



*NOTE: The attachments referred to herein are on file at the Agency and are on the Agency's website. Copies are also available for inspection on request.*

**DRAFT AGENCY MINUTES**

**MARCH 15, 2012**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2012**

**AGENCY MEMBERS/DESIGNEES AND EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT**

Leilani Crafts Ulrich, Chairwoman  
Richard Booth, Member  
Sherman Craig, Member  
Arthur Lussi, Member  
Frank Mezzano, Member  
William Thomas, Member  
F. William Valentino, Member  
Cecil Wray, Member  
Dierdre Scozzafava, Designee, NYS Department of State  
Robert Stegemann, Designee, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Terry Martino, Executive Director  
Sarah Reynolds, Associate Counsel

**AGENCY MEMBERS/DESIGNEES AND EXECUTIVE STAFF ABSENT**

Jen McCormick, Designee, NYS Department of Economic Development  
John Banta, Counsel

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD PRESENT**

Fred Monroe, Executive Director

**AGENCY STAFF PRESENT**

Richard Weber, Deputy Director, Regulatory Programs  
James Connolly, Deputy Director, Planning  
Daniel Kelleher, Special Assistant for Economic Affairs  
Matt Kendall, Associate Natural Resources Planner  
Holly Kneeshaw, Assistant Director of Regulatory Programs  
Colleen Parker, Environmental Program Specialist 3  
Kathy Regan, Associate Natural Resources Planner  
Daniel Spada, Supervisor, Natural Resource Analysis  
Arial Lynch, Environmental Program Specialist 2  
John Burth, Environmental Program Specialist 2  
Douglas Miller, Environmental Program Specialist 2  
Aaron Ziemann, Student Assistant

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Ron Tucker, Associate Project Analyst (Forest Resources)  
Brian Grisi, Local Planning Assistance Specialist  
John Barge, Mapping Technologist 3  
Mary O'Dell, Biologist 1 (Ecology)  
Mark Rooks, Associate Project Analyst (Biological Resources)  
Paul Van Cott, Associate Attorney  
Elizabeth Phillips, Senior Attorney  
Keith McKeever, Public Information Director  
Deborah Lester, Secretary to Executive Director

Chairwoman Ulrich called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

The Chairwoman noted DED Designee Jen McCormick's absence due to a schedule conflict. She also noted Agency Counsel John Banta's absence from the meeting. Counsel's Office is represented this month by Associate Counsel Sarah Reynolds, she added.

**1. Approval of February 16, 2012 Draft Agency Minutes**

On motion of Mr. Booth, seconded by Mr. Lussi, the Agency unanimously adopted the Draft Agency Minutes of the February 16, 2012 meeting. (Ms. Scozzafava was absent during the vote.)

**2. 2011 Annual Report by the Executive Director**

Chairwoman Ulrich advised that the ensuing overview of 2011 to be presented by the Executive Director and staff will assist the Board in its subsequent discussion of 2012/13 goals. The Board will hear from staff about accomplishments over the last year in preparation for dialogue regarding programs the Board would like to see occur over the next year.

The Chairwoman then referred to an interesting article in the March 7, 2011 issue of *Newsweek* magazine entitled "Brain Freeze," which discusses the detriments of having too much information available on one's ability to make good decisions. She noted the information could be useful in the Agency's work as well as in other areas.

Ms. Martino expressed her appreciation to Public Information Officer Keith McKeever for the timely completion of the 2011 Annual Report. The report contains narrative of 2011 highlights and links to detailed reporting by managers of work activities. The report is available on the Agency website, which saves the cost of printing and postage. Staff's presentation of the report is formatted in an organizational framework which allows the Board to hear about work throughout the year from Regulatory Programs, Enforcement, and JIF staff, as well as a biologist,

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soil scientist, planners and attorneys. The presentation will be supported with a slide show developed by Holly Kneeshaw and Colleen Parker that presents work that took place in 2011.

The presentation topics engage across disciplines and demonstrate how the Agency uses different tools through its permits, variances, settlement agreements and jurisdictional determinations to undertake the mission of engagement with the public to achieve environmental protection and environmental compliance.

The Board will also hear about successes in how staff provide scientific services in wetland delineations and testing of soils for septic capacity. Coupled with the review of the Agency data capacity with the Master Action Database (MAD) and Look-Up System as well as work in Local Government Services and State Lands, 2011- in-review shows the Agency with a broad range of activities. The community housing incentive, the first change to the APA Act since the mid-1980's, is a particularly noteworthy area of success.

The year 2011 will be remembered as the International Year of the Forest, which the Agency celebrated on Earth Day. It was a year where the review of the Adirondack Club and Resort project engaged 20% of staff in either the Project Hearing Team or Executive Team work throughout the year, all while doing the other considerable work that was before the Agency on an ongoing basis.

The work in 2011 was significant: 339 permits out of 346 project applications, 78 of which were major projects and 71 were minor projects. A doubling of variance orders and determinations to 10, from 5 in 2010, reflects changes the Agency made to the §806 shoreline regulations in 2008 leading to changes in the variance hearing process that the Board will hear about later. Other work includes 732 jurisdictional inquiries with 508 non-jurisdictional and 124 jurisdictional determinations, 3,677 telephone calls and 180 walk-ins. Those numbers document numerous exchanges between Agency staff and the public.

In Enforcement, staff completed 281 site visits, a 25% increase over 2010. Resource Analysis and Scientific Services staff completed 240 wetland delineations and advised on 72 wetland jurisdictional determinations with a quick turnaround of 11 days, and dug 97 deep hole test pits.

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Ms. Martino noted that staff presentations would begin with a discussion of ACE, an acronym which stands for "Action, Coordination and Efficiency," a format characterizing the activity that occurred in 2011. ACE is a coordinated effort between program divisions to take an active role in processing jurisdictional, regulatory and enforcement matters in order to ensure more efficient processes for Agency staff and the public. This effort allows the Agency to improve use of staff resources, and therefore provide more time to focus on projects with regional impacts. It also allows staff to improve communications and delivery of services to the public, and improve interdivisional consistency through coordination and training. The role of ACE is to be a point of contact, recognize opportunities to coordinate, meet weekly, share tools, implement solutions, re-evaluate, and be flexible, while taking into consideration "what's the best way."

Copies of the powerpoint presentations for staff reports are attached to the official Agency Minutes.

a. Action-Coordination-Efficiency

The three members of the ACE Team - Doug Miller of the Agency's Jurisdictional Office, John Burth in the Enforcement Program, and Ariel Lynch in Regulatory Programs - discussed how ACE functions in collaboration with each of their divisions.

Ms. Martino noted her goal for 2012 is to add a member of the RASS staff to the ACE Team.

b. MAD/Look-Up Systems

Agency Mapping Technologist John Barge discussed management and use of Agency records, including data tracking and data look-up through the use of two mission-critical tools: Master Action Database (MAD) and Geographic Information System (GIS)/Look-Up System. He also noted staff efforts to address document management through development of a new Agency-wide document naming convention.

Ms. Martino noted that 2012 would be defined by MAD II, an upgrade to the current MAD.

c. RASS Wetland and Soil Services

Ecological Biologist Mary O'Dell and Associate Project Analyst (Forest Resources) Ron Tucker described and discussed processes for wetland determinations and detailed soils data through deep hole test pits.

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d. Variance Procedure

Colleen Parker, Environmental Program Specialist 3, and Senior Attorney Beth Phillips discussed work undertaken by the Regulatory Programs and Legal Divisions to revise and streamline Agency procedures for review of variance requests.

