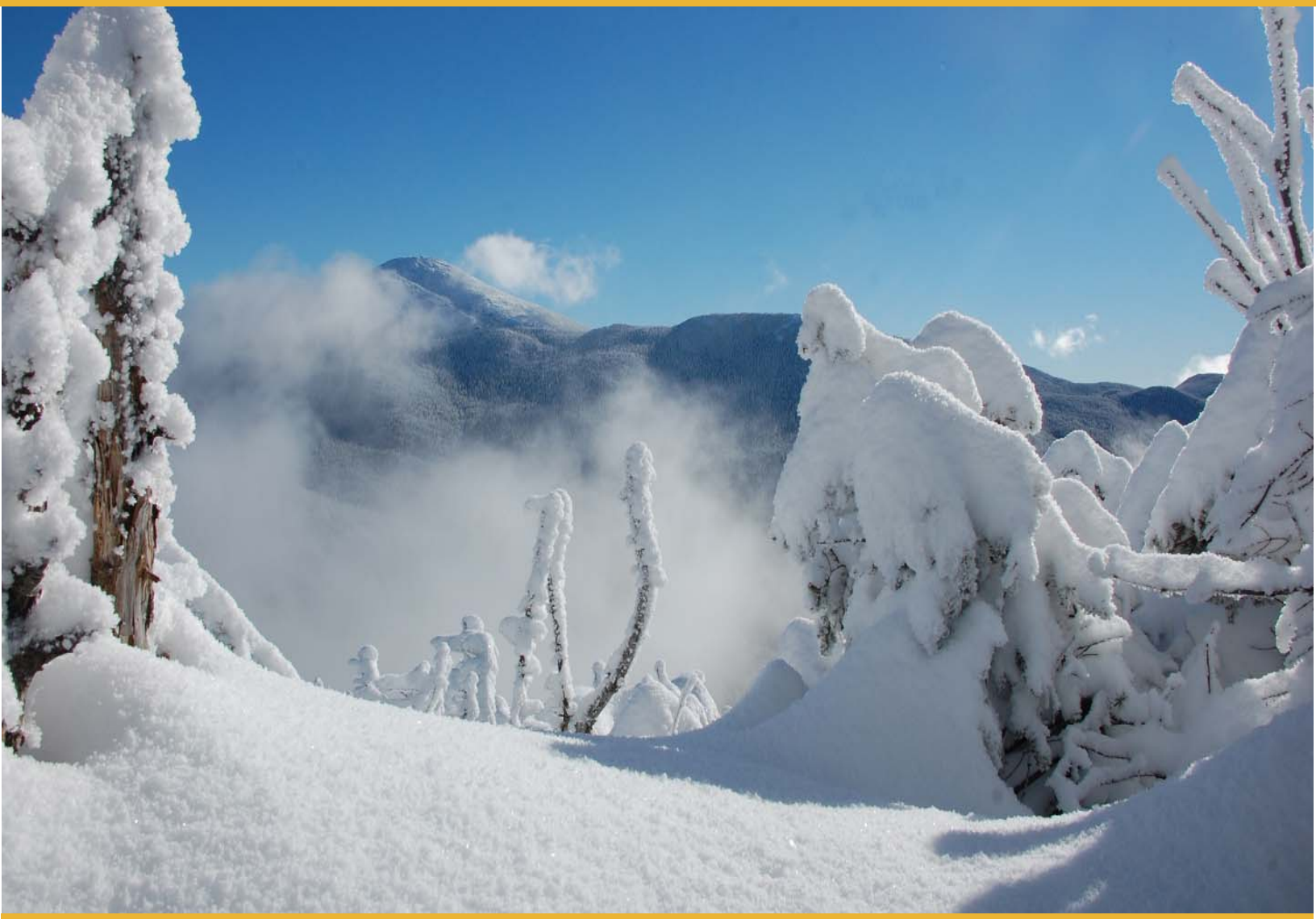
Annual Report 2014



Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

Chairwoman Leilani Crafts Ulrich

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY.

Adirondack Park Agency

Message from the Chairwoman

Chairwoman
Leilani Crafts Ulrich

For centuries New York has led the way in preserving wild places. This year the Adirondack Park and our nation celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Federal Wilderness Act. It was an honor to represent the Agency in September at the very cabin where Howard Zahniser drafted this momentous legislation. Through his efforts the opportunity to seek remoteness and marvel in the wonders of the natural world remain intact. The magnitude of Mr. Zahniser's efforts are reflected in New York State's Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan which closely resembles the Federal Wilderness Act.

Given this historic occasion, it was tremendously exciting to announce that for the first time in over 25 years the Agency will undertake a public process to consider State Land Master Plan amendments. I am strongly encouraged by the thoughtful dialogue and respect expressed by all stakeholders who contributed to this effort. We will move forward diligently and are fully aware of the magnitude of our work.

In keeping with our Earth Day tradition, we planted a tree in the Agency's arboretum in honor of former Chairman Herman "Woody" Cole. Mr. Cole was a long standing board member first serving as the Department of State Designee from 1976-1978 and then as Chair from 1984-1992. Mr. Cole recognized early in the formation of the APA that strong vibrant communities are critically important to the success of the Adirondack Park. This position remains a priority for today's APA.

The Agency also recognized Hilary Smith, who for more than a decade led the fight against invasive species in the Adirondack Park. She organized the State's first regional volunteer program and designed the regional invasive plant partnership. The Agency wishes her continued success in her new position in Washington, DC.

In 2014, the three Regional Economic Development Councils representing the Adirondack Park received over $180 million in grant and loan funding through Governor Cuomo's REDC competition. The continued success of the Regional Councils combined with the Governor's strong commitment to promote the unparalleled tourism potential of the Adirondack Park is building a stronger more diverse Park economy.

As we look ahead to another year, I want to thank my fellow board members for their professionalism and commitment to the Adirondack Park. In addition to monthly meetings, board members routinely travel throughout the Park to attend public hearings and various events. It is an honor to serve with such a distinguished group. I would also like to commend Board Member William Valentino for his outstanding service. His keen insight and wealth of Adirondack experience will be missed.

Chairwoman Ulrich addresses a crowd during Federal Wilderness Act 50th Anniversary celebration at Zahniser family cabin in Johnsburg, Warren County. Senator Betty Little and Assemblyman Dan Stec are in attendance (standing from right).

Message from the Executive Director

Executive Director
Terry Martino

Reflecting on 2014, the Agency achieved many accomplishments with a strong commitment to collaboration. In partnership with the NYS Department of Transportation and the Department of Environmental Conservation we addressed critical emergency projects along major travel corridors including stabilization work on NYS Route 73. Together we ensured badly needed improvements to the historic Whiteface Memorial Highway were undertaken on schedule and with proper environmental safeguards.

Under Governor Cuomo's leadership state agencies effectively partner with local governments to ensure the highest level of service. Through the Hamlet Economic Development and Planning Assistance Initiative, the Agency worked with the town of Northampton and the village of Northville to prepare an economic development plan for their hamlet areas. This pilot project is an outstanding example of government working for the people.

In close coordination with DEC, the Essex Chain Lakes Interim Plan was successfully implemented, resulting in increased tourism to the heart of the Adirondacks. During a field visit to Wilmington, the Agency witnessed how trail systems which link the Forest Preserve to main streets can economically benefit local communities. Business owners and town officials enthusiastically cited the multi-use trail system as a major reason for increased visitation to Wilmington. We look forward to building on these successes as staff works as part of the Great South Woods planning initiative team.

Further, Agency staff vigorously adheres to the laws and regulations we are charged to administer. Our project review teams fully understand the importance of their work and take great pride in conducting consistent, fair and thorough review of all land use and development projects. Certainly the Court's actions validated the hard work of staff.

The Agency said goodbye to outstanding personnel this year. Nancy Heath and Mike Hannon retired and will be missed on many levels. We are very fortunate to have qualified new staff members on board as well as the ability to promote exemplary personnel.

In closing, I want to thank all Agency staff and our Board for their dedication and devotion to the Adirondack Park.

Executive Director Martino and Deputy Director for Planning Kathy Regan host an international delegation visiting the Adirondack Park to learn about land use planning.

About the Adirondack Park

Above: View of Sentinel Range Wilderness Area

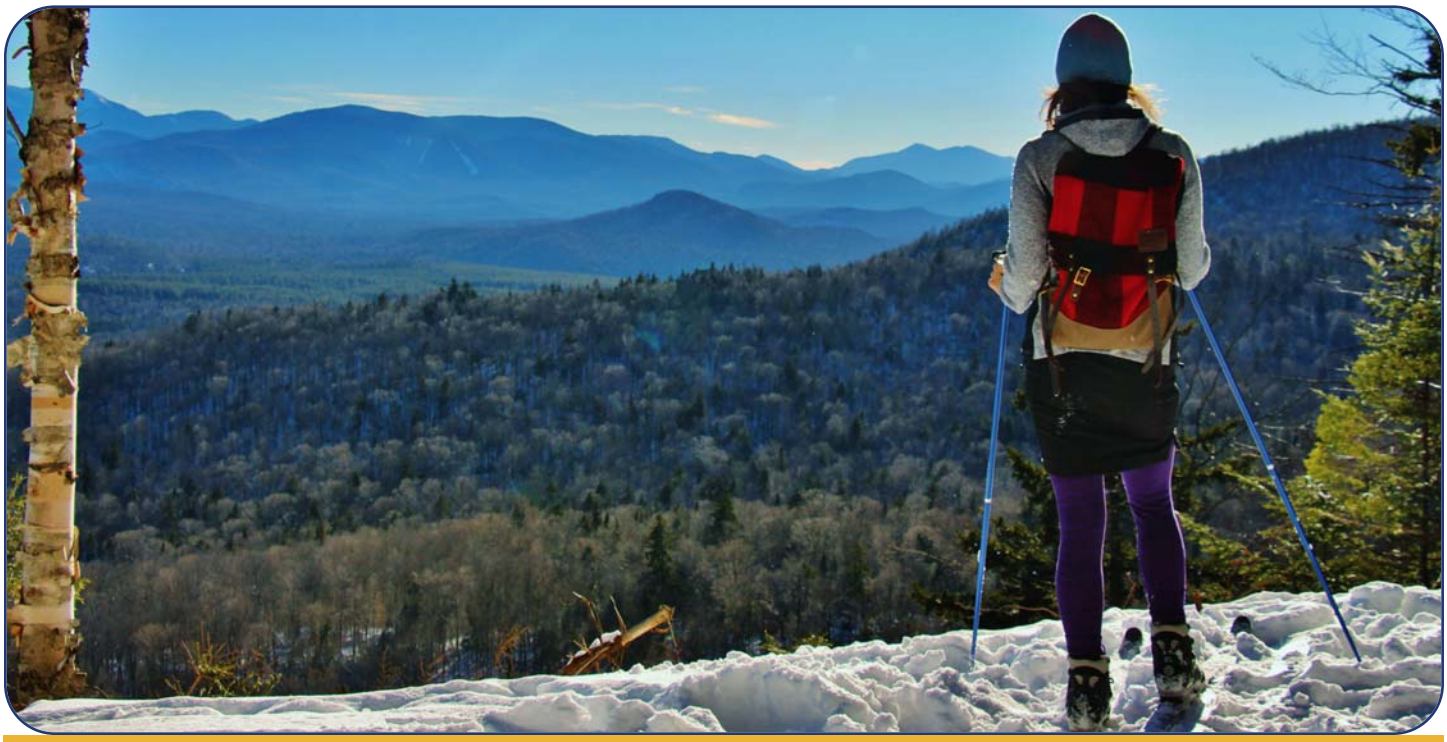
Below: Nordic skier takes a moment to enjoy the snow capped Adirondack mountains.

Celebrated during the Adirondack Park Centennial as a "place of people and natural wonder," the Park has a legacy dating back to 1892 when it was created by the State of New York amid concerns about water and timber resources. The Adirondack Park represents a story of conservation—of how people, communities, wilderness and open space can coexist—for the more than 6 million acres of land that comprise the park.

The heart of the Adirondack Park is the Forest Preserve which was created by an act of the New York State Legislature in 1885. Through Article 14 of the New York State Constitution, the Forest Preserve lands are constitutionally protected: "The lands now or hereafter constituting them shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be sold, nor shall they be leased or taken by any person or corporation public or private."

The mix of State and private lands is an underlying characteristic of the Adirondack Park. Comprised of 102 towns and villages, the Park includes diverse communities with unique Main Streets, farms, small businesses, working forests, open space, and a range of services and products. The abundance of nature-based tourism and world-class outdoor recreational opportunities, combined with the character and appearance of its public and private lands, make the Park notably different from most other rural areas. The Park offers an unparalleled small town quality and room for businesses within its towns and villages that are gateways to public lands.

The Park represents one-fifth of New York's land area and has the largest publicly protected area in the contiguous United States—comparable in size to the State of Vermont. The Park is home to 132,000 residents and boasts more than 10,000 lakes, 30,000 miles of rivers and streams, and a wide variety of habitats including wetlands and old-growth forests recognized for their ecological significance. Situated within a day's drive of nearly 85 million people, the Park is well positioned to offer its unique blend of wilderness solitude, outdoor recreation and community life to the millions of visitors who in increasing numbers see the Park as a unique travel destination. The blend of public and private lands provides the Adirondack Park with a unique diversity found nowhere else.



About the Adirondack Park Agency

Agency Divisions include:

Administration

Legal Services

Economic Services

Regulatory Programs

Park Planning

State Land
Local Government Services

Resource Analysis and
Scientific Services

The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) was created in 1971 by the New York State Legislature with the mission to protect the public and private resources within the "Blue Line" of the Adirondack Park through the exercise of the powers and duties of the Agency as provided by law. The basic purpose of the APA Act is "to insure optimum overall conservation, development and use of the unique scenic, aesthetic, wildlife, recreational, open space, historic, ecological and natural resources of the Adirondack Park."

The Agency works to balance the complementary needs of all the people of the State for the preservation of the Park's resources and open space character with the needs of the Park's permanent, seasonal and transient populations for growth and service areas, employment, and a strong diversified economic base. The Agency administers two regional land use plans: the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) and the Adirondack Park Private Land Use and Development Plan. These documents classify State and private lands according to their characteristics and capacity to sustain use.

