



ADK ACTION E-Newsletter

Your Voice in the Politics of the Adirondacks

Q4 2009

Dear AdkAction.org Members and Friends:

This is the second in a series of quarterly AdkAction.org E-newsletters to keep you informed of what we are doing to give you a stronger voice in Adirondack politics. It has been an exciting three months for AdkAction.org.

Late in September we commissioned a study by Paul Smith's Adirondack Watershed Institute of road salt and its impact on our environment. This will be the first peer-reviewed, scientifically-based analysis of current practices, best practices, and how to get from current to best at lowest cost. While the study will not be done until late January, early results suggest that much can be done to reduce the dreadful effects of over-salting (which it is clear that we do: New York uses more salt than any other state). Better practices could reduce the strain on New York's budgets. Our plan is to pass on the best practices that result from this study to our friends at the Department of Transportation so they can turn theory into practice. We will, of course follow up to see that this happens and take appropriate action with our elected representatives if it does not.

Another exciting initiative by AdkAction.org this quarter was sending a delegation to Washington to meet with three of our congressional and both senatorial representatives. Our goal was to seek a comprehensive, Park-wide approach to controlling Eurasian Watermilfoil in the 43 known infested Adirondack lakes. Three of our Steering Committee members (Ross Whaley, Marsha Stanley, and Lee Keet) joined representatives from the Adirondack Council, including their Director Brian Houseal and legislative director Scott Lorey, and Dan Keltling who heads the Watershed Institute in this day packed with five meetings. We are asking for an appropriation of \$35 million over seven years to attack milfoil infestation Park-wide in a program that would be administered by the Adirondack Watershed Institute. The first year's \$2 million will go towards a detailed survey, mapping, and action plan for these lakes, followed by six years of hand-harvesting, benthic matting, and ongoing maintenance once the milfoil levels are stabilized at very low levels.

The chances of success for this initiative getting any funds in 2010 or 2011 are slim but not zero. The chances for the follow-on years are much better, and the reception by the offices of congressmen Murphy, Arcuri, and Owens and Senators Gillibrand and Schumer were warm and enthusiastic. It appears that invasive species have risen to a high level of interest among our elected officials, which is really good news. More details of the proposal we are putting forward can be found on our web site at www.AdkAction.org/TakingAction/TakingAction.htm

In the coming quarter we will move the ball forward on salt reduction, the invasives initiative, a continued study of tax reform, notably what other states have done. We will be monitoring the property assessment revaluation in Harriestown to determine whether the assessment method applied to state land, particularly waterfront, is equal to the rates applied to private landowners. We also have some upcoming administrative items, including an election of a new Steering Committee and the posting of an updated member survey.

We hope what we are doing matches your interests in making the Park a better place for everyone. We would like to hear from you on any of the foregoing issues or on any suggestions you might have. We are still looking for volunteers to participate in our Tax, Government Efficiency, and Water Quality Committees, so please contact us if you have time to contribute.

We wish you all of the best for a prosperous and healthy 2010.

AdkAction.org

Steering Committee			Advisory Committee			
Lee Keet, Chair	Marsha Stanley	Dave Wolff, Vice Chair	Jim Crane	Dick Maid	Jim Schoff	Phil Wolff
Dick Kibben	Ross Whaley		Nancy Howard	Kerry Marsh	Mark Wilson	

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