

Labor/Safety Management Committee Minutes
April 17, 2012 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Rowland; Supervisors Wright, Collyer; Bill Benosky, Public Works; Dave Costanzo, Galway; Lou Pasquarell, Clifton Park; Karen Levison, Priscilla Wheeler, Gayle Zimmerman, Public Health; Robert Hartman, Personnel.

On a motion made by Mr. Benosky, seconded by Mr. Collyer the minutes of the December 20, 2011 minutes were approved unanimously.

Ms. Zimmerman gave a brief presentation on Tick Borne Disease in Saratoga County. She said the most common tick found in New York State is the Ixodes Scapularis, also called the Black Legged Tick or the Deer Tick. There are 30 species of ticks that are found, with 10 species that commonly bit humans and 4 species that potentially transmit diseases which include the following: Deer Tick/Black Legged Tick; Lone Star Tick; American Dog Tick; and Woodchuck Tick. The American Dog Tick can transmit Rocky Mountain spotted fever which is an uncommon disease in Upstate New York and can be deadly if the person is not identified properly. The Lonestar tick transmits Ehrlichiosis which is an uncommon disease in Upstate New York as well. The Black Legged Tick/Deer Tick transmits three diseases which include Lyme disease, which is the number one tick born disease in the United States. The Woodchuck Tick carries Powassan encephalitis, which is an uncommon disease in New York State.

Ms. Zimmerman said Deer Ticks prefer shady wooded areas that are along trails with abundant wildlife. Adults are active in the early spring and fall. The Nymphai ticks are active in the late spring early summer which is the source of most cases for disease. Deer ticks are commonly found on leaves, they don't fly, and they don't fall from trees.

Ms. Zimmerman said Lyme disease was first found in Lyme, CT. Bacteria was first identified in Suffolk County. There are approximately 4,000 confirmed cases per year with NYS cases accounting for approximately 35% of all cases nationally. Lyme disease is caused by a Spirochete Bacteria call Borrelia Burgdorferi and is transmitted when an infected nymph or female Deer tick bites a person and feeds for at least 24 hours or is not removed correctly. If the tick is infected, the chances of transmission increases with time: 0% at 24 hours, 12% at 48 hours, 79% at 72 hours and 94% at 96 hours. If untreated the infection may spread to other parts of the body within a few days to weeks, producing an array of symptoms. These include loss of muscle tone on one or both sides of the face, severe headaches and neck stiffness due to meningitis, shooting pains that may interfere with sleep, heart palpitations and dizziness due to changes in heartbeat, and pain that moves from joint to joint. Many of these symptoms will resolve, even without treatment. After several months approximately 60% of patients with untreated infections will begin to have intermittent bouts of arthritis with severe joint pain and swelling. Large joints are most often affected, particularly the knees. In addition, up to 5% of untreated patients may develop chronic neurological complaints months and years after

infection. Most cases of Lyme disease can be cured with antibiotics, especially if treatment is begun early. However, a small percentage of patients with Lyme disease have symptoms that last months to years after treatment with antibiotics.

On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Collyer the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom