

**Adirondack Planning Forum Agenda**

**Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Welcome - NYS Secretary of State, Robert J. Rodriguez**

**☞ Social/Light Hors D'oeuvres ☞**

*- Hotel Saranac Great Hall -*

**5:00PM**

**Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

<b>Adirondack Planning Forum Sessions</b>		
8:00AM	<b>* Registration Begins at 8:00AM on Thursday *</b>	
8:45AM	<b>☞ Welcome &amp; Introductory Remarks ☞</b> <i>Barbara Rice, APA Executive Director</i> <i>- Hotel Ballroom -</i>	
9:00AM to 9:30AM	<b>☞ Refreshment Break &amp; Visit with Exhibitors ☞</b> <i>- Hotel Great Hall -</i>	
	<b>Track A</b> <i>- Hotel Saranac Ballroom -</i>	<b>Track B</b> <i>- Saranac Lake Free Library -</i>
<b>Session 1</b> 9:30AM to 10:45AM	<b>APA Jurisdiction 101</b>	<b>Visitor Use Management</b>
<b>Session 2</b> 11:00AM to 12:15PM	<b>Comprehensive Planning</b>	<b>Flood Risk Reduction &amp; Resiliency</b>
12:15PM to 1:30PM	<b>☞ Luncheon ☞</b> <i>- Hotel Ballroom -</i>	
<b>Rooms Switch ▶</b>	<i>- Saranac Lake Free Library -</i>	<i>- Hotel Saranac Ballroom -</i>
<b>Session 3</b> 1:30PM to 2:45PM	<b>Floodplain Regulation for Local Boards</b>	<b>Highest &amp; Best Use: Maximizing Use of Developable Land in the Park's Hamlets</b>
2:45PM to 3:00PM	<b>☞ Refreshment Break &amp; Visit with Exhibitors ☞</b> <i>- Hotel Great Hall -</i>	
<b>Session 4</b> 3:00PM to 4:15PM	<b>SEQR: The Short Environmental Assessment Form (EAF)</b>	<b>Telecommunications &amp; Digital Infrastructure: APA Permitting &amp; Empire State Development ConnectALL Digital Initiatives</b>

Wednesday

**Welcome - NYS Secretary of State, Robert J. Rodriguez**

**🌀 Social/Light Hors D'oeuvres 🌀**

*- Hotel Saranac Great Hall -*

**5:00PM**

Robert J. Rodriguez is currently serving as the Secretary of State. He was nominated by Governor Kathy Hochul to serve as New York's 68th Secretary of State.

Mr. Rodriguez is a uniquely accomplished leader and former legislator, with civic and legislative successes that have been focused strategically on investing in and developing public-good infrastructure projects, creating good-paying jobs and addressing financial disparities for historically underrepresented minorities and low-income communities. Mr. Rodriguez has specialized in providing advice to state and local governments, and transportation issues in the Northeast and Midwest focused on financial planning, credit rating strategy, managing and executing debt issuance transactions, asset-liability management and public-private partnerships. As a legislator, Mr. Rodriguez served as a member of the New York State Assembly 11 years, representing Assembly District 68. During his time in the Assembly, he focused on protecting and creating affordable housing, bringing good jobs into the community and ensuring children received a quality education.

He served as Co-Chair of the Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment, founding Chair of the Assembly sub-committee on Infrastructure and Member of Committees on Ways and Means, Housing, Labor, Banking, Corporations and Authorities and Mental Health. In the private sector, Mr. Rodriguez served as a Director at Public Financial Management, the leading municipal financial advisor in the nation. Prior to PFM, Mr. Rodriguez was a Vice-President at A.C. Advisory, Inc. and held various management and operations roles at Bloomberg LP. As a civic leader, Mr. Rodriguez served on a number of volunteer boards including as Chairman of Manhattan Community Board 11 and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone. Mr. Rodriguez is a graduate of Yale University, where he received a B.A. in History and Political Science and New York University Stern Business School where he received an MBA in Finance. He is also an emerging leader of the New America Alliance, and the Council for Urban Professionals (CUP) Fellow.



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**THURSDAY**

**\*Downtown Revitalization Initiative/NY Forward Consultations\***

12:00PM-1:30PM  
- Paul Smiths Room -

Representatives from the Department of State and the North Country Regional Economic Development Council will be available to provide insights and advice for communities who may be interested in submitting an application for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative and NY Forward programs. Sign-up sheet is at the DOS Exhibitor Table.

**◆ Session 1: 9:30AM-10:45AM ◆**

**1A. APA Jurisdiction 101**

***Hotel Saranac Ballroom***

Adirondack Park Agency Staff will provide background on the APA and more detailed information on permitting requirements and procedures of the Agency.

- **Sarah Reynolds** - Associate Counsel, NYS APA

**1B. Visitor Use Management**

***Saranac Lake Free Library***

Panelists will describe the visitor use management framework concept and how the State of New York is utilizing this framework to provide sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities, including discussion of a current initiative in the High Peaks Wilderness.

- **Josh Clague** - Chief, Bureau of Forest Preserve & Conservation Easements, NYS DEC
- **Abbie Larkin** - Transportation Planner and Visitor Use Analyst, DJ & A
- **Steve Lawson** - Senior Project Manager, DJ & A
- **Kevin Prickett** - EPS 2 Natural Resources, NYS APA
  - *Moderator:* Megan Phillips - Deputy Director of Planning, NYS APA

**◆◆ Session 2: 11:00AM-12:15PM ◆◆**

**2A. Comprehensive Planning**

***Hotel Saranac Ballroom***

This session will include a discussion of the practical and legal benefits of adopting a comprehensive plan. Included are the importance of involving the public in the development of the plan early on, strategies for compiling essential data to set the direction of the plan, plan contents, steps leading to the adoption of a comprehensive plan and a review of the comprehensive plan statutes.

- **Paula Gilbert & Monica Ryan** - Local Government Specialists, NYS DOS

**2B. Flood Risk Reduction & Resiliency**

***Saranac Lake Free Library***

Panelists will discuss the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission process for relicensing of hydropower projects and how stakeholders can get involved to maximize project co-benefits. DEC's Chief Resiliency Officer will speak to the types of flood risk reduction and resiliency projects that will be eligible for funding under the bond act.

- **Suzanna Randall** - Chief Resiliency Officer, NYS DEC
- **Richard McDonald** - Biologist, NYS DEC
- **Chris Millard** - Fish Biologist, FERC
  - *Moderator:* Megan Phillips - Deputy Director of Planning, NYS APA

**🌀 Luncheon 12:15PM-1:30PM 🌀**

**- Hotel Ballroom -**

## 2024 Adirondack Planning Forum

### ◆◆◆ Session 3: 1:30PM-2:45PM ◆◆◆

#### **3A. Floodplain Regulation for Local Boards**

**Saranac Lake Free Library**

The essence of good land use planning is to first determine what areas are most suitable for development, with careful consideration given to sensitive areas such as steep slopes, wetlands, and floodplains. After a long history of building in flood prone areas, increased storm intensity in recent years has resulted in severe damage to these areas and a disruption to natural floodplains. This course is an overview of regulating development around flood plains, with a discussion of the National Flood Insurance Program, and trends in resiliency planning.

- **Paula Gilbert & Monica Ryan** - Local Government Specialists, NYS DOS

#### **3B. Highest & Best Use: Maximizing Use of Developable Land in the Park's Hamlets**

**Hotel Saranac Ballroom**

Mountainous terrain, shallow soils, wetlands, floodplains, and State land are among the many factors that channel growth centers toward the limited areas suitable for intensive development in the Adirondacks. This session will explore the smart growth planning principals of mixed use and density as a means to expand housing availability, attract new residents, foster commerce, and reduce environmental impact.

- **Susan Barden** - AICP, Principal Planner, City of Saratoga Springs
- **Robert Steuteville** - Senior Communications Advisor, Congress for New Urbanism
- **Erin Tobin** - Executive Director, Adirondack Architectural Heritage
  - *Moderator:* Daniel Kelleher - Special Assistant, Economic Affairs, NYS APA

### ☞ Refreshment Break: 2:45PM-3:00PM ☞

Visit with Exhibitors in the Great Hall

### ◆◆◆ Session 4: 3:00PM-4:15PM ◆◆◆

#### **4A. SEQR: The Short Environmental Assessment Form (EAF)**

**Saranac Lake Free Library**

There are often misconceptions about the State Environmental Quality Review Act process. To help clarify the role of SEQR for local review boards, this course guides participants through Parts 2 and 3 of the Short Environmental Assessment Form using a hypothetical site plan. A variety of scenarios will be discussed in the context of mitigating potential impacts of the project on the environment which could result in different outcomes for the SEQR process.

- **Paula Gilbert & Monica Ryan** - Local Government Specialists, NYS DOS

#### **4B. Telecommunications & Digital Infrastructure: APA Permitting & Empire State**

**Development ConnectALL Digital Initiatives**

**Hotel Saranac Ballroom**

APA staff will provide an overview of how it has worked with the telecommunications industry to expand cellular coverage in the Park. Through innovative design techniques and careful siting, the telecommunications industry has successfully secured permits and implemented projects. APA staff will provide an overview of approved projects and discuss lessons learned that led to the development of streamlined permit applications and review procedures for certain types of telecommunications projects.

Representatives from NYS Empire State Development's ConnectALL program will provide an update on important initiatives and programs that are part of the largest-ever investment in New York State's digital infrastructure. ConnectALL will highlight ongoing efforts and programs to expand broadband and telecommunication services and look to engage with local leaders to help plan areas that could be eligible for new service grants.

- **Ariel Lynch** - Environmental Program Specialist 2, NYS APA
- **Joshua Breitbart** - Senior Vice President, ConnectALL, ESD
  - *Moderator:* David Plante - Deputy Director, Regulatory Programs, NYS APA