



**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Terry Martino  
**FROM:** Jim Connolly  
**DATE:** May 30, 2013  
**SUBJECT:** Highlights of Planning Division Activities for  
May 2013

**REGIONAL PLANNING**

**Meeting of Adirondack Partnership Recreation Plan Workgroup**

On May 2, Deputy Director Jim Connolly and Economic Affairs Specialist Dan Kelleher participated in a final meeting of the Adirondack Partnership's Recreation Plan Work Group. The work group has been meeting for several months to develop recommendations on public/private partnerships to enhance recreational programs and public information on the Park's recreational opportunities. A sub-committee has also met with the five towns most directly affected by the recent State acquisition of Essex Chain, Indian River and OK Slip Falls parcels from the Nature Conservancy. A publication is being prepared on the recommendations. A presentation on the groups recommendations was given at Local Government Day on April 25 and will also be presented to the Agency Board at the June meeting.

**Meeting of Region 5 Open Space Plan**

On May 2, Jim Connolly and Kevin Prickett attended a meeting of DEC's Region 5 Open Space Advisory Committee which was held at DEC's Warrensburg office. The Advisory Committee is in the process of updating recommendations on land acquisition and protection which will be included in the NYS Open Space Plan. The report will include general policy recommendations as well as the Committee's recommendations on specific acquisitions which are being considered for purchase by the State. Discussion of recommendations are expected to be completed by the end of May with the revised draft of the Open Space Plan to be released for public comment later this year. Mr. Prickett has also been attending meetings of DEC's Region 6 Open Space Advisory Committee.

**Meeting of NYS Snowmobile Association Adirondack Trails Conference**

On May 5, APA and DEC staff attended the annual meeting of the Adirondack Trails Conference held in Long Lake. The Trails Conference is a regional meeting sponsored by the NYS Snowmobile Association and serves as a forum on snowmobile trail maintenance and opportunities in the Park. Deputy Director Jim Connolly provided an overview about APA's role in regional planning with emphasis on the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. DEC staff provided background about ongoing trail maintenance activities which are conducted under permits to snowmobile clubs and towns for annual maintenance and trail grooming activities.

**Meeting with Crown Point Town Board on Map Amendment Proposal**

On May 21, Agency staff met with the Crown Point Town Supervisor & Town Board to discuss the process for requesting a map amendment of the official Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan map. The Town wants to increase Hamlet area in locations where sewer and water infrastructure exists. However, staff contact with DEC have indicated that the Town's wastewater treatment plant may need upgrades due to its age and existing maintenance concerns. Agency staff will begin processing an application of a map amendment once the Town Board passes a resolution asking the Agency to review their application. Agency staff also provided background information on natural resource overlays (soils/slope/wetlands) showing areas which could potentially allow an increased level of development in case the Town wants to pursue other map amendments outside of their existing sewer district.

**Status of Land Classification Process for Essex Chain, Indian River and OK Slip Falls Parcels**

At the May 9 - 10 Agency meeting, the Board accepted the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and authorized staff to proceed to public hearings. Agency staff have arranged for eight public hearing locations (Ray Brook, Indian Lake, Newcomb, Minerva, Albany, Lake George, Rochester and New York City. A SEQR hearing notice has been published in the Environmental Notice Bulletin and a press release has been distributed by the Agency's Public Information Officer. APA staff will also be working with DEC and Nature Conservancy staff to arