



Draft Minutes
State Land Committee
December 2012 Agency Meeting
RB:JEC:lhb

**MINUTES OF THE STATE LAND COMMITTEE MEETING
December 13, 2012**

Committee members in attendance included Agency Chairwoman Leilani Ulrich, William Thomas, William Valentino, Sherman Craig, Designee Robert Stegemann, Department of Environmental Conservation, and Richard Booth, Committee Chair. Members Frank Mezzano, Arthur Lussi, and Designees Dierdre Scozzafava, Department of State and Patrick Hooker, Department of Economic Development joined the Committee. Also participating in the meeting was Executive Director Fred Monroe of the Local Government Review Board. Staff included Executive Director Terry Martino, Planning Director James Connolly, Associate Natural Resources Planner Walt Linck, Senior Natural Resource Planners Kathy Regan and Kevin Prickett.

The Committee meeting convened at approximately 11:15 a.m.

**Second Pond Boat Launch UMP/Reclassification
(K.Prickett/J.Connolly)**

This item was presented with a staff recommendation of approval for compliance with the State Land Master Plan (SLMP) as proposed.

Senior Natural Resource Planner, Kevin Prickett, presented the State Land Reclassification proposal and Final Proposed Unit Management Plan for the Second Pond Boat Launch area to the Board. He noted the popularity of the area, and provided statistical data collected by the Paul Smith's Watershed Stewardship Program indicating the number of visitors. He also reviewed the area's management issues, including: accessibility; parking; and invasive species such as Curly Leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Milfoil and Variable Leaf Milfoil.

Agency Chair Ulrich asked Mr. Prickett to describe the area where the overflow parking is occurring presently. Committee Chair Booth noted that the existing parking currently extends into the Wilderness area. Mr. Connolly noted the opportunities for expansion on lands classified as Intensive Use are limited in part due to wetlands. Past expansion occurred on the former roadbed of Rt. 3. Mr. Prickett then described the two alternatives that were proposed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

Member Lussi asked how the 5.6 acre area was derived and why the same amount of acreage was not evenly exchanged. Mr. Lussi then asked what happens if additional parking is needed in the future. Member Craig also noted concern as to whether enough space had been proposed for parking in the area to meet future demand.

Mr. Prickett noted that these questions were addressed by DEC as part of responses to public comments received. Public concern primarily focused on expansion of the parking area, invasives control and accommodations for fishermen and day users at the boat launch site. Mr. Prickett also noted that a carrying capacity assessment should be done as part of the Saranac Lake Wild Forest Unit Management Plan to assess future needs for the area, and to ensure that management of both the boat launch and campsites will be respectful of both the social carrying capacity as well as protective of the natural resources of the area.

Committee Chair Booth asked about the area on the east side of the bridge where overflow parking is occurring. Mr. Prickett responded that DEC and DOT will be closing the area as it is a safety hazard.

Mr. Prickett noted that currently there are no specific plans for a boat washing station in the UMP but a station will be considered in the future if resources become available. The Department will work with Paul Smith's Watershed Coalition to continue to educate users and to monitor for invasive species.

Member Mezzano noted that due to the presence of invasives in the water body, a boat washing facility should become a priority. Mr. Prickett noted that steps to address invasives will be taken to inform and educate users as well as provide space for stewards from the Watershed Coalition to reside and work with boaters. Member Craig asked if space could be allotted in the future for a boat washing station. Mr. Prickett responded affirmatively.

Mr. Connolly noted that the issue of a boat washing facility is a programmatic issue for the Department. Designee Stegemann concurred and added that modification can be done to accommodate a boat washing facility in this area if necessary. He added that a State-wide approach is really what is needed as this discussion is being held in other areas throughout the State with the same issues.

Another concern that was raised during the public comment period is reclassification of lands to address nonconforming uses. Mr. Prickett then read guidance from the SLMP which states that only in exceptional circumstances should lands be reclassified from Wilderness, Primitive or Canoe to Intensive Use. The Second Pond reclassification proposal is a unique reclassification of adjacent lands to utilize lands that are suitable for the associated Intensive Use area. Mr. Prickett noted that the Agency's land classification data shows acreage within the current Intensive Use area which cannot be utilized for any structures or parking due to presence of wetlands. The reclassification will result in a net benefit of 1.2 acres being added to Wilderness. A total of 6.8 acres is proposed to be reclassified to Wilderness and 5.6 acres to be reclassified as Intensive Use.

Staff recommends approval of the proposed reclassification recommendation and also that the proposed UMP be determined to be in compliance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, contingent upon approval of the reclassification proposal by the Governor.

Committee Chair Booth noted that due to the steep slopes and presence of wetlands, expansion for parking is limited. Member Craig then asked if the area south and east of the proposed parking area is also considered wetland and if expansion into that area might be a consideration. Mr. Connolly noted that the current reclassification proposal has been developed in close consultation between Agency staff and the Department. Additional expansion for parking is something that may be considered at a future date based on a carrying capacity study that might involve reconfiguring the Intensive Use area. Dan Spada noted that due to the presence of steep slopes and wetlands, the expansion area is very limited.

Committee Chair Booth called for a motion to move the item to the full Agency for approval. Member Thomas moved the item and was seconded by Designee Stegemann. All were in favor.

Taylor Pond Management Complex UMP (D. Levy, DEC)

This item was presented as a "First Reading" of the Unit Management Plan. Mr. Connolly noted that the Agency will have a public comment period soliciting comments on compliance of the plan with the Adirondack State Land Master Plan. He noted that

the Agency is expected to take action on SLMP compliance at the January meeting.

DEC UMP Planner Dan Levy presented the first reading of the draft unit management plan for the Taylor Pond Management Complex.

Committee Chair Booth noted the continued heavy use of the former Poke-O-Moonshine Campground area.

Member Craig asked about vista clearing in the unit; Mr. Levy responded view shed maintenance is not a concern as the summits in this unit are comprised of exposed rock.

Member Lussi asked about parking plans in the Catamount Mt. area. Mr. Levy responded that the plan calls for parking accommodations for 5 trucks (with snowmobile trailers) during the winter season which will allow for 8 cars in the summer months. Member Lussi asked if the Catamount Mountain trail might be marked more clearly; Mr. Levy responded that once the trail is adopted as a formal trail, it will be clearly marked and maintained.

Committee Chair Booth asked about the proposed snowmobile connector/multiple use trail between the Town of Wilmington and the Town of Peru. Mr. Levy responded much of the trail is already pre-existing; only a portion of the trail in the Terry Mountain State Forest area would be new trail construction.

Committee Chair Booth then asked about handicap accessibility. Mr. Levy responded that the lean-tos on Taylor, Mud and Military Ponds are accessible.

Mr. Connolly noted the public comment period will run through January 2, 2013.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.