In the State Land Master Plan, State lands are classified in one of the following categories: Wilderness, Primitive, Canoe, Wild Forest, Intensive Use, Historic and State Administrative. The APSLMP establishes policy for the management of these lands and was developed in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) with approval by the Governor. DEC is charged with the care and custody of the Forest Preserve .

The Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan (APLUDP) applies to private land use and development in the Park. The plan defines Agency jurisdiction and is designed to conserve the Park's natural resources and open-space character by directing and clustering development to minimize impact. Through the plan, all private lands are mapped into six land use classifications: Hamlet, Moderate Intensity Use, Low Intensity Use, Rural Use, Resource Management and Industrial Use. The Agency has limited jurisdiction in Hamlet areas, extensive jurisdiction in Resource Management areas, and various degrees of jurisdiction within the other land use classifications.

Within the Park, the Agency also administers the State Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act for private lands and the State Freshwater Wetlands Act for both the Park's public and private lands.

Below: Agency staff stand with the 2014 Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map which includes both the Public and Private lands that comprise the six million acre Adirondack Park.

Agency Board

BOARD MEMBERS

Leilani Ulrich, Chairwoman
In-Park: Herkimer County
Richard S. Booth,
Out-of-Park: Tompkins County
Arthur Lussi,
In-Park: Essex County
Daniel Wilt,
In-Park: Hamilton County
William H. Thomas,
In-Park: Warren County
William Valentino, Retired June, 2014
Out-of-Park: Albany County
Karen Feldman,
Out-of-Park: Columbia County
Sherman Craig,
In-Park: St. Lawrence County

Kenneth Adams, Commissioner
Department of
Economic Development
Designee: Bradley Austin

Joseph Martens, Commissioner
Department of
Environmental Conservation
Designee: Robert Stegemann

Cesar A. Perales,
Secretary of State
Designee: Dierdre Scozzafava

The Adirondack Park Agency is a New York State government agency with an eleven-member Board of Commissioners, five of whom must be residents of the Adirondack Park. The Governor appoints eight members, subject to confirmation by the Senate, and three ex-officio members: the Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development, the Secretary of State, and the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. The Board represents a careful balance of local, regional and statewide interests in the Adirondack Park.

In 2014, the Agency Board celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Federal Wilderness Act. Dr. Phil Terrie overviewed the Act emphasizing its historic roots in the Adirondack Park.

The community spotlight series featured the Town of Inlet and the Villages of Lake Placid and Lake George. The Board unanimously approved the St. Regis and Hurricane Mountain Fire Tower Historic Area Unit Management Plans (UMPs) and amendments to the Bog River Complex, Cranberry Lake Wild Forest and the Jay Mountain Wilderness Area UMPs.

Six variance projects were approved by the Board during the year as well as two General Permit Applications to streamline review for the Management of Terrestrial Invasive Species In or Within 100 feet of Wetlands and for the replacement of In-Kind Utility Poles in Wetlands. High profile project approvals in 2014 included Lyme Timber Company's forest management project in the Town of Tupper Lake, NYCO Minerals, Inc. amendments for existing mines in the Town of Lewis and a new 120 room hotel in the Village of Lake George. The Board also authorized staff to hold public hearings on a proposed rulemaking to adopt emergency project regulations.

The Board hosted informational presentations on guidelines for the use of Aquatic Herbicides, stormwater management practices, invasive species response efforts, DOT Road Salt Pilot Program, Adirondack Model Neighborhood Wood Heat Initiative, Adirondack Teleworks, Alternative Energy, Homeward Bound and the Lake George Park Commission's Boat Inspection program.

Board members attended the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan listening sessions which were held throughout the State during October and November.

2014 Adirondack Park Agency Board

Seated from Left:
Sherman Craig, Arthur Lussi, Chairwoman Leilani Ulrich, Dierdre Scozzafava, Karen Feldman.

Standing from Left:
Daniel Wilt, William Valentino, Richard Booth, William Thomas, Bradley Austin, Robert Stegemann.

Administration

STAFF

Terry Martino,
Executive Director
Elaine M. Caldwell,
Administrative Officer 1
Keith P. McKeever,
Public Information Officer
Daniel F. Kelleher,
Special Assistant for
Economic Affairs
Susan Streiff,
Secretary to Executive Director
Robert P. Kreider,
Information Technology
Specialist 2
Amy S. Hall,
Calculations Clerk 2
C. George Hare,
Maintenance Supervisor 1
Norma Howard,
Student Assistant
Elizabeth Stankus,
Student Assistant
Kyle Martin,
Cleaner
Rod Williams,
Green Thumb Program
Judy Huffer ,
Green Thumb Program

Left: Leilani C. Ulrich
Chair Administration Committee
Right: William Thomas
Chair Public Awareness and
Communications Committee

At Right: ITS staff Robert Kreider maintains the Agency's new server to ensure computer systems are operational.

The Administrative Services Division is responsible for all fiscal management, contract administration, personnel management, physical plant management and office support. Division staff are involved in the preparation of purchase orders and vouchers, fiscal record keeping, determination of availability of funds for the Agency's division programs, payroll and computerization of fiscal records. Staff are also responsible for media relations, community relations and outreach.

Fiscal Management

The Administrative Services Division implemented Governor Cuomo's FY 2014-15 budget as enacted. The Agency met all directives issued by the NYS Division on Budget and managed funding to maintain the Agency headquarters and staffing. The Agency continued to work with the Business Service Center (BSC) for many of its fiscal transactions.

Information Services

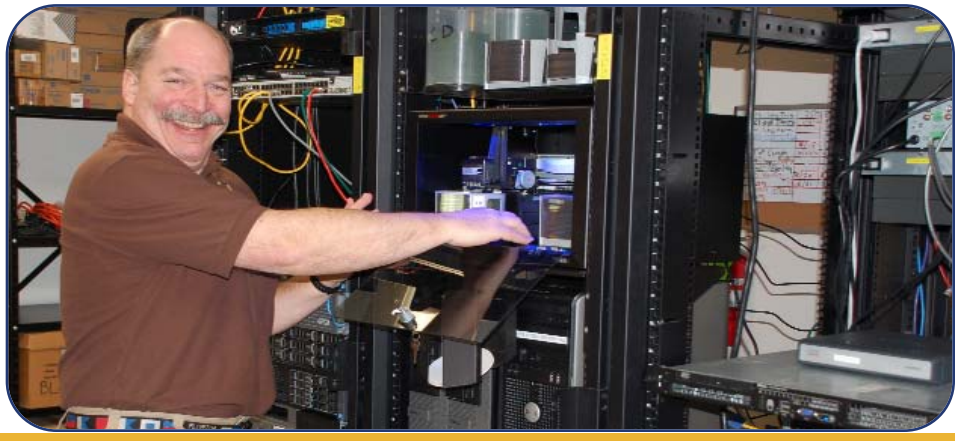
Staff continued to assist the Information Technology Services Center (ITS) in implementing Governor Cuomo's directive to reorganize state information technology services to reduce costs through shared services. The Agency interacts with ITS on a daily basis regarding its information technology needs and resources. With ITS, the Agency transitioned to Office 365 and the new CISCO statewide telephone system. The Agency purchased two new servers to assist in meeting its day-to-day operational needs. In addition, the Agency updated its access to the monthly webcast under Executive Order #3. The ITS staff continues to support the Agency's Environmental Protection Agency Grants IT needs.

Human Resources

The Administrative Services Division worked with the NYS Office of General Services, Business Services Center on Governor's Cuomo's mandate to consolidate many of the Human Resources functions across state agencies. During the FY 14-15, the Agency's Administrative Officer completed the Advanced Strategic Human Resource Management Professional Development Program at Cornell University. This program was a transitional process to Governor Cuomo's mandate to have one unified Human Resource system statewide.

Public and Media Relations

The Public Information Officer (PIO) responded to 312 media inquiries, issued 35 press releases and conducted 31 outreach events to international delegations, local officials, college students, special interest groups and the general public. The PIO served as Hearing Officer for 8 variance hearings, one public information meeting and participated in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan listening sessions. The PIO was part of the Agency's New York State of Opportunity branding team. In addition, the PIO managed the Agency Board meetings webcasts, administered the Agency's Facebook and Twitter accounts, represented the Agency at State Agency PIO meetings and Local Government Review Board meetings. The PIO drafted and published the 2014 Annual Report.



Regulatory Programs

Staff

Richard E. Weber III,
Deputy Director
Colleen C. Parker, Environmental
Program Specialist 3
Thomas Saehrig, Environmental
Program Specialist 2
Ariel Lynch, Environmental
Program Specialist 2
Suzanne McSherry, Environmental
Program Specialist 2
Michael Hannon, Environmental
Program Specialist 1 - Retired
Susan Parker, Environmental
Program Specialist 1
Virginia Yamrick, Environmental
Program Specialist 1
Tracy J. Darrah, Environmental
Program Specialist 1
Devan Korn, Environmental
Program Specialist 1
Mary L. Reardon,
Secretary 1
Stephanie Petith,
Keyboard Specialist 1

Above left: Sherman Craig
Chair
Regulatory Programs Committee
Above right: Richard E. Weber, Deputy Director, Regulatory Programs

The Regulatory Programs Division implements the statutory and regulatory provisions of the APA Act, the Freshwater Wetlands Act, and the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act. Staff provide pre-application project guidance and assessment, determine application completeness, apply review standards and prepare permit, variance or denial orders. In 2014, the Regulatory Programs Division received 349 project applications and issued 277 permits. In addition, staff processed 109 preapplication requests. Through the project review process 15 applications were deemed non jurisdictional. The following tables summarize permit activity in 2014:

Permits Issued	2014	2013
Minor	62	80
Major	45	71
Variance	7	1
State Agency Order	9	11
Amendments/Renewals	116	117
General Permits	38	60
Total	277	340

Project Categories	2014
Subdivision Projects	62
Single Family Dwelling Units	45
Resource Management	69
Wetlands	36
Commerical Use	13
New Towers over 40 Feet	6
Sand and Gravel Mining	6
Public Use / Group Camp	5
Major Public Utility	5
Municipal Bridges	1

* The above list is not comprehensive of all project categories. And a single permit may comprise multiple project categories.

Right: Agency staff attend a public information meeting for NYCO Minerals project. Lewis Fire Department, Town of Lewis, Essex County.

Telecommunication Projects

In 2014, the Agency issued 37 telecommunications permits and amendments authorizing 6 new towers, 24 co-locations, 6 replacements and 1 co-location replacements. New towers were approved for sites in the Towns of Crown Point, Elizabethtown, Essex, North Hudson, Putnam and Queensbury.

Variances

The Agency approved seven variance requests from the shoreline restrictions of the APA Act. Three variances involved either the expansion of an existing single-family dwelling or the construction of a new dwelling within the shoreline setback. Two variances authorize shoreline stabilization walls to protect property from accelerated bank erosion and two involved new shoreline structures in town owned public parks for the purpose of improving public access opportunities to the shoreline areas.

The Town of Willsboro was granted a variance to stabilize a highly eroded section of shoreline on the Boquet River. The Town will use a combination of logjam structures comprised of tree root balls and trunks with a rockery crib wall to stabilize the shoreline and realign the river channel. This will restore the river's ability to carry sediment and establish new sediment deposition areas. The project will result in deeper pools and improved aquatic habitats. The Town plans to expand access to anglers and other recreational users.

The Town of Wilmington was granted a variance to construct a universally-accessible fishing deck at the existing Town Beach located along the West Branch of the Ausable River. The fishing deck will extend over the water and accommodate up to four persons in wheelchairs to drop fishing lines directly into the river. This is the first universally-accessible fishing deck located in the Wilmington.

Commercial Use Projects

Thirteen commercial use projects were reviewed by staff and approved. Commercial Use approvals included:

Permit 2012-185, Bear Pond Ranch LLC/Macchio - authorized the construction and operation of a new tourist attraction involving a zip line ride in the towns of Queensbury and Lake George;

P2014-14, 1016 Saranac Properties LLC authorized a greater than 25 percent expansion of a commercial use warehouse structure in the town of St. Armand;

P2014-0033, Kenny-Kittrich-Amhers, LLC authorized the construction of a 120 room Marriott Hotel in the hamlet of Lake George Village;

P2013-0138 and P1996-0076MR3, NYCO Minerals, Inc. authorized amendments to two existing mineral extraction permits (one at Seventy Road and one at Oak Hill) in the Town of Lewis.

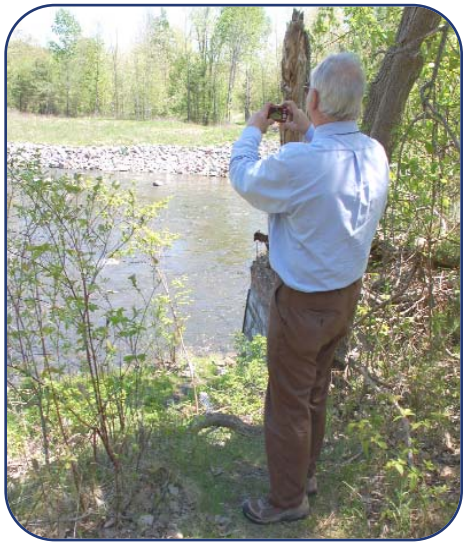
Emergency Authorization Project

Staff worked with NYS Department of Transportation and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation on the urgent repair of a section of NY Route 73 along Upper Cascade Lake, in the Town of Keene, Essex County. Due to the travel corridor's outstanding qualities a comprehensive planning and design approach was implemented. APA, DOT and DEC coordinated review and executed a plan which repaired a 72 foot wide section of slope that failed. The project re-established safe driving conditions with minimal impacts to the traveling public. The project also preserved the ecological integrity of adjoining "forever wild" lands and waters while retainning the outstanding scenic quality associated with this section of the NY Route 73 travel corridor.

Silvicultural Treatments

Staff reviewed and the Agency approved Permit 2014-0100 which authorized Lyme Timber Company to undertake forest management on private lands in the town of Tupper Lake, Franklin County. The approval of the project is another example of how third party certified forest management plans combined with constructive pre-application meetings results in the timely approval of forest management projects inside the Adirondack Park.