Ms. Martino noted the revised procedures enable staff to efficiently manage variance requests from the public, especially in light of the increased number of variance applications resulting from the shoreline regulation updates of December 2008.

e. Permit Compliance

Aaron Ziemann has been tracking compliance with conditions of Agency permits. Mr. Ziemann reported a 92% compliance rate in the Park. Of the 8% of noncompliance, most were inadvertent issues involving administrative details and were easily remedied.

f. Legal

Associate Attorney Paul Van Cott discussed the community housing incentive that was signed into law by Governor Cuomo in July 2011. This smart growth law is designed to encourage construction of affordable housing near existing hamlets by allowing a density bonus. The Agency has been working with the Adirondack Community Housing Trust to ensure the Agency's implementation of the law is harmonious with the Housing Trust's program for providing affordable housing to individuals. To date, there have been no affordable housing units constructed under the new law, nor are there any projects pending before the Agency. As the construction industry rebounds, the Agency looks forward to facilitating such projects.

g. Local Government Services

Brian Grisi, Local Planning Assistance Specialist, reviewed local government statistics throughout the Park, including new town supervisors elected in 2011, number of communities with and without local land use controls, number of communities with Agency-approved local land use programs, variance referrals to the Agency since 2007, local land use program review during 2011, staff meetings with towns and groups in 2011, and special meetings including the 2011 Northern Adirondack CEO Training and 2011 Adirondack Park Local Government Day Conference.

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### h. State Lands

Senior Natural Resources Planner Kathy Regan discussed the interaction between the Agency, DEC, and DOT in terms of the State Land Master Plan and Unit Management Plans. She also noted interaction with the JIF office as to whether a proposed activity on State land constitutes ordinary maintenance or minor rehabilitation of existing structures and improvements.

Mr. Booth referred to a map depicting State land units in the Park and suggested that it be clearly labeled so as to correct the false impression that much of the private land in the Park has disappeared.

In conclusion, Ms. Martino stated the 2011 overview shows the specifics of the work that took place and how it was accomplished. Goals for 2012 will be to add a RASS member to the ACE team, and to use the template developed in the ACE integration of services to address processes for permit review in relation to finalizing steps for minor permits and coordination of general and major permits. She also noted additional opportunities, including ongoing discussions with DEC Regions 5 and 6 and Central Office about concurrent review and the goal for efficiency in State processes, a discussion that will define 2012.

Ms. Martino expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to work with the staff throughout 2011.

### 4. Board Discussion of 2011 Highlights and 2012 Programs

Chairwoman Ulrich invited Board members to share their observations from the 2011 highlights presented by staff as well as their ideas for future program planning. She said their input would be helpful in terms of dialogue at Local Government Day, ongoing APA/DEC coordination and efficiency discussions, and "Mapping of the Adirondacks" workshops.

Mr. Craig requested more in-service programs involving staff and outside groups, town supervisors and local government officials. Topics would include training (i.e., wetlands); discussions with a focus on such things as ways to further improve Agency efficiency; how the Agency can do better; and better understanding of local government needs.

Mr. Stegemann suggested incorporation of metrics/goals to produce better results. For example, a metrics goal for community housing in the Park, and a comparison of locally approved variances to 10 variances approved by the Agency in

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2011. He stressed the importance of communication with the public, noting Local Government Day is a good channel of communication. He also suggested taking a survey for public input on how the Agency is doing and how it can do better.

Mr. Valentino encouraged Smart Growth and Best Management Practices based on good science. He suggested bringing in outside experts and then using that knowledge to assess and modify Agency procedures.

Mr. Thomas referred to Brian Mann's recent article in the October 2011 edition of *Adirondack Life* entitled "A Plan to Save Our Towns: Rethinking the Adirondack Park Agency - The Other Endangered Species." He agreed with the article in that it guides the Agency to encourage more development within the hamlets of the Park and more involvement by towns in planning. Mr. Thomas said the Agency should place more focus on getting more towns involved in planning and on hamlet expansion, which is a consideration in the community housing bill and requires sufficient infrastructure within hamlets.

Chairwoman Ulrich raised the question of why some towns are doing no planning or do not seek an Agency-approved local land use plan. She suggested inviting town supervisors for a discussion.

