



**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Terry Martino  
**FROM:** Jim Connolly  
**DATE:** September 27, 2012  
**SUBJECT:** Highlights of Planning Division Activities for  
September 2012

**STATE LAND & UMP REVIEW ACTIVITIES**

State land worked with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) staff to gather relevant materials for the lands being purchased by the State, in anticipation of classification actions. State land staff toured the Essex Chain of Lakes and Indian River parcels by land and water.

State land staff attended a two day workshop regarding the ecological significance of the TNC/Finch lands.

State land staff met with DEC staff regarding firewood storage structures for DEC Campgrounds. Staff toured several campgrounds to determine where these structures should be located.

On September 4, 12, 17 and 20, State land staff conducted site visits to assist with and review construction of the Community Connector snowmobile trail between Inlet and Raquette Lake, as proposed in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest UMP. It is expected that this construction will be completed by the end of this year.

On September 6, State land staff conducted joint field work with DEC regional staff concerning potential new snowmobile trail routes between Speculator and Indian Lake.

State Land staff assessed and reviewed the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest UMP.

Staff completed historic resource reviews as part of NYS Historic Preservation Act associated with the Essex County Emergency Communications Project

**Meeting on Veterans Memorial Highway**

Jim Connolly attended a meeting on 9/21/ 2 which was convened by the Essex County Board of Supervisors and Olympic Regional Development Authority to discuss estimates and funding options for reconstruction of the Veterans Memorial Highway to the summit of Whiteface Mt. Although managed by ORDA, the highway is designated as a State road. It is also located on Forest Preserve, therefore involves both DOT and DEC as part of the discussion on road repair. The highway was initiated during the administration of Governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Facilities include an elevator which allows access to the summit of Whiteface Mt. by people with disabilities and the elderly. It is considered to be a significant tourism attraction for the region with magnificent views of Lake Placid and the High Peaks from both the summit and overlooks along the road. ORDA & DOT estimates indicate complete rehabilitation of the road to be approximately \$5 million. Other improvements, including work which is needed in the elevator, were not yet included in the estimates. The North Country Regional Development Council has identified the highway rehabilitation as a high priority in its regional plan.

**Presentations on Natural Resource Data for Former Finch-Pruyn Lands preliminary public access**

Agency and DEC staff attended a meeting sponsored by the Nature Conservancy to review natural resource data which has been collected on former Finch Pruyn lands. The meeting was held at the Boreas Lodge. Presentations will be given by DEC Fisheries biologists and ecologists from the Wildlife Conservation Society, SUNY-Plattsburgh and the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. APA and DEC staff also provided background on the classification process, and related issues and concerns for the process of opening the Essex Chain to public use.

**CARTOGRAPHY AND INFORMATION ANALYSIS**

GIS Agency Program Administration - Agency staff, at the request of NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Office of Cyber Security (DHS,) reported on its use of digital aerial imagery products developed by NYS Digital Orthoimagery Program. Estimates of cost savings to the Agency when using digital imagery were provided. DHS received a grant from the National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program to do a Return on Investment (ROI) study of the Digital Orthoimagery Program.

GIS Agency Program Administration - Staff wrote a technical guidance memo to Agency division staff for reporting mapping errors in Agency transaction GIS data.

GIS Agency Program Administration - Staff wrote a technical guidance memo to Agency Legal Division staff regarding best practices when searching parcel data in Lookup System 2 by owner name or tax map number.

GIS Consultation - Staff participated via conference call in a statewide subcommittee establishing new transportation GIS data attributes to describe and classify seasonal roads, gated roads and non-vehicular trails. These codes will be used in future revisions of state transportation data.

GIS Consultation - Staff provided technical assistance to Economic Affairs staff and the Executive Director regarding future analysis of employment economic data for the Park. Staff discussed alternatives for sub-regions of the park for Department of Labor data tracking requests.

GIS Consultation - Staff provided technical assistance to Economic Affairs staff researching availability of poverty data in the American Community Survey compared to the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

GIS Consultation - Staff provided technical assistance to Regulatory Programs staff concerning GIS edits to Agency transaction project polygon P2012-0128.

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GIS Consultation - Staff provided technical assistance to Legal Division staff regarding quality assurance of shoreline photos taken on Lake George.

GIS Consultation - Staff participated as a member of the program planning committee for the annual NYS GeoSpatial Summit to be held this October. Conference calls are held each Tuesday morning for the statewide committee.

GIS Consultation - Staff provided technical assistance to Regulatory Programs staff with coordinating DEC and APA permit information.

GIS Consultation - Staff provided technical assistance to Regulatory Programs and IT staff regarding technical issues with the Lookup system.

GIS Data Management - Staff downloaded new orthoimagery for Fulton and Saratoga counties. Staff imported data to SQL Server ArcSDE raster catalogs and created mapping services for Lookup System 2 optimal retrieval and display.

GIS Data Management - Staff processed 2010 Real Property parcel point GIS data, extracting park records from statewide data. Staff created a web mapping service from park parcel data and edited the Lookup System for display and query of this most currently available data.

GIS Data Management - Staff imported all Agency copies of digital orthoimagery for the park (circa 2001 to 2011, approximately 500 GB of data) into SQL Server ArcSDE raster catalogs and created web mapping services for Lookup System 2 optimal retrieval.

GIS Map Production - Staff produced a map of proposed zoning changes for the Town of Essex.

GIS training - Staff is working with NYS Public Service Workshops Program to develop a GPS training course for Agency employees. The course would also be open to DEC and other agency staff if space is available.

GIS Hardware/Software Management - Staff edited custom software code and updated web mapping services for the Lookup System 2 Mapping Application for the Agency. Updates

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were required after loading new versions of GIS software in July.

GIS Hardware/Software Management - Staff edited custom software code to point Lookup System 1 to the new server where Agency scanned maps and engineering drawings for Agency transactions are stored. Staff recommended to IT that non-compliant transaction folder names need to be corrected to the Agency's Naming Convention standard.

GIS Hardware/Software Management - Staff provided technical evaluation and minimum GIS requirements advice to Agency IT staff regarding possible replacement of the Agency's large format inkjet plotter.

LUA Boundary/Blue Line Inquiry - Staff answered two inquiries about the location of the Park boundary, land use area boundaries and river area boundaries.

State Land Re/Classification - Staff assisted State land staff with preliminary work on the classification the lands that the state anticipates acquiring around Essex Chain of Lakes and Indian River parcels.

Web Content Management - Staff created and posted a new Press Room Video page containing Governor Cuomo's trip to Boreas Ponds in the Adirondacks on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Staff also posted links on the Agency's homepage to the Governor's Newsroom video content.

Web Content Management - Staff posted revisions to Agency Monthly Meeting content.

Administrative Tasks - Staff prepared monthly reports.

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August GIS/Web Task Summary:

Task	Count
GIS Agency Program Administration	3
GIS Consultation	8
GIS Hardware/Software Management	3
GIS Map Production	1
GIS Data Management	3
GIS Training	1
LUA Boundary/Blue Line Inquiry	1
Map Amendments	0
State Land Classification/Reclass	1
Web Administration	0
Web Content Management	2
Administrative Tasks	1

JEC:WVL:KGP:KDR:MSK:JWB:lhb