Ariel Lynch (right) reviews building constraints and natural resource inventory maps with project sponsor during field visit.



Thomas Saehrig conducts GPS photo inventory for shoreline stabilization project in the Town of Willsboro.

Tracy Darrah and Susan Parker attend the Northern New York Code Enforcement Conference to provide advice on APA permit process and jurisdiction.

Economic Services

Daniel Kelleher, John Barge and Robin Burgess review maps of the Village of Northville as part of the Agency's Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance Initiative.

Above left: Arthur Lussi
Chair Economic Affairs Committee
Above right: Daniel Kelleher
Special Assistant for Economic Affairs

The Economic Services Unit provides expertise in market and financial feasibility analysis, economic and fiscal impact analysis, and economic development planning to the Agency, local and regional economic developers, and the Park's business community. Staff assist project sponsors and economic developers in evaluating business locations and identify sources of help for business development. Staff also assist local governments and not-for-profit groups develop strategies to encourage sustainable economic growth in their communities.

Project Permitting

Staff advised the Agency on the economic impacts of a variety of projects ranging from the Lake George Marriot Hotel and Conference Center in the Village of Lake George, Warren County to a forestry permit for Lyme Timber Company in the Town of Tupper Lake, Franklin County. Staff also provided technical expertise related to the Agency's project review process to various large-scale and entrepreneurial ventures during the pre-application process.

Community and Economic Development

Staff attended 30 public outreach and community development meetings regarding the Common Ground Alliance, the Advantage Adirondacks Park-wide economic development plan, the Remsen-Lake Placid Rail Corridor Unit Management Plan, the Great South Woods recreation planning effort and film and television development within the Park. Staff also provided presentations to civic groups in Newcomb, Saranac Lake/Harrietstown and Northville/Northampton as well as to educational groups from Clarkson University, Stockton College, and Bavaria, Germany.

Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance Initiative

The Economic Services Unit, in coordination with the Planning Division, piloted the Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance (HEPA) initiative. Working with a local stakeholder workgroup from the communities of Northampton and Northville in Fulton County, staff wrote an economic development plan for the communities' Hamlet areas and worked with community leaders to implement the plan. The Agency's HEPA initiative is a community-driven process to develop and implement economic improvement plans for Hamlet areas.

Regional Council Support

180 million dollars in grants and loans was awarded to the three regional councils representing the Adirondack Park. Among the projects funded in the Park were park improvements in the Town of Bolton, Warren County, the restoration of the Wanakena footbridge in the Town of Fine, St. Lawrence County, a "one-stop shop" alternative energy and energy efficiency assistance center for the North Country Region, and a hut-to-hut trails plan.

Economic Affairs Committee

The Agency's Economic Affairs Committee highlighted business development and critical infrastructure expansion. The Committee showcased St. Regis Outfitters of Saranac Lake and Mountain Orthotic and Prosthetic Services of Lake Placid. Adirondack Teleworks discussed their efforts to train local workers and connect them to online jobs. The committee was briefed on alternative energy programs by John Culpepper of the North Country School and Maura Adams from the Northern Forest Center's Adirondack Model Neighborhood Wood Heat Initiative. Additionally, the Committee received a presentation on Adirondack angel investor financing from Melinda Little of Point Positive Inc. and on programs available to returning veterans by Reverend Colonel Eric Olsen of Homeward Bound Adirondacks.

Park Policy and Planning

STAFF

Kathy D. Regan,
Deputy Director
Brian F. Grisi,
A.P. Local Planning Assistance Specialist
John W. Barge,
Mapping Technologist 3
Walter W. Linck,
Associate Natural Resources Planner
Matthew S. Kendall,
Associate Natural Resources Planner
Kevin G. Prickett,
Senior Natural Resources Planner
Robyn E. Burgess,
Environmental Program Specialist 1
Matthew McNamara
Environmental Program Specialist 1
Lauretta H. Bullis,
Secretary 1

Above right: Sherman Craig
Chair Park Policy and Planning Committee
Kathy Regan
Deputy Director, Planning

The Agency's Planning Division is responsible for local government services, Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map updates and map amendments, State lands planning, Park policy, Geographic Information System (GIS), cartographic services and web site management.

Map Amendments

Staff worked with the Town of Moriah on an application from a private landowner to reclassify a 12.5 acre parcel from Resource Management to Moderate Intensity Use. The area was expanded to a total of 20 acres in size. Staff published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in October and held a public hearing on the matter in November. The Agency approved the amendment in January 2015. Staff worked with the Town of Wilmington on a proposed amendment to reclassify approximately 210 acres from Rural Use and Resource Management to Moderate Intensity Use. Staff prepared the DEIS and will present to the Agency Board in February 2015. Staff continue to collaborate with the Town of Westport on a process that would allow the Town to reclassify land to Hamlet contingent upon connection to the existing municipal sewer system. Staff will present a DEIS to the Board in 2015. Staff completed a technical map amendment to reclassify the former Camp Gabriels Correctional Facility from State Administrative to Moderate Intensity Use. The reclassification will not be final until the property is purchased by a private entity.

Historic Resource Reviews

Staff completed required historic resource reviews for various projects in the Towns of Ausable, Brighton, Broadalbin, Crown Point, Elizabethtown, Ellenburg, Essex, Fine, Jay, Lake George, Lake Luzerne, Long Lake, Moriah, Northampton, Parishville, Santa Clara, Saranac, Ticonderoga, Willsboro, Wilmington, and at the Lake George Battlefield Intensive Use Area.

Geographic Information Analysis

Staff provided mapping and resource analysis support for the Agency's Hamlet Economic Development Plan initiative involving the Town of Northampton and Village of Northville. Staff provided GIS analysis assistance to the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, creating a list of the 389 named, populated places in the park recorded in the 2013 Federal Geographic Names database. Staff updated all tax parcel GIS data to the most current versions available from the 12 county Real Property Tax offices and added telecommunication projects, deep hole test pits, detailed watershed boundaries, and shoreline photos map layers to the LookUp System. Staff provided mapping support to the DEC Lands and Forests Unit documenting historic roads open to the public on Wild Forest Lands. In addition, staff developed an online web map service for the public, combining agency map data with other sources of natural resource, jurisdictional, community assets, and recreational opportunity layers.

At left: Matt Kendall reviews map resources while preparing a draft environmental impact statement for Town of Moriah's map amendment.

Local Government Services

The Local Government Services staff assist individual towns in the Park to develop planning initiatives and land use controls that meet local needs. Staff also administer Agency-approved local land use programs (ALLUPs). During the year, staff attend community meetings, provide advice and guidance on land use issues, prepare and present training workshops and provide plan and code review. The table below summarizes Local Government Services accomplishments in 2014.

Local Government Services Activities	2014 Totals
Town and Village Consultations	178
Land Use Regulation Consultations/Reviewed	49
ALLUP Amendments Approved	2
ALLUP Variances Reviewed	107
ALLUP Variances Reversed	6
Comprehensive Plans Reviewed	5
Meetings with Town Officials	62
Responses to Land Use Planning Inquiries	522
Planning & Zoning Board Actions Reviewed	347
Training & Workshops Provided	13
Intra-Agency Local Planning Assistance	147
Inter-Agency Coordination	87
Coordination with other regional organizations	96
Agency Board Presentations	3

Adirondack Park Local Government Day

The 17th annual Local Government Day Conference was held on April 9th and 10th, 2014 in Lake Placid, New York. The conference focused on economic development strategies and the promotion of projects that benefit rural economies. Local officials described successful projects that improved infrastructure, entrepreneurial initiatives, municipal energy management and the control of invasive species. Over 300 people from 49 Adirondack Park municipalities attended the event.

The Local Government Day Steering Committee recognized the three Regional Economic Councils that cover the Adirondack Park for thier efforts to secure nearly 675 million dollars in grants and tax credits.

Approved Local Land Use Program Administration

Staff completed a comprehensive review and archive of all historical records from the eighteen towns with Agency-approved local land use programs. Program documents were organized and scanned for computer system retrieval and storage. In addtion, staff completed a Local Government Services manual. The manual is a guide for the administration of Agency-approved local land use programs. It details procedures for program review and amendment approvals as well as variance referrals. It also includes sections for local government official contact updates and the Local Government Day Conference registration process.

Above Left: Dan Wilt
Chair Local Government Services Committee
Above Right: Brian Grisi
Local Planning Assistance Specialist

At right: Robin Burgess provides training to local planning board officials on APA variance criteria and the process to obtain an Agency Approved Local Land Use Plan.

State Lands

Unit Management Plans

The Agency determined State Land Master Plan compliance for the St. Regis and Hurricane Mountain Fire Tower Historic Areas.

Amendments to the Bog River Complex, Cranberry Lake Wild Forest and Jay Mountain Wilderness Area UMPs were approved.

Staff, in consultation with DEC, worked on the Alger Island Campground and 4th Lake Day Use Area, Black River Wild Forest, Chazy Highland Complex, Camp Santanoni Historic Area, Eighth Lake Campground, Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area, Grasse River Wild Forest, Jessup River Wild Forest, Pepperbox Wilderness, Remson-Lake Placid Travel Corridor, Saranac Lakes Wild Forest Area, Sentinel Mountain Wilderness, Wilcox Lake Wild Forest, and Wilmington Wild Forest UMPs.

Above Left: Dick Booth
Chair State Lands Committee
Above Right: Kathy Regan, Deputy Director for Planning

At Right: APA State Land staff member Kevin Prickett (center) conducts site visit with DEC staff to Balfour Lake in the Vanderwhacker Wild Forest to determine the best site for an accessible boat launch.

State Land staff work with DEC to prepare and review Unit Management Plans (UMPs) consistent with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP); provide guidance and interpretation regarding the APSLMP to DEC staff and the Agency's Board; consult with DEC on long-range plans for the future of State lands; review proposed DEC projects on State lands to ensure conformance with the APSLMP; and work with the DEC to develop staff proposals for the classification and reclassification of State lands.

APSLMP Amendment

In October, the Agency announced the beginning of a public process to consider amendments to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP), including amendments associated with the Essex Chain of Lakes. Four listening sessions were held and public comment was accepted. One hundred fifty eight people registered at the four public meetings. 1,186 emails, letters, faxes or resolutions were submitted by the conclusion of the comment period in December.

Agency Permits and State Agency 814 Orders

Staff worked in consultation with Regulatory staff on DEC and DOT projects including: bridge work on Route 28 in the Town of Webb, a referral from Clinton County regarding snowmobile trail work on private lands and in Taylor Pond Wild Forest, reconstruction of the Whiteface Memorial Highway, phase two of the Lake George Beach and Battlefield project, DOT 814 Order to repair slope failure along Upper Cascade Lake, St. Lawrence County's proposed "Multi-Use Trail System", removal of Marcy Dam in the High Peaks Wilderness, reconstruction of Kingdom Dam on Lincoln Pond in the Hammond Pond Wild Forest, and the Atmospheric Science and Research Center weather tower proposal.

State Land Planning

Staff consulted with DEC regarding snowmobile trail construction and guidance for trails in the Aldrich Pond, Black River, Jessup River, Lake George, Moose River Plains, Shaker Mountain, Taylor Pond, Vanderwhacker Mountain, Wilcox Lake and Wilmington Wild Forest Areas, as well as one proposed trail segment in the Camp Santanoni Historic Area, Dead Creek Primitive Area, and Harris Lake Campground. Staff worked with DEC and stakeholders to evaluate potential, new backcountry ski trail opportunities using existing guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP and DEC trail construction and maintenance policies. Staff attended the Lake Placid Travel UMP public meetings. Staff continued to work with DEC to establish APSLMP compliant alternatives for primitive tent sites to address camping management issues on State lands. Staff played a key role in the preparation and public launch of the Great South Woods Complex Planning Initiative. The goal of this project is to create trail systems that extend through multiple state land units and link community centers to foster long range travel and bolster tourism.

Legal and Jurisdictional Office

STAFF

James Townsend,
Counsel
Sarah H. Reynolds,
Associate Counsel
Paul T. Van Cott,
Associate Attorney
Mitchell J. Goroski,
Senior Attorney
Elizabeth A. Phillips,
Senior Attorney
Steve L. Brewer,
Senior Attorney
Jennifer McAleese,
Senior Attorney
Mary B. Palmer,
Keyboard Specialist 1

Jurisdictional Inquiry Office
Douglas Miller,
Environmental Program Specialist 2
Brian M. Ford,
Environmental Program Specialist 1
Nancy M. Heath, Retired
Environmental Program Specialist 1
Emily M. Tyner,
Environmental Program Specialist 1
Dennis Wagner
Environmental Program Specialist 1

Above Left: Karen Feldman
Chair, Legal Affairs /Enforcement Committee.
Above right: James Townsend
Agency Counsel

At Right: Agency Counsel James Townsend and Associate Counsel Sarah Reynolds brief a Japanese delegation on land use law and the Adirondack Park Agency Act.

The Legal Division consists of four major components: the Office of Counsel including the Legal Services Unit, the Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit, and the Enforcement Unit. The Counsel and Associate Counsel advise all Agency divisions and the Agency Board. Legal Services attorneys review significant permitting, planning, enforcement, and other documents, assist the Attorney General with litigation, manage adjudicatory hearings, and provide other legal advice as necessary.

Office of Counsel and Legal Services

Key accomplishments for 2014 included dismissal by the 3rd Department Appellate Division of NYS Supreme Court of a challenge to the Agency's 2012 approval of the Adirondack Club and Resort project in Tupper Lake. State supreme courts also dismissed challenges to Agency approvals for a subdivision in the Town of Putnam and an amendment to the Jay Mountain Wilderness Unit Management Plan. Challenges related to APSLMP snowmobile trail guidance were dismissed as well.

In addition, the Legal Division proposed a rulemaking to codify procedures for approving actions related to emergencies. Staff updated the Agency's public information flyers and continued to streamline internal legal review and guidance for non-legal staff and the general public. Staff reviewed major permits prior to issuance, provided legal advice on jurisdictional inquiries and helped resolve enforcement matters. Staff also provided guidance to the planning division on the classification of state lands and amendments to the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan.

Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit

The Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit provides advice to landowners and potential project sponsors regarding Agency jurisdiction, including informal phone advice and written jurisdictional determinations. Staff help citizens determine if an Agency permit or variance is required. Determinations often require a full deed history and other legal and factual research. The Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit also handles referrals from other agencies, telephone calls and walk-in members of the public. This is the Agency's initial and most common point of contact with the public; hence, a high priority is placed on prompt responses. The Jurisdictional Unit includes the Agency's Records Access Officer.

Jurisdictional Inquiry Received	840
Jurisdictional Inquiry Responses	845
Non-Jurisdictional Determinations	603
Jurisdictional Determinations	160
Variance Determinations	33
General Information Response	24
Potential Violation Determination	25
Average Response Time (in days)	15
Telephone Consultations	3,744
Walk-In Consultations	186
Site Visits	31
Referrals from other Agencies	297
FOIL Requests Received	232

Enforcement

STAFF

Enforcement
John M. Burth,
Environmental Program Specialist 2
Trevor S. Fravor,
Environmental Program Specialist 1
Milton B. Adams,
Environmental Program Specialist 1
Emily O'Mahony
Environmental Program Specialist 1
Frederick Aldinger
Environmental Program Specialist 1
Annemarie Peer
Keyboard Specialist 1

Enforcement Unit

The Enforcement Unit seeks to resolve violations of the laws the Agency is charged to administer. In 2014, Enforcement Officers focused on promptly addressing violations when identified and actively working with local officials to prevent or quickly discover new violations. These efforts help to achieve amicable resolutions that avoid undue adverse impacts to resources and burdensome financial expenditures.

Staff started 2014 with 121 unresolved cases and opened 207 new cases during the year. Staff successfully closed a total of 190 cases and prepared 83 settlement agreements. 43 settlement agreements were executed through consent with landowners. 42 violations were resolved through voluntary compliance on the part of the landowner as a result of prompt responses to alleged violations and proactive enforcement efforts. Staff conducted 164 site visits for enforcement matters and determined 98 enforcement cases were not violations.

The Enforcement Unit continues to see significant compliance for new subdivisions inside the Park. Staff closely monitors new subdivision activity through the use of New York State Office of Real Property's SalesWeb application. In 2014, 8 new potential subdivision violations were identified out of 90 subdivisions undertaken within the Park. Following investigation, 3 cases were closed - no violation, 3 cases were resolved, and 2 remain under investigation. 56% of new subdivisions were issued an Agency jurisdictional determination or permit. In addition to use of the SalesWeb application to track subdivisions, enforcement staff rely on air photos, digital photographs of Adirondack lakeshores and prompt responses to alleged violations to efficiently undertake investigations.

Enforcement staff continue to cross-train with the Regulatory Program Division and complete various duties in addition to undertaking enforcement investigations. In 2014, this work included 69 jurisdictional determinations issued from enforcement, 47 site visits for review of permit applications, 32 permits issued with enforcement staff as the assigned project review officer, and 184 permit compliance letters were sent.

Activity	2014	2013
New Cases Opened	207	209
Site Visits	164	198
Settlement Agreements Sent	83	82
Settlement Agreements Signed	43	53
Notice of Violations/Hearing Sent	0	1
Cases Referred to Attorney General	1	0
Case Referred to Enforcement Committee	0	0
Cases Closed Volunteer Compliance	42	58
Cases Closed No Violation	98	96

Above Left: Douglas Miller
EPS 2 Jurisdictional Office
Above Right: John Burth
EPS 2 Enforcement Office

At Right: Denise Wagner and Nancy Health participate in the Northern New York Code Enforcement Conference.

Resource Analysis & Scientific Services

STAFF

Edward S. Snizek,
Supervisor-Natural Resource Analysis
Shaun E. LaLonde,
Soil and Water Engineering Specialist
Greg A. Bendell,
Environmental Engineer 2
W. Mark Rooks,
Associate A.P. Project Analyst,
Biological Resources
Mary A. O'Dell,
Biologist 1 (Ecology)
Aaron Ziemann,
Associate A.P. Project Analyst, Forest Resources
Leigh Walrath,
Associate A.P. Project Analyst, Fresh Water Resources
Lauretta H. Bullis,
Secretary 1

Above left: Arthur Lussi
Chair Park Ecology Committee
Above right: Edward S. Snizek
Supervisor-Natural Resource Analysis

The Resource Analysis and Scientific Services (RASS) Division provides scientific and technical analysis supporting all Agency transactions. The Agency's scientists provide expertise on engineering, soils analysis, forestry, invasive species, wildlife habitat, wetlands and other aquatic systems. Staff perform valuable field services including wetland delineations, mean high water mark determinations, structure height determinations, deep-hole test pit (DHTP) determinations, on-site wastewater treatment (OSWT) system review and stormwater management analysis.

Engineering

Evaluating existing and proposed development within the Park requires professional engineering services and technical analysis that is based upon sound science and engineering judgment and is consistent with applicable laws, regulations, standards, policies and guidance documents. For example, staff review stormwater management to prevent surface and groundwater impacts from stormwater runoff associated with development proposals.

In 2014, engineering staff conducted technical review for the following categories:

Project Type	2014 Total
Stormwater Management	208
Shoreline Projects	192
Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems	186

In addition, staff prepared technical recommendations in support of the following Agency Divisions and activities:

Division (Activity)	2014 Total
Regulatory Programs (Permit Applications)	209
Legal (Jurisdictional Office, legal reviews)	73
Legal (Enforcement)	25
Planning (Local Government)	3
Planning (State Land)	5

At Right: Staff conduct a site visit with an applicant to assess building constraints and environmental resources to determine the best locations for building lots. Woodworth Lake subdivision, Town of Bleeker, Fulton County.

Staff Reviews by Category	2014 Totals
Wetland Resources	91
Freshwater Resources	28
Forestry Resources	29
Biological Resources	12

DHTP Categories	2014 Totals
Approved Conventional Systems	68
Approved Shallow Systems	49
Did not meet Agency Guidelines	38

Wetlands

The NYS Freshwater Wetlands Act and the APA Act have stringent requirements for regulated activities involving wetlands. Wetlands staff provide a high level of service to the public that includes delineation, mitigation, and impact analysis. Staff conducted 193 wetland site visits. The average processing time for sites visits was 12 days. In addition, staff completed 330 wetland air photo interpretations. Air photo interpretations improve staff's wetland determination response time by reducing the need for site visits thus saving hundreds of hours of time and thousands of miles of travel.

Soils

Interpretations of deep-hole test pits (DHTPs) provide the necessary information to correctly locate OSWT systems. A total of 71 projects involving 155 deep-hole test pits were reviewed by Agency staff. Of the 155 DHTPs, 131 were described by Agency staff and 24 were described by outside consultants. All data submitted by consultants is checked by Agency staff to ensure profile accuracy, separation requirements, and appropriate setback distances. Forty-four percent of the test pits were approved for conventional on-site wastewater treatment systems (OSWTs), 32 percent were approved for shallow absorption OSWTs, and 25 percent did not meet Agency guidelines. Of the approved shallow systems 96 percent were due to shallow seasonal high groundwater and 4 percent were due to shallow bedrock.

Freshwater Resources

Agency staff hosted a summit regarding the potential introduction of Hydrilla verticillata in the Park. Hydrilla is a highly aggressive aquatic invasive plant that exhibits extremely dense growth characteristics. Agency staff, in partnership with the Department of Environmental Conservation, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program and the Lake Champlain Basin Program developed a Rapid Response Task Force and are establishing an accelerated permitting program to combat Hydrilla.

In March, the Agency approved "Guidelines for Appropriate Use of the Aquatic Herbicides Containing the Active Ingredient Triclopyr to Manage Eurasian Watermilfoil, an Aquatic Invasive Plant." This document was developed by staff and vetted with the public during a formal public comment period.

Forests

Staff worked extensively on Lyme Adirondack Timberlands, LLC's proposal to conduct forest management consisting of thinning, shelterwood removal and salvage harvests on a 642 acre portion of a 4,100 acre parcel. The proposed treatments were designed to remove poor quality trees in all size and age classes, while encouraging re-generation of a diverse group of tree species including Yellow Birch, Black Cherry, White Ash and Sugar Maple. RASS staff conducted a thorough and efficient review of potential impacts which led to Agency board approval. Staff continue to lead the Silvicultural Practices Review Group. Work focused on regulatory revision based on best available science to encourage sustainable forest management.

At right: Leigh Walrath (left) consults with Lake Pleasant Supervisor Neil McGovern regarding best management practices to protect water quality at the Town's public beach.

Agency Staff Transitions

In 2014, the Agency experienced staff changes with the retirement of long serving staff members Nancy Heath and Michael Hannon. The Agency was excited to promote Kathleen Regan and Susan Streiff. The Agency was fortunate to hire Fritz Aldinger, Annemarie Peer and Emily O' Mahoney.

New Hires

Kathleen Regan was appointed to the position of Deputy Director, Planning in September. Ms. Regan began her career at the Agency in 2008 as a Natural Resources Planner. She worked extensively on land classifications, including the Essex Chain Lakes. Previously, Ms. Regan worked as an Environmental Protection Agency Coordinator managing personnel, budgets and project timelines for the Agency's EPA wetlands projects. She was employed at the Nature Conservancy engaged in community outreach and natural resources planning.

Susan Streiff was promoted to Secretary to the Executive Director in February. Ms. Streiff began her state career with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation in 2004. She came to the Agency in 2008 as a Keyboard Specialist 1 in the Enforcement and Economic Divisions. Ms. Streiff was cross-trained in all divisions and has a broad understanding of the Agency's responsibilities.

Above: Staff congratulate Michael Hannon and wish him well in his retirement.

Frederick Aldinger III joined the Agency as an Environmental Program Specialist 1 Trainee in March. Mr. Aldinger began his state career with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation in 1996. Mr. Aldinger worked at the Region 5 Fish Hatchery.

Emily O'Mahony joined the Agency as an Environmental Program Specialist 1 in July, 2014. Ms. O'Mahony had owned Geological Assessments and previously worked for Barron & Associates, P.C. conducting Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments.

Annemarie Peer joined the Agency as a Keyboard Specialist 1 in May. She was assigned to the Enforcement and Economic Divisions. She previously worked as a Secretary at an institution of higher education and in retail services in Saranac Lake.

Retirements

Above: Mary Palmer and Norma Howard read a resolution of appreciation during a retirement party for Nancy Heath.

Michael Hannon began his career with the Agency in 1989 working in the Enforcement Division. Since 2003 he served as an Environmental Program Specialist in the Regulatory Programs Division. Throughout his career Mr. Hannon displayed a thorough understanding of the Adirondack Park, the Land Use and Development Plan, and the Agency's statutes and regulations. His experience, leadership skills and unique dedication to the citizens of the Adirondack Park made Mr. Hannon an extraordinary professional. Further more Mr. Hannon bravely served as Deputy Commander, New York State Army National Guard Medical Command and with the US Army National Guard. He was deployed to New York City for three months post 9/ 11, served on active duty during the Ice Storm of 1998, and was deployed to Afghanistan from February - December 2012. He also served his community as a member of the Village of Saranac Lake Planning Board.

Nancy Heath joined the Agency in 1982 where she worked in the Planning Division as a Keyboard Specialist and later assumed the responsibility for the Agency's records management program. From April of 2004, Ms. Heath served as an Environmental Program Specialist in the Jurisdictional Office. She respectfully provided jurisdictional advice and legal determinations to the public. She was a dedicated public servant and an outstanding advocate for the Adirondack Park. Ms. Heath generously volunteered her time to many community organizations including the Town of St. Armand and the Bloomingdale Fire Department.

Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board

Executive Director, Frederick Monroe
Chairman, Gerald Delaney
Secretary, Carol A. Monroe

Members

CLINTON COUNTY
Gerald Delaney, Sr., Howard Aubin
ESSEX COUNTY
George Canon, Ron Moore, John Paradis
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Brian McDonnell
FULTON COUNTY
James Groff, Frank Bendl
HAMILTON COUNTY
Brian Wells, Brian Towers
HERKIMER COUNTY
Linda Eykelhoff, Fred Reuter, Robert Grose
LEWIS COUNTY
Craig Brennan
ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY
Scott Sutherland, Mark Hall
SARATOGA COUNTY
Bruce Brownell, Sylvia Parker, Jean Raymond
WARREN COUNTY
Kevin Geraghty, Matt Simpson
WASHINGTON COUNTY
John LaPointe

At Right: APA Chairwoman Ulrich and Executive Director Martino attend the field visit to the Gooley Club with Review Board Members during a monthly meeting of the Local Government Review Board.

Section 803-a of the APA Act establishes the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board. As provided by law, the purpose of the Review Board is to advise and assist the Agency in carrying out its mission. The Agency enjoys a strong working relationship with the Review Board through open discussion and dialogue focused on local government perspectives.

Agency members and staff regularly attend the Review Board meetings, which are held monthly throughout the Adirondack Park. At the monthly Adirondack Park Agency meetings, Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board Executive Director Frederick Monroe plays a prominent and active role in all deliberations. The Agency's efforts to achieve balanced decision making are greatly enhanced by this dialogue.

The State of New York provides operating funds for the Local Government Review Board through the Agency's budget.

Above: State and local elected officials along with State Agency officials honor the 2014 Local Government Day "Best Community Events" award winners.

First Row from left: Saranac Lake Mayor Clyde Rabideau, Seagle General Director, Tony Kostecki, Horicon Councilman, Bob Olsen, Tupper Lake Town Supervisor, Patricia Littlefield, Long Lake, Director of Tourism Alexandra Roalsvig, APA Executive Director Terry Martino, APA Chairwoman Leilani Ulrich, Hamilton County Chairman William Farber.
Second Row from Left: Assemblyman Stec, Assemblyman Butler, Inlet Supervisor John Frey, Wilmington Supervisor Randy Preston, APA staff Brian Grisi, Indian Lake Supervisor Brian Wells and Ron Ofner, Executive Director of the Adirondack Regional Tourism Council.

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Leilani Crafts Ulrich, Chairwoman | Terry Martino, Executive Director

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