



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

JULY 12, 2012

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 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, Jr., Member
Cecil Wray, Member
Jen McCormick, Designee, NYS Department of Economic Development
Dierdre Scozzafava, Designee, NYS Department of State
Robert Stegemann, Designee, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Terry Martino, Executive Director
Sarah Reynolds, Acting Counsel

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD PRESENT

Gerald Delaney, Chairman

AGENCY STAFF PRESENT

Daniel Spada, Supervisor, Natural Resource Analysis
Shaun LaLonde, Soil & Water Engineering Specialist
Edward Snizek, Associate Project Analyst, Fresh Water Resources
Mark Rooks, Associate Project Analyst, Biological Resources
Mary O'Dell, Biologist 1
Richard Weber, Deputy Director, Regulatory Programs
Tracy Darrah, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Ariel Lynch, Environmental Program Specialist 2
James Connolly, Deputy Director, Planning
Daniel Kelleher, Special Assistant for Economic Affairs
Colleen Parker, Environmental Program Specialist 3
Suzanne McSherry, Environmental Program Specialist 2
Brian Grisi, Local Planning Assistance Specialist
Robyn Burgess, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Keith McKeever, Public Information Director
Elaine Caldwell, Administrative Officer

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Laurie Bullis, Secretary 1
Mary Reardon, Secretary 1
Mary Palmer, Keyboard Specialist 1
Amy Hall, Calculations Clerk
Deborah Lester, Secretary to Executive Director

The webcast of this meeting is available at
http://nysapa.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2.

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

1. Approval of June 14-15, 2012 Draft Agency Minutes

On motion of Mr. Wray, seconded by Ms. McCormick, the Agency unanimously adopted the Draft Agency Minutes of the June 14-15, 2012 meeting.

2. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Martino presented a report on staff activities over the past month and other items of note, including:

- Eurasian watermilfoil management by Deer River Flow Association in Horseshoe Pond and the Deer River Flow on Forest Preserve lands;
- APIPP outreach including training and eradication control methods during Invasives Control Week;
- Closing of \$200,000 funding gap by Lake George Park Commission in continuing treatment of Asian Clam infestation;
- APA representation at June 25th Governor's Paths Through History meeting in Tupper Lake;
- Executive Director participation in State Scenic Byways Advisory Board tele-conference meeting on July 13;
- Installation of fiberoptic cable to the Agency as part of the Development Authority of the North Country plan for a fiberoptic backbone linking Gouverneur to Westport;
- Agency participation in weekly meetings of Environment and Energy Cluster toward the State's centralization of Information Technology services;
- US EPA contractor Steve Langdon to assist Agency with wetlands program work in building a monitoring framework to address the impacts of climate change in wetlands in the Park; follows on long

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history at the Agency with 13 federal EPA grants totaling \$13 million;

- Participants in the afternoon wetland training tour to the Paul Smith's College Visitor Interpretive Center are asked to convene at 1 p.m. in the Agency parking lot. The Board will not reconvene and no business will be conducted during or after the field trip;
- Agency will be participating in the 6th Annual Common Ground Alliance meeting in Long Lake on July 18;
- A presentation will occur at the Common Ground meeting by Jim Herman and Dave Mason with an overview of their work in visioning a future for the Park that addressed key opportunities such as sustainability, usability, and the core of a wild landscape, which included participation by Agency and DEC staff in one of the sessions.

Chairwoman Ulrich followed with a brief report of the following:

- Agency Member Sherman Craig to be the moderator for the Common Ground Alliance meeting in July;
- Request for staff to provide a brief program description prior to the wetlands field trip;
- Outreach meetings and continuing dialogue between the Agency and NYS Museum regarding future updates to the Adirondack Room exhibit;
- Participation by herself and Agency Member Craig in a tour of the Clifton-Fine area led by Supervisor Mark Hall, and appreciation expressed to DEC Commissioner Martens and Regional Directors Drabicki and Stegemann for their work in support of the Clifton-Fine community;
- Chairwoman's recent speaking engagement in Cooperstown and presentation to her of a planning and design manual that had been completed by Ned Walker while serving as a consultant to the Agency.

