



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Terry Martino
FROM: Jim Connolly
DATE: February 1, 2013
SUBJECT: Highlights of Planning Division Activities for January 2013

REGIONAL PLANNING

Meetings of Adirondack Partnership Recreation Plan Work Group

Agency staff attended a meeting of the Adirondack Partnership Recreation Work Group. The group is putting together recommendations for recreational planning in the Park which focuses on improving local opportunities to benefit from the location of public lands, encourage State agencies to work more directly with communities on integrated recreational planning efforts and to promote increased tourism-related business opportunities throughout the Park. The group also met on February 1 at the Nature Conservancy office in Keene to discuss a timeline for developing final recommendations.

Meeting with Environmental Organizations on Snowmobile Trail Construction

APA and DEC staff met with environmental group leaders, including Neil Woodworth, Diane Fish, Scott Lorey, Dave Gibson, Peter Bauer and Bob Glennon to discuss concerns about construction of the new community connector snowmobile trail in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest. All meeting participants were provided with copies of DEC work plans and tree counts from trail construction. All participants were also provided with a copy of the letter from Jim Connolly and Rob Davies responding to Peter Bauer's concerns about consistency of the Snowmobile Trail

Construction Guidance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

Meeting with Board Member of Adirondack Scenic Railroad

Agency staff met with Al Dunham, a board member of the Adirondack Scenic Railroad which has been working to keep the former Adirondack Division of the New York Central Railroad in operation as a scenic rail line and tourist attraction. Mr. Dunham requested a map of hiking and snowmobile trails adjacent to the railroad for inclusion in a report being prepared by the Scenic Railroad group. The map will also be posted to the Agency web site so that other organizations and the general public interested in the Remsen/Lake Placid Travel Corridor can access the trail information.

Meeting of Region 5 Open Space Committee

Agency staff attended a meeting of DEC's Region 5 Open Space Committee. DEC staff presented information on land acquisition accomplishments over the last three years. The Committee will be meeting regularly over the next several months to revise regional recommendations and will submit the update to DEC's Central Office by the end of May. A meeting of the Region 6 Open Space Committee is scheduled for February 27th at DEC's Lowville office

Meeting with ANCA staff on Byways Program

APA Planning staff met with Adirondack North Country Association Byways Coordinator Jecinda Hughes to discuss how Agency staff could coordinate with ANCA's Byways programs and provide timely information on DOT highway projects and local government outreach efforts. Agency staff committed to continued efforts to coordinate with ANCA staff on projects and programs of mutual interest.

STATE LAND and UMP REVIEW ACTIVITIES

State land staff reviewed proposed lean to relocations for improvements in the High Peaks Wilderness.

State land staff met with Dan Levy (DEC) to discuss snowmobile work plans for the Taylor Pond Complex and potential issues with the Chazy Highlands Team draft UMP.

State land staff provided DEC with information regarding the classification of a parcel of land on Chazy Lake.

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State land staff prepared and provided a presentation on the Taylor Pond Complex Final UMP at the Agency meeting.

State land staff continued to work on the 2013 classification package, which includes the Essex Chain of Lakes and Indian River parcels of the TNC/Finch purchase.

State land staff reviewed and modified metrics for monthly reports.

State land staff met to discuss camping issues in the Saranac Lake Wild Forest draft UMP.

State land staff met to discuss complex planning and regional recreational opportunities.
State land staff attended a half day meeting with DEC regarding the above subjects.

State land staff attended a meeting regarding DOT's proposal to modify herbicide spraying along the Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor.

State land, GIS and RASS staff attended a one day meeting at SUNY Plattsburgh to share research ideas, needs, and existing projects with University staff and other interested agencies and organizations.

Early in the month, staff facilitated State land and RASS/Project Review staff review of two State land projects proposed by DEC - one for canoe carry improvements at Fifth and Sixth Lakes in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest Area, and another for trailered boat launching improvements at the Northville Boat Launch on the Sacandaga River.

State land staff attended a Park-wide recreational planning meeting in Minnowbrook.

State land staff received a new draft (for Agency review) of the Whiteface Mt. 2013 Unit Management Plan Amendment to the 2004 UMP and FEIS. Staff are currently drafting comments on the proposed amendment for DEC and ORDA.

APA and DEC staff met to discuss the classification process for the Essex Chain and Indian River parcels. APA has prepared a draft letter on lead agency to initiate the SEQOR

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process. APA staff is also in the process of developing area descriptions and classification alternatives for inclusion in SEQR documents.

CARTOGRAPHY AND INFORMATION ANALYSIS

GIS Hardware/Software Management/Data Management - Staff edited the Agency Lookup System to provide better tools for measuring map features, capturing map images, printing more map layers, displaying a map legend of visible map layers. Staff also began steps to improve staff access to all Agency wetlands data for the park, and to update all roads data for the park.

GIS Consultation - Staff provided GIS consultation to Agency staff regarding roads data, wetlands data, parcel data, aerial imagery, conservation easement data, municipal boundary data, and Federally designated flood zone data.

GIS Consultation - Staff provided GIS consultation to NYS DOT staff regarding deer wintering area data for the park.

GIS Agency Program Administration - Staff provided GIS administrative consultation to Agency EPA contractor staff, Steve Langdon regarding the purchase of new GPS field data collection units suitable for future mapping projects.

GIS Agency Program Administration - Staff attended a one day meeting at SUNY Plattsburgh to share research ideas, needs, and existing projects with University staff and other interested agencies and organizations.

Web Content Management - Staff edited the Agency website to improve access to information on the MOU between the APA and DEC implementing the SLMP.

Web Content Management - Staff edited the Agency website to improve access to information on Commercial and/or Industrial SIR forms.

Web Content Management - Staff edited the Agency website to add information on the appointment of the Agency Counsel position.

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

State Land Re/Classification - Staff continued to prepare maps and documents related for the classification of the recently acquired Essex Chain of Lakes tract and soon to be acquired Indian River tract.

GIS Training - Staff is working with NYS Public Service Workshops Program to develop a GPS training course for Agency employees. The course is tentatively scheduled to be held in late March and will be open to DEC and other state agency staff if space is available.

Map Amendments - Staff has begun preparing maps and related documents for a technical map amendment involving State lands under the jurisdiction of the New York State Canal Corporation.

January GIS/Web Task Summary:

Task	Count
GIS Agency Program Administration	2
GIS Consultation	8
GIS Hardware/Software Management	4
GIS Map Production	10
GIS Data Management	2
GIS Training	1
LUA Boundary/Blue Line Inquiry	6
Map Amendments Review	1
State Land Classification/Reclassification Review	1
Web Administration	0
Web Content Management	3
Administrative Tasks	1

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