Ms. Scozzafava suggested the Agency look into the development of an Angel group or network to provide access to capital for small entrepreneurs who want to live and do business in the Park. The involvement of the environmental community in such an effort would assure a balanced approach.

Chairwoman Ulrich suggested that staff could advise the Board on issues that can be addressed within the Agency and others where the Agency might serve as a convener.

Mr. Valentino stated his agreement with a large part of Mr. Mann's *Adirondack Life* article, but also his concerns with respect to constraints not only from a resource limitation standpoint, but also from a publication administration standpoint. The promotion of economic development by a regulatory agency such as the APA is a contradiction in terms of mission and legislative authority. Mr. Valentino suggested it was more important to get the right people working together to set an agenda to include local government, environmental and private development interests.

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Mr. Booth noted the following issues/suggestions: (1) Open Meetings Law requirements make it difficult for the Agency to have discussions concerning long-range issues without the public reacting negatively; (2) Staff should be encouraged to find ways at each meeting to put some items on the table for discussion where there are no decisions needed, since many of these issues require thinking over time; (3) Many people would like the Agency to also become the economic development agency for the Adirondacks. Mr. Booth said that is unlikely to happen because the Adirondack Park is not an economic region; it was created for historical reasons. More importantly, ultimately the APA is an environmental regulatory agency, and while it should participate in discussions about the economic well being of the Park, in the long run it cannot be both environmental regulator and economic development agency. Mr. Booth also supported the revision of the statute to make it more workable and efficient. He encouraged staff to be more open to the public about the effects of severe funding constraints on Agency operations. Finally, he stressed a need to develop and maintain data to allow for long-term tracking to perform trends analysis and to assess the environmental, social and economic health of the Park.

Chairwoman Ulrich asked if more outreach could be accomplished through greater use of technology such as Skype.

Mr. Mezzano concurred with the use of telecommunications given the vastness of the Park, and he suggested further consultation with Agency IT staff. He then offered his own interpretation of Mr. Mann's article, which in his opinion suggested an Agency role in community development with Agency staff providing technical advice and assistance. Mr. Mezzano suggested that with the current administration, the time was ripe to address this issue, possibly through a multi-disciplinary team such as the TAL group that was created to assist with the Agency's regulatory revision process. Regarding potential projects for 2012, Mr. Mezzano pointed out that additional work would be difficult to undertake given current staff resources. He suggested now is the time for the Agency to seek additional support.

Chairwoman Ulrich asked what the Agency RASS staff and the environmental community as well as other stakeholders believe are the top concerns in the Park today. A few years ago the top concerns of the Common Ground Alliance were acid rain, climate change and invasive species. She suggested the topic of natural materials on State lands is another good educational question. She also referred to the relevant questions "What's the best

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way?" "What does science say?" and "What makes sense?" Finally, she noted some of these discussions can also play a role in celebrating and honoring the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the State Land Master Plan this year.

Mr. Monroe commented on possible administrative and legislative changes as well as analysis of social and economic concerns. He referred to the APA Act's Statement of Legislative Findings and Purposes, which states the Agency should "...engage in a continuing planning process which recognizes matters of local government concern...." Mr. Monroe noted this has not happened in the area of State land acquisition, which has the biggest impact on local governments and residents. He referred to a provision in the State Land Master Plan which speaks to the importance of the forest products industry and makes recommendations. Mr. Monroe pointed out that the Agency's scrutiny of SLMP compliance focuses on small issues, but not on large issues such as this. He also encouraged the Agency to continue to promote advancement of legislation providing local planning assistance funding. He noted local governments are finding it difficult to budget for local planning, especially since the 2 percent tax cap became effective. Mr. Monroe also suggested the Agency explore a better hearing process for major projects. With regard to the Agency's role in economic development, Mr. Monroe said Local Government would agree that the Agency should not be leading economic development planning, but it should have a clear understanding of the economic impact of projects. Regarding trends, Mr. Monroe referred to the APRAP study as a baseline that would need to be regularly updated.

Chairwoman expressed her appreciation to the board members and staff for their contributions during 2011.

***The full Agency adjourned into committees at 12:05 p.m., and then reconvened at 4:27 to act on the recommendations of the Committees.***

### **5. Interim Reports**

The Park Ecology, Local Government Services, Enforcement, Public Awareness and Communications, and Administration Committees did not meet. Monthly activity reports for some of these committees were included in the mailing.

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a. Local Government Services Committee

Mr. Thomas reported on his attendance at the March 13 meeting of the Lake George Watershed Coalition's project review and oversight subcommittee. He referred questions to Brian Grisi, Local Planning Assistance Specialist.

Chairwoman Ulrich called attention to the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Local Government Day conference to be held on March 20-21 in Lake Placid. Attendance at the conference is anticipated to be the largest in its history.

b. Public Awareness and Communications Committee

Mr. Valentino commended staff on the effort that went into the annual report. He also reported that Public Information Director Keith McKeever would provide a list of speakers for future committee presentations in May.

**6. Committee Reports**

a. Regulatory Programs Committee

(1) 2012-12, JLKN Acres, LLC

The matter involves a proposal to stock triploid sterile grass carp in Lake Eaton in the Town of Jay, Essex County, to control nuisance aquatic vegetation. The project site is classified Low Intensity use and involves wetlands.

On motion of Mr. Mezzano, seconded by Mr. Valentino, the Agency voted unanimously to approve the project. (Chairwoman L. Ulrich, R. Booth, S. Craig, A. Lussi, F. Mezzano, W. Thomas, W. Valentino, D. Scozzafava [DOS], and R. Stegemann [DEC] voted in favor.) A copy of the permit, as approved by the Agency, is attached to the official minutes.

b. State Land Committee

Mr. Booth circulated a color-coded map and summary of conservation easement lands within the Park.

(1) Hoffman Notch Wilderness Unit Management Plan

Mr. Booth referred to the draft Resolution and SEQOR Findings with respect to the Hoffman Notch Wilderness Unit Management Plan. He noted a minor correction to the last WHEREAS clause on Page 2 of the Resolution, which should read "...impacts on trails and campsites, which study will provide...."

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On motion of Mr. Booth, seconded by Mr. Stegemann, the Agency unanimously adopted the Resolution, as amended, finding the Hoffman Notch Wilderness Unit Management Plan, dated February, 2012, in conformance with the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. A copy of the Resolution as approved by the Agency is attached to the official minutes.

c. Economic Affairs Committee

Mr. Lussi commended the presentation by Chris Ericson, owner of Lake Placid Pub and Brewery, on his craft brewing operation. Mr. Lussi also mentioned the Governor's support of the brewing industry in New York State.

d. Legal Affairs Committee

Mr. Wray noted Associate Attorney Paul Van Cott's report on regulations that were adopted in 2002 pursuant to SAPA requirements.

e. Park Policy and Planning Committee

(1) Map Amendment 2010-01

The technical amendment involves an approximately 6-acre right-of-way owned by the Town of Waverly, Franklin County, which requires a correction to the official Private Land Use and Development Plan Map from State Land (Wild Forest) to Rural Use.

On motion of Mr. Booth, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Agency unanimously approved the technical amendment. A copy of the Certificate is attached to the official minutes.

(2) Map Amendment 2010-2, North Country Partners, LLC

The amendment request involves approximately 53 acres from Resource Management to Rural Use in the Town of Harrietstown, Franklin County.

On motion of Mr. Booth, seconded by Mr. Wray, the Agency voted unanimously to accept the EIS subject to clarification of a minor detail.

Mr. Booth noted the committee motion to recommend Agency approval of the amendment pursuant to the Draft Order failed to pass.

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Mr. Thomas then moved Agency approval of the amendment request pursuant to the Draft Order, and Mr. Mezzano seconded the motion.

Prior to voting, Mr. Booth encouraged board members to refer to page 5 of the Draft Order as well as the map, and consider the development limitations on the site. He also pointed out the fact that the property is shorefront, which is among the most, if not the most, critical resource. He noted that while he respected staff's work, he believed that the suitability of soils and slopes indicates the better course of action is to not grant the amendment request. Mr. Booth added that, pursuant to counsel's advice, it would not be necessary for the Agency to act on a separate resolution to deny the amendment.

Ms. Reynolds confirmed Mr. Booth's statement regarding a separate resolution, and she reminded the Agency of the decision criteria that was reviewed earlier.

Chairwoman Ulrich reminded the Agency that a motion to approve requires 8 affirmative votes. She noted that while she has struggled with the information before the Agency, among her considerations are that the applicant is not a developer, there are controls to protect the concerns that have been raised, and the property is not agricultural or forestry use land.

Mr. Craig noted the significant time spent by staff, the landowner and others, throughout this process, as well as the extensive public comment that has been received. The decision is not insignificant and has not been taken lightly.

Mr. Monroe pointed out that the motion requires a supermajority of the Board to pass, and said it would be unfortunate if the vote turned on the fact that one of the board members is absent from the meeting.

Mr. Lussi questioned whether there was adequate justification for the amendment request provided by the applicant or staff.

Chairwoman Ulrich referred to a letter from the landowner which explained the forfeiture of development rights on the substandard lots, with the intention of retaining one lot and selling another lot to pay taxes on the property.

Mr. Lussi pointed out that the statute is clear in that private interests are not a consideration in map amendments.

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Chairwoman Ulrich acknowledged Mr. Lussi's point, and responded that at the same time the characteristics of the land and history suggest it satisfies the criteria for Rural Use. She added that staff had addressed the concerns with development constraints to her satisfaction.

Associate Natural Resources Planner Matt Kendall referred to an extension description in the EIS of the preferred alternative and the justification for staff's recommendation.

Chairwoman Ulrich called the question. The motion resulted in a 5-5 vote, failing to garner the 8 votes required to approve the amendment. [F. Mezzano, D. Scozzafava (DOS), R. Stegemann (DEC), W. Thomas, and L. Ulrich voted in favor; R. Booth, S. Craig, A. Lussi, W. Valentino, and C. Wray voted against.]

### **7. Public Comment**

David Bielefield, a landowner within the 53-acre 2010-2 map amendment area, provided comment and observations about the Agency proceedings for this matter. Mr. Bielefield's comments are available in the webcast of this meeting:

[http://nysapa.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=2](http://nysapa.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2)

### **8. Local Government Review Board Comment**

Mr. Monroe reported on a presentation by Jim Martin, project manager of the APRAP study, at the last meeting of the Local Government Review Board. Mr. Martin reported that according to a statewide demographic analysis conducted by Cornell University, if present trends continue the population of Hamilton County will decrease from 5,300 to 3,000 through the year 2040. Among these startling projections is that the male population in Hamilton County, between the ages of 25 and 29, will decline to 28. In his presentation, Mr. Martin recalled working on the APRAP report and the extreme difficulty of obtaining reliable data on population and other social and economic factors from the Census primarily because the Blue Line cuts across 10 counties and 30 towns. Mr. Martin described a process by which the Legislature can add input into the boundary lines of the Census tracts, and that the process should be started about seven years prior to the next Census. Mr. Monroe reported that given the fact the next Census is in 2020 and the time to engage legislators is now, the Review Board passed a resolution asking Adirondack Park legislators to pursue this process and some of them are looking into it. He suggested the Agency consider supporting this effort as well.

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### 9. Member Comment

Mr. Valentino referred to Agency economic specialist Dan Kelleher's report that staff are still trying to determine the accurate number of people in the Adirondacks who have reasonable economic access to broadband. He referred to a recent press release in which the Governor announced he is working with legislators to devote \$25 million from the \$75 million New York Works Economic Development Fund to provide broadband internet coverage to rural upstate as well as underserved urban areas of the state. The Legislature would have to approve use of the funds for that purpose as well as some provision in the law that would allow partnerships with private companies to implement high-speed broadband coverage. Tony Collins, president of Clarkson University and co-chair of the North Country Regional Economic Development Council, said the effects of expanding broadband would be enormous. The Governor's spokesperson said that broadband coverage is a key for start-up companies and established small businesses that need the fast service that can carry more data to compete. Mr. Valentino also noted he would be absent from the April meeting.

Ms. Scozzafava noted her disappointment that she will be unable to attend the Local Government Day conference, and reiterated DOS continuing offer of assistance.

Mr. Thomas reported on a recent meeting of the North Creek Business Alliance at which some local business owners encouraged North Creek to promote recreational use of the vast trail system on Gore Mountain and beyond.

Mr. Booth referred to the Hoffman Notch UMP, and noted that some of the wilderness areas in the Park have an interesting history which is gratifying to see captured in unit plans.

Mr. Craig expressed his appreciation for the open discussion among board members, and he looked forward to opportunities for further discussion.

Mr. Lussi discussed climate change and said while he did not have a particular stance on the issue, he was alarmed by recent events this early in the spring, such as geese flying north, open waters of the St. Lawrence, and the opening of the Westport Country Club. Mr. Lussi also suggested focusing greater attention on strengthening the maple syrup industry, which he viewed a potentially strong economic opportunity for the Adirondack region.

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Mr. Stegemann expressed his support for the efforts by DEC and APA to coordinate between the two agencies. He noted the importance of best serving the public through a cooperative working relationship. He also applauded his staff for producing an excellent work product such as the Hoffman Notch Wilderness UMP and other unit plans.

Ms. Martino thanked board members for their involvement in the staff presentations on the annual report. She said the morning gave staff the opportunity to engage and provide an overview of work accomplished in 2011. Following up on Mr. Lussi's comment regarding climate change, she noted her earlier comment on the cherry blossoms in Washington, DC. She also recalled environmental author Bill McKibben's comments at the Adirondack Research Consortium when he said this century would be defined by catastrophic weather events. She pointed to the recent tornadoes in Indiana and the flooding that is occurring in Hawaii, as well as the mild weather experienced over the winter and the effect on the region's economy. Ms. Martino also thanked Mr. Kelleher for arranging his first committee presentation by Chris Ericson on his craft brewing operation.

Chairwoman Ulrich commended the Governor's motto "We Work for the People - Performance, Integrity, Pride," which is now on most of the Agency's material. She referred to her family's recent experience with a category 4 tornado in Henryville, Indiana, where they took cover in a basement, under a box spring and mattress provided for such situations, along with battery-operated phones and flashlights. While none of her family was injured, a family member's car was totaled by the hail. The tornado claimed the lives of about 35 people. There were about 49 tornadoes in that one day, she noted, which is substantially higher than the average for March. She referred to a comment by Bill McKibben, environmental author and president and co-founder of 350.org, that the people who will pay for this are not the wealthy elite who believe in a scientific extreme, but rather the poor who cannot get out of the way, do not have the information, or who live in trailers with no basement to protect them. She also acknowledged there are alternative opinions regarding climate change. She suggested the Agency invite Mr. McKibben and Curt Stager to a future Agency meeting to discuss flooding throughout the region and its possible association with weather change. Chairwoman Ulrich also said she was looking forward to Local Government Day. She expressed her best wishes to all for a wonderful spring break.

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**10. Adjournment**

The Agency unanimously adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

LCU:dal

Attachments:

2011 Annual Report Powerpoint Presentations

Permit 2012-12 (JLKN Acres LLC)

Hoffman Notch Wilderness UMP Resolution

Technical Map Amendment Certificate 2010-01 (Town of  
Waverly, Franklin County)

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Leilani Crafts Ulrich, Chairwoman