

New York Citizens Advisory Committee (NYCAC) on Lake Champlain Management

Monday, March 4th, 2024
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Approved Meeting Summary

Members Present: Walt Lender (Chair), James C. Dawson, Laura Klaiber, Steve Kramer, Tom Metz, Colin Powers, Vic Putman, Ricky Laurin, Charlotte Staats, Fred Woodward

Members Absent: Jackie Bowen, Jane Gregware

Public Guests: Michele Fafette (EPA R2), Pete Hagar, Allison Gaddy

Presenter: Katie Darr (LCBP/CABN)

LCBP Staff: Katie Darr, Myra Lawyer (NYSDEC), Erin Vennie-Vollrath (NYSDEC)

1:00 – 1:15 pm

1. **Welcome and Introductions** (5 min) – Walt Lender

Walt welcomed attendees, led a round of introductions.

2. **Public Comments** (5 min)

No public comments were made.

3. **ACTION ITEM:** Review and vote on Draft January 22nd meeting summary (5 min) – Walt Lender

Motion to approve by: Jim Dawson

Seconded by: Steve Kramer

Abstentions: None

Discussion: None

Vote: All in favor, motion carried

1:15 – 1:50 pm

4. **Celebrating the *Biosphere in Your Backyard* in 2024** – Katie Darr

Katie Darr, Coordinator of the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network, provided an update on the work of the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network and the plans to celebrate its 35th anniversary in 2024. The presentation is available with the meeting materials ([here](#)).

Discussion

- Walt asked about the timeline for the climate atlas. Katie shared the climate atlas is expected to be complete in May and there will be opportunities for the CAC to help with distribution/outreach of the atlas in the summer and fall.
- Walt asked if CABN's outreach plans include getting CABN resources/interpretive signage in visitor centers. Katie confirmed improving CABN visibility through tourism contacts and visitor centers is a goal for CABN.

- Steve commented on the importance of bridging scientific and lay communities and the value that CABN adds in that space.
- Colin asked if CABN works with the Adirondack Park (A2A) as there is a lot of overlap between the two entities. Katie confirmed CABN steering committee members are involved with this connectivity initiative.
- Charlotte asked about the timeline for *Capturing Climate Change* and noted that ADK Mountain Club would likely be interested in hosting a [Chronolog](#) station. Katie is hoping to have the stations set up in the summer.
- Rick noted that the environment is one of the focus areas for Lions clubs, that could be a good mechanism to distribute the climate atlas.
- Walt added the Kiwanis and rotary clubs would also be great outlets for outreach.

1:50 pm – 2:20 pm

5. 2024 NYCAC Priorities – Walt Lender, Katie Darr

The committee reviewed the draft 2024 FOCUS document that highlights the NYCAC's priority concerns and recommendations of where to allocate resources.

Suggested edits

- Emphasize the connection to climate change throughout all sections
- Highlight the upcoming America250 celebration
- Reference the stewardship of working lands
- Include a plug for the biosphere network

The committee supported the document, pending the suggested edits. Katie will distribute an updated version.

2:20 – 2:40 pm

6. World Water Day – Katie Darr

The committee discussed a “love the lake” collaborative tabling activity for the March 16th World Water Day event at the Champlain Centre Mall. The event runs from 11am – 3pm and features nearly 30 organizations.

2:40 – 2:50 pm

7. Updates – Walt Lender

Boquet River Association

- BRASS received an organizational support grant to support the search for an executive director and also received an organizational support grant to update the strategic plan.

Miner Institute

- Miner Institute will host the Northern NY Agricultural Development Program research update meeting on March 13th from 10-12:30. The meeting will feature a presentation by Laura Klaiber about the Agricultural Drainage Research at Miner Institute. More details are available at https://www.pressrepublican.com/news/nyadp-farm-research-update-meetings-set-for-march-in-chazy-and-lowville/article_45ce1c42-c7b7-11ee-a251-33c87270f63c.html

Adirondack Lobby Day

- Jim participated in Adirondack Lobby Day in Albany. The main effort was to restore some of the funding that the governor's budget did not include this year due to the state's fiscal difficulties. Jim was part of a small group that met with Sen. Stec, Assemblyman Simpson, and others and advocated for restoration

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of monies for the Survey of Climate Change and Adirondack Lake Ecosystems monitoring (SCALE) and money for the Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smith's College. The day went well, they were all very responsive and supportive.

NYSDEC

NYSDEC is accepting requests for buffer in bag, property owners with at least 50 feet of land along a stream or waterbody are eligible <https://dec.ny.gov/nature/forests-trees/saratoga-tree-nursery/trees-for-tribs#bag>

- Tom asked what sorts of plants are offered. Pete shared it's a mix of hardwood trees and shrubs ~10 of each variety for a total of 50 seedlings.

2:50 – 3:00 pm

8. Meeting Wrap Up – Walt Lender, Katie Darr

The NYCAC meets next on Monday, April 22nd. The agenda will feature a presentation about the [Streamwise Champlain program](#).