



NOTE: The attachments referred to herein are on file at the Agency and are on the Agency's website. Copies are also available for inspection on request.

DRAFT AGENCY MINUTES

APRIL 11, 2013

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2013

AGENCY MEMBERS, DESIGNEES AND EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Leilani Crafts Ulrich, Chairwoman
Richard Booth, Member
Sherman Craig, Member
Arthur Lussi, Member
Frank Mezzano, Member
William Thomas, Member
F. William Valentino, Member
Cecil Wray, Member
Robert Stegemann, Designee, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
James Connolly, Acting Executive Director
James Townsend, Counsel

AGENCY MEMBERS, DESIGNEES AND EXECUTIVE STAFF ABSENT

Patrick Hooker, Designee, NYS Department of Economic Development
Dierdre Scozzafava, Designee, NYS Department of State
Terry Martino, Executive Director

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD PRESENT

Frederick Monroe, Executive Director

AGENCY STAFF PRESENT

Richard Weber, Deputy Director, Regulatory Programs
Keith McKeever, Public Information Director
Laurie Bullis, Secretary 1
Mary Reardon, Secretary 1
Dan Kelleher, Special Assistant for Economic Affairs
Aaron Ziemann, Associate Project Analyst, Forest Resources
Amy Hall, Calculations Clerk 1
Sarah Reynolds, Associate Counsel
Tracy Darrah, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Jennifer McAleese, Senior Attorney
Mary Palmer, Keyboard Specialist 1

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Suzanne McSherry, Environmental Program Specialist 2
Brian Grisi, Local Planning Assistance Specialist
Deborah Lester, Secretary to Executive Director

Video and MP3 audio recordings of the proceedings, including public comment, are available in their entirety via webcast at http://nysapa.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2.

Chairwoman Ulrich called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. She noted the absence of Department of State Designee Scozzafava and Department of Economic Development Designee Patrick Hooker. She also noted Deputy Director for Planning Connolly would provide executive assistance to the Board in Executive Director Terry Martino's absence.

1. Public Comment

Raul "Rocci" Aguirre, the new Director of Conservation for Adirondack Council, introduced himself and said he looked forward to future collaboration and partnership building.

2. Approval of March 14-15, 2013 Draft Agency Minutes

On motion of Mr. Wray, seconded by Mr. Mezzano, the Agency unanimously adopted the Draft Agency Meeting Minutes of March 14-15, 2013. A copy of the official minutes as adopted by the Agency is on file at the Agency.

3. Executive Director's Report

On behalf of the Executive Director, Mr. Connolly highlighted the following:

- During her recent travel to Costa Rica, Ms. Martino met the founder of an international organization involved with the issue of transport of illegal wood products and natural resources from countries around the world, who described European Union legislation addressing the transport of illegal timber products into the European Union, which became effective on March 3, 2013. The issue is specifically relevant to the Agency's discussions on the proposed General Permit for Silvicultural Treatments for Sustainable Forestry in the Adirondack Park. Earlier in the year the Agency and DEC participated in a discussion with representatives from IKEA, one of the world's largest manufacturers and importers of furniture and other wood products, who stressed the importance of certification of forestlands. Also, at the October 2011 Agency Meeting Richard Donovan of the Rainforest Alliance discussed forest products industry and

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certification on a global scale. The effort to establish a regulatory framework for review of timber harvest and certification programs in the Park is important regionally, nationally and internationally.

Chairwoman Ulrich referred to the discussion with IKEA representatives, who made it very clear their primary concern is certification. She noted the importance of encouraging forest landowners within the Park in that regard. She also referred to an informational piece which described the EU timber regulation and requested that copies be distributed to Agency Members.

- The April meeting agenda reflects a continuation of the Agency's focus on forest certification with a presentation by Graeme Auld, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at Carleton University, who will discuss the Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative forest certification programs and the value of these programs to the region's forestlands. Following that, the Agency's forestry resources analyst, Aaron Ziemann, will compare the Agency's regulatory review obligations to the two certification programs.
- The Legal Committee agenda includes an overview of the Agency's departmental bill proposing transfer of development rights. The Agency held a meeting on March 15 with local government and environmental representatives to discuss the proposed bill. The input received to date has been very useful and important to the process.
- The meeting of the State Land Committee, which was scheduled to hear an informational presentation on the Whiteface Mountain Unit Management Plan Amendment, has been cancelled this month due to the need for more coordination between state agencies.
- State Land staff continue to work on the classification of former Finch lands and hope to bring material to the Agency as early as May.

Mr. Wray inquired as to earlier published reports of DEC recommendations for the Finch Pruyn lands.

Mr. Connolly responded that DEC's classification proposal is in the context of the overall purchase totaling 69,000 acres. The Agency staff presentation will focus on the Essex Chain and Indian River parcels and the potential reclassification of the Hudson River Gorge Primitive Area, which totals approximately 18,000 acres. Additionally, the SEQR and classification process looks at a variety of alternatives and includes both classification and

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reclassification actions, which will be subject to an extensive public review process.

Mr. Stegemann emphasized DEC's respect for the process and role of the Agency in State land classification actions.

- Thank you to Local Government Services staff Brian Grisi and Robyn Burgess for their hard work on Local Government Day, which is scheduled for April 24-25 in Lake Placid, in collaboration with the Local Government Review Board, Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, DEC and DOS.

4. Earth Day Resolution

Mr. Connolly presented a resolution commemorating Earth Day 2013. On motion of Mr. Wray, seconded by Mr. Stegemann, the Agency unanimously adopted the resolution. A copy of the resolution as approved by the Agency is attached to the official minutes on file at the Agency.

5. Executive Session

On motion of Mr. Wray, seconded by Mr. Craig, the Agency unanimously approved an executive session to discuss two litigated matters with Counsel involving the Protect the Adirondacks lawsuit regarding the Adirondack Club and Resort project, and the Protect lawsuit regarding the snowmobile guidance.

The Agency temporarily adjourned to committees at 9:30 a.m., and then reconvened at 4:00 p.m. to receive and act on committee reports and recommendations.

6. Report on Executive Session

On motion of Mr. Booth, seconded by Mr. Mezzano, the Agency exited Executive Session. Chairwoman Ulrich reported that no action was taken.

7. Committee Reports

a. Regulatory Programs Committee

(1) 2013-26, Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks

The project involves the construction of an observation tower consisting of a series of elevated platforms and bridged walkways, in an area classified Hamlet and Moderate Intensity Use in the Town of Tupper Lake, Franklin County.

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On motion of Mr. Mezzano, seconded by Mr. Valentino, the Agency unanimously approved the project. A copy of the permit, as approved by the Agency, is attached to the official minutes on file at the Agency.

b. Economic Affairs Committee

Mr. Lussi reported the Committee heard an informative presentation by the proprietor of Sootbusters, LLC, a small business in the Park. The Chairwoman commended the speaker and looked forward to hearing more from her in other capacities in the future.

c. Park Policy and Planning Committee

Mr. Craig commended presentations by staff and guest presenter Graeme Auld of Carleton University on sustainable forestry.

d. Legal Affairs Committee

Mr. Wray noted staff's review of the Agency's proposed departmental bill related to the transfer of development rights and certain changes to permit processes.

8. Interim Reports

The Administration, Enforcement, Local Government Services, Park Ecology, Public Awareness and Communications, and State Land committees did not meet this month. Monthly reports for some of these committees were included in the mailing.

a. Local Government Services Committee

Mr. Thomas reminded people about the annual Adirondack Park Local Government Day Conference, which is scheduled for April 24-25 in Lake Placid. The Chairwoman noted that the Local Government Review Board monthly meeting would precede the conference at 10 a.m. on April 24 at the Agency.

b. Park Ecology/Enforcement Committee

On motion of Mr. Lussi, seconded by Mr. Wray, the Committee unanimously approved the draft minutes of the joint Park Ecology and Enforcement Committee meeting held on March 14, 2013.

Park Ecology Committee Chair Valentino reported that as part of 2013 National Invasive Species Awareness Week, the Lake George Association was awarded for Outstanding Achievement in Invasive Species Outreach and Education, and the Adirondack Park Invasive

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Plant Program for Outstanding Achievement in Invasive Species Leadership.

c. Public Awareness and Communications Committee

Mr. Valentino commented on examples of effective communication and referred to a video that was taken of Route 28N which was successfully used to convince NYS DOT to place the travel corridor as a high priority for reconstruction.

d. State Land Committee

On motion of Mr. Valentino, seconded by Mr. Craig, the Committee unanimously approved the draft minutes of the State Land Committee meeting held on March 15, 2013.

9. Local Government Review Board Comment

Local Government Review Board Executive Director Fred Monroe called attention to Adirondack Day, a public event scheduled for April 29 in the Well of the Legislative Office Building in Albany. The event will showcase the Adirondack Park's ecological importance and its economic significance as a tourist destination area, as well as important issues such as business, education, the healthcare industry. The Legislative Gazette will run a special insert featuring five regional directors of the AATV along with ads specific to the Adirondacks.

10. Member Comment

Agency Members commended the presentations on the forest certification programs and the economic presentation on small business.

Mr. Craig referred to the closure of the paper mill in Clifton-Fine and gave kudos to local and state officials for their efforts to resurrect the mill.

Chairwoman Ulrich referred to the economic presentation, particularly to the comments regarding customer service and resistance to change, and how they apply to many issues, both personally and professionally. She then expressed her appreciation to member of Long Lake Emergency Services for the aid and assistance they provided to motorists during the inclement winter weather that occurred on March 15.

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11. Adjournment

The Agency unanimously adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

LCU/TDM/dal

Attachments:

Resolution - Earth Day 2013

Permit 2013-26, Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks

Leilani Crafts Ulrich, Chairwoman