Emerging Issues and Challenges in CNY from a Regulatory Perspective

2017 Environmental Symposium of the Central New York Chapter of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers & Scientists

October 12, 2017
Hampton Inn & Suites Cazenovia, NY
DEC Region 7 Response Team

- Law Enforcement
- Forest Protection
- Natural Resources
  - Lands and Forests
  - Mineral Resources
  - Habitat
  - Wildlife
  - Fisheries
  - Real Property
- Environmental Permits
- General Counsel
DEC Region 7 Response Team

- Environmental Quality
  - Air Resources
  - Water
  - Materials Management
    - Pesticides
  - Environmental Remediation
  - Hazardous Waste
  - Spills (MOSF/PBS/CBS)

- Operations
  - Syracuse
  - Happy Valley WMA
  - Cortland
  - Three Rivers WMA
  - Kirkwood
  - Salmon River FH
  - Sherburne

- Regional Administration
Emerging Issues and Challenges

New Regional Director (started October 13, 2016)

- Background in Water Environment
- BCEE since 2009

Emerging Issues and Challenges: First 365 Days

- Environmental Quality
- Natural Resources
- Emergency Response
  - Natural Disasters
  - Spills
  - Nuisance Wildlife
- Access to Outdoor Recreation Resources

Emerging Issues and Challenges: Next 365 Days
Emerging Issues and Challenges: Environmental Quality

- Dredging and Capping complete; Habitat improvements nearing completion
- Transitioning to Operation, Maintenance, and Monitoring
- Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration
- Dramatic new west shore improvements: Loop the Lake Trail, Boat Launch
Emerging Issues and Challenges: Environmental Quality

Governor Cuomo Signs Legislation Investing $2.5 Billion in Clean Water Infrastructure and Water Quality Protection

- $2.5B investment in water quality improvements for local governments
  - Drinking water and clean water infrastructure upgrades
  - Sewer infrastructure upgrades
  - Source water protection initiatives
- Includes septic system upgrade rebate for homeowners, small businesses
- Drinking Water Quality Council
Emerging Issues and Challenges: Environmental Quality

Governor Cuomo Announces Approval of Advanced Treatment Technologies for Drinking Water in Auburn and Owasco

- $2M to research and implement drinking water protection technologies for 46,000 Central New Yorkers
- $1.51M for watershed improvements to protect water quality and reduce pollution
- Finger Lakes Water Hub
Finger Lakes Water Hub

Four staff focused on FL WQ:

- Meet with multiple stakeholders to learn more about issues affecting each lake
- Coordinate and promote relevant research to better understand challenges facing each lake
- Identify funding opportunities for research and implementation of best management practices in high priority areas
- Linking DEC’s existing water programs with the work of research institutions, local governments, and other Finger Lakes Region organizations
Emerging Issues and Challenges: Environmental Quality

- Municipalities certified for actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build climate resiliency:
  - Madison County, Tompkins County, Town of Ithaca
- Solid Waste Management Regulations (Part 360) revisions
  - Enhanced water quality protections, controls on hydraulic fracturing wastes, and ability to combat illegal dumping
Emerging Issues and Challenges: Natural Resources

Governor Cuomo Announces Nearly $1.7 Million Awarded for Invasive Species Rapid Response and Control Across New York

- $48,000 - Cazenovia Lake, Madison County (European Frog-bit)
- $11,400 - Upper Susquehanna Basin, Tioga County (Hydrilla)
- $111,660 - CNY invasive species rapid response and control efforts
Emerging Issues and Challenges: Natural Resources

Wildlife Management Areas/Habitat Management Plans

• Young Forest Initiative
  o Create habitat for target wildlife species
  o Increase opportunities for bird watching, hunting, fishing
Emerging Issues and Challenges: Enforcement

• 40 recruits graduated from DEC’s 21st Basic School for Uniformed Officers:
  o Environmental Conservation Officers
  o Forest Rangers
Emerging Issues and Challenges: Emergency Response

- DEC officials provided on-site permitting and assistance to property owners
- Lake Ontario Rapid Response Team
Emerging Issues and Challenges: Emergency Response
Emerging Issues and Challenges: Emergency Response
Emerging Issues and Challenges: Emergency Response

DEC employees and volunteers on the front lines
• Gibraltar Ridge Fire in Kootenai National Forest near Eureka, Montana
Emerging Issues and Challenges: Emergency Response
Emerging Issues and Challenges: Emergency Response
Emerging Issues and Challenges: Emergency Response
Emerging Issues and Challenges: Emergency Response
Emerging Issues and Challenges: Tools for the Future

- Improve DEC’s ability to monitor and protect the state’s lands, waters, and wildlife
- Improve emergency response and environmental management
Access to Outdoor Recreation Resources: Adventure NY

- Multi-year outdoor recreation campaign announced in State of the State
- $50 million investment to connect more NY families and visitors to the great outdoors
- 75 projects over 3 years
Adventure NY: Priorities

1. Expanding access to healthy, active outdoor recreation
2. Connecting people with nature and the outdoors
3. Protecting NY’s natural resources
4. Boosting local economies
Adventure NY: Expanding Access

Sandy Pond Boat Launch
Adventure NY: Expanding Access

Nanticoke Lake Multiple Use Area
Adventure NY: Expanding Access

Long Pond State Forest
Adventure NY: Expanding Access
Long Pond State Forest – Round Pond
JULY 25, 2017 | Albany, NY

Governor Cuomo Announces New Free Fishing Days and 2017-18 Hunting and Trapping Licenses Go on Sale Starting August 1st

- New Free Fishing Days:
  - Weekend preceding Presidents Day
  - National Hunting and Fishing Day
  - Veterans Day

- DEC Call Center hours extended to assist hunters and trappers on weekends
Salmon River and Kendall Tract acquisitions total 6,000+ acres
Lands and Forests to develop UMPs that will guide public use
Significantly increases public access opportunities and resource protection
Adventure NY: Boosting Local Economies
Emerging Issues and Challenges in CNY from a Regulatory Perspective

Next 365 Days

- Environmental Quality
- Natural Resources
- Emergency Response
- Access to Outdoor Recreation Resources

Faster Response

- Spills Hotline
- ECOs Dispatch

Increased Transparency

- DEC Info Locator

Higher Visibility and More Communication
Thank You

• Matthew J. Marko, PE, BCEE, FASCE
• Director, Region 7
• 615 Erie Blvd. West
  Syracuse NY 13204
• Matthew.Marko@dec.ny.gov
• 315-426-7403

Connect with us:
Facebook: www.facebook.com/NYSDEC
Twitter: twitter.com/NYSDEC
Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/nysdec
Instagram: