



**MINUTES OF THE PARK POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING  
April 11, 2013**

Committee members in attendance included Agency Chairwoman Leilani Ulrich, William Thomas, Richard Booth, William Valentino, Designee Patrick Hooker, Department of Economic Development and Committee Chair Sherman Craig. Members Frank Mezzano, Arthur Lussi, and Designees Dierdre Scozzafava Department of State and Robert Stegemann Department of Environmental Conservation 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, Counsel James Townsend, Planning Director, James Connolly, and Project Analyst Aaron Ziemann.

The Committee meeting convened at approximately 1:00 p.m.

**Approval of Draft Committee Minutes of March 2013**

A motion to approve the draft committee minutes was made by Committee Chair Craig and was seconded by Member Booth. All were in favor.

**Deputy Director, Planning Report (J. Connolly)**

Mr. Connolly briefly reviewed the March activity report for the Planning Division.

**History and Comparison of Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Forest Certification Programs (Graeme Auld, Ph.D.)**

Designee Stegemann noted the importance of defining the concept of sustainability and how it relates to the Lacey Act which addresses the taking of wood in an unsustainable manner via illegal trespass. He stressed that the issue of sustainability should not be confused with illegal trespass or illegal sourcing of wood as these concepts can easily be misinterpreted.

Committee Chair Craig then introduced guest speaker, Dr. Graeme Auld, Ph.D. Dr. Auld is an Assistant Professor from Carleton University School of Public Policy and Administration, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. He presented information to the Board

concerning the origins of certification and the standards associated with both SFI and FSC certification programs.

Dr. Auld noted that under both SFI and FSC certifications, any legal and regulatory compliance measures are incorporated into the certification process. He added that SFI and FSC audit reports are public and are available on-line.

Dr. Auld reviewed potential eligible operators in New York State. He noted that DEC is the largest forest owner having responsibility for the State Forest Preserve and also noted that private lands under State-owned conservation easements have both FSC and SFI certification. He added that Finch and Upper Hudson are also dually certified.

**Comparison of APA Regulatory Review Obligations with the SFI and FSC Certification Programs (A. Ziemann)**

Agency Project Analyst Aaron Ziemann presented a comparative review of Agency regulations and the principles and objectives of SFI and FSC certification programs. This was a general overview of the processes involved and how they apply to forest management practices.

Mr. Ziemann stated that both SFI and FSC certification programs require strict adherence to all applicable laws and best management practices to protect water quality. He concluded by stating that adherence to the certification program by landowners provide a substantial preliminary framework to allow the Agency to make findings as required by Section 809 of the APA Act and 9NYCRR Part 574.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m.