3. Presentation of United States Flag

Ms. Martino presented an American flag in recognition of the Agency's support for staff member Mike Hannon, who has been stationed with the 702nd Expeditionary Airlift Squadron at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan since being deployed in January 2012. Ms. Martino read aloud the certification that accompanied the flag,

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which was flown in the Agency's honor on June 12, 2012, aboard a C-27J Spartan aircraft while on a combat mission supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Mr. Hannon has been deployed several times since joining the Agency in November 1989. The Agency looks forward to Mr. Hannon's return in January 2013.

At the request of Chairwoman Ulrich, the veterans in attendance, which included Messrs. Thomas and Valentino, joined Ms. Martino in a photo displaying the flag and certification.

4. Recusal

Chairwoman Ulrich announced her recusal from the discussion and vote on Project 2012-21, involving the TOBIE Trail in the Town of Webb, Herkimer County. She noted that Mr. Booth would serve as Acting Chair during the full Agency's deliberation on the project.

5. Motion to Adjourn into Committees

On motion of Mr. Wray, seconded by Mr. Stegemann, the Agency unanimously adjourned into committees at 9:33 a.m.

The full Agency reconvened at 10:40 a.m. to act on Project 2012-21. Due to her recusal, Chairwoman Ulrich was absent during the Agency's discussion and deliberation on the project.

6. Project 2012-21, Town of Webb

The applicant's proposal involving the second phase of the TOBIE Trail in the Town of Webb, Herkimer County, included a shoreline structure setback variance to construct a multi-use pedestrian/bicycle/cross-country ski bridge over the Moose River, as well as the paving of trail within the railroad corridor and within 50 feet of the Moose River, and involves wetlands.

On motion of Mr. Mezzano, seconded by Mr. Lussi, the Agency voted 8 to 2 in favor of granting the variance and approving the project in accordance with the draft Variance Permit and Order. (Members Booth, Lussi, Mezzano, Thomas and Wray, DED Designee McCormick, DOS Designee Scozzafava, and DEC Designee Stegemann voted favor; Members Craig and Valentino voted against the motion.) A copy of the Variance Permit and Order, as approved by the Agency, is attached to the official minutes.

Prior to voting, Mr. Booth stated that while he supported the overall project, he would have preferred a motion that included an additional condition addressing motorized access.

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The Agency adjourned to committee at 10:45 a.m. and then reconvened at 11:40 a.m. to receive the committee reports.

7. Committee Reports

The Regulatory Programs and Local Government Services Committees had no items that required further Agency action.

8. Interim Reports

The Enforcement, Administration, Park Ecology, Economic, Legal, Park Policy and Planning, Public Awareness and Communications and State Land committees did not meet this month. Monthly activity reports for several of these committees were included in the mailing.

a. Economic Affairs Committee

Mr. Lussi noted Mr. Kelleher's activity in the community, and commended the overall concerted effort in recent years by Agency staff and commissioners to be more visible throughout the Park.

b. Park Ecology Committee

In response to an earlier request by Chairwoman Ulrich, Mr. Spada outlined plans for the wetland field trip to the Paul Smith's College VIC following the Agency meeting. RASS staff Mary O'Dell and Mark Rooks will accompany participants on a walk along the Boreal Life Trail where they will demonstrate how to recognize and identify wetlands, and delineate their boundaries. Participants will observe hardwood dominated wetlands, conifer swamps, bog and fen habitat, emergent marsh, as well as some orchids.

c. Public Awareness and Communications/State Land

On motion of Mr. Booth, seconded by Mr. Valentino, the committees unanimously approved the draft committee minutes of June 14, 2012.

9. Local Government Review Board Comment

Review Board Chairman Gerald Delaney commented on the State Land Master Plan panel discussion held in June, and specifically Peter Paine's comment that the 20,000-acre Domtar lands were far too steep for future harvesting. Mr. Delaney disputed Mr. Paine's statement and referred to his past discussions with an Adirondack forester who stated that 6,000 of the 20,000 acres were either too steep, had no valuable timber, or had wetlands, and therefore not harvested, while many other acres had tractor trailer roads on them and were harvested in a three-year rotation. Mr. Delaney also referred to

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Domtar's past certification for environmentally friendly harvesting and sustainable forestry practices. Additionally, an Ecology professor from SUNY Plattsburgh commended Domtar for providing the best access to harvested forest lands.

10. Member Comment

Mr. Valentino expressed his appreciation of the Agency's support of its staff who are activated in the military. He recalled his past experiences as a commander for an attack helicopter squadron in Albany where certain government agencies were not supportive in these situations.

Mr. Thomas said he looked forward to the wetland training session scheduled for the afternoon.

Mr. Booth described his recent trip to the Sierras in California as a remarkable experience. He commented on his visit to Yosemite National Park and commended the Park's management of thousands of people on a daily basis throughout the summer, and their extraordinary management efforts that have spanned decades. Mr. Booth compared the current road construction in Ray Brook to construction at the Sequoia National Park, which involved rebuilding one lane of a 2-lane road between a wall and a drop-off of a few hundred feet. He noted his observation that while California's Sierras are most remarkable and beautiful in their own way, they lack greenery and plentiful water, both resources that New York is incredibly fortunate to have.

Mr. Lussi expressed his appreciation for a memo that had been provided to the Board on the correct way to plant a tree, and noted it had been put to practice at the Lake Placid Club and Resort's golf courses. He reported encouraging results to date, barring residual impacts from the ongoing drought. Mr. Lussi also referred to his recent inquiry regarding shoreline cutting restrictions and commended the Agency for providing practical guidance to landowners both at the staff level and on the website. Mr. Lussi said he, too, was looking forward to the wetlands training that afternoon.

Mr. Stegemann called attention to continuing progress in the Agency and DEC efforts towards efficiency. The joint effort underscores the benefits of communicating between agencies, he said, and could be applied to communications with local government in addressing variance issues. Mr. Stegemann noted current drought conditions which have raised the fire danger level. He also noted that DEC Forest Rangers will be recognized by the Adirondack Council for rescue activities over the last year.

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Mr. Mezzano said he looked forward to Common Ground Alliance forum next week in Long Lake.

Chairwoman Ulrich commented that the Common Ground forum would be groundbreaking in some ways. For example, she pointed out that in the book "The Great Experiment in Conservation," which was co-edited by former Agency Chairman Ross Whaley, the time line ends with the creation of Common Ground Alliance, and so the Alliance is in some ways writing the next chapter.

Ms. Reynolds said she was looking forward to the wetland field trip as well as to the Common Ground forum next week.

Ms. Martino said she looked forward to the wetland tour, particularly to observe and understand the process staff uses in making wetland determinations. She also expressed her disappointment with not being able to attend the Common Ground Alliance forum next week, for the first time since its inception, due to an inadvertent conflict with her son's attendance at a technology program. She encouraged a similar type of program in this region to introduce youth to technology and help them look to the future in terms of education, training and building their interest.

Chairwoman Ulrich said the Common Ground event would be videoed by an intern and also by PBS as part of a special that is being produced based on "The Great Experiment in Conservation." She recalled Common Ground history and the creation of "Blue Print for the Blue Line," for which the primary responsibility belonged to Agency Executive Director Terry Martino when she was serving as the Director at ANCA at the time.

Ms. Martino responded that the Blue Print was the result of a process involving a team that worked together closely.

Chairwoman Ulrich then referred to the United States flag presentation as a highlight of the meeting, and expressed her hope that the presentation and photo taken with the Executive Director and veterans Thomas and Valentino with the flag would be communicated to Afghanistan.

Chairwoman Ulrich said she was anticipating the imminent birth of her new grandchild. She also wished speedy healing to Agency Member Craig's son.

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11. Adjournment

The Agency unanimously adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

LCU/TDM/dal

Attachment:

Permit/Order 2012-21, Town of Webb

Leilani Crafts Ulrich, Chairwoman