeting introducing presenters Stephanie Ratcliffe, Executive Director of The Wild Center, Curt Stager, Professor, Paul Smith's College, and Corrie Miller, Executive Director, Ausable River Association.

Stephanie Ratcliffe's presentation (attached) provided an overview of ADKCAP programs. ADKCAP is a coalition of organizations and individuals in northern New York working to implement a proactive strategy to improve energy and cost savings throughout the region.

Curt Stager's presentation (attached) provided an overview of what climate change means for the Adirondacks.

Corrie Miller's presentation (attached) discussed the need for planning for storm events specifically on culverts.

Chairwoman Ulrich asked if there were any best management practices which anticipate more extreme weather events as that issue comes up frequently when reviewing projects. Curt Stager said that people are really learning on the fly.

Richard Booth commented that with extreme events happening more often than predicted, as with the 500-year storms, and water levels rising, that the country needs to build infrastructure and plan for these types of events.

Chairwoman Ulrich asked when towns are planning road work and are aware of building constraints, should engineers make design recommendations?

Curt Stager said it is hard to tell what would be better, what would withstand these extreme events. The most important thing to do is learn from these events and plan accordingly.

Sherman Craig asked about the statistics that are used for the size of culverts. Arthur Lussi asked what statistics were used before.

Corrie Miller said that it is 1.2 to 1.5 times the bank full width of the stream that would make an appropriately sized culvert. She said you also need to look upstream and do an estimate of what the bank full is, which is how deep and how high the water gets on an annual basis to estimate the size needed for the culvert. She added that it is typically a 25-year flood level that culverts are supposed to be sized for.

Sherman Craig asked if the Wild Center has made any in-roads into Adirondack schools, or state wide, in terms of curriculum in helping students learn about climate change and what they can do to help.

Stephanie Ratcliffe said they have a model tool kit and are talking about how to reach to schools. Motivated teachers are the ones making a difference. She said they soon will be able to do online learning.

Chairwoman Ulrich asked what can we do better to solve some of these issues? How can we better help our communities with zoning when they are rebuilding after extreme events?

Corrie Miller said it is hard to make cases to communities about where they can build, but we need to have these discussions with towns and their residents about smart locations to build so communities can still have growth.

Curt Stager added that the more people that have a long-term perspective and realize that the world is changing is what helps.

Robert Stegemann commented on the incredible spirit of people coming together and to remember how powerful that is. There are agencies, there are groups, and there are communities and individuals that are coming together. We need to make sure that we harness that power to deal with this.

Committee Chair William Valentino agreed that we need a long-term approach, and not to forget what happened this year.

Note: The power point presentations referred to herein are on file at the Agency. Copies are also available for inspection on request and can be viewed at [http://nysapa.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=2](http://nysapa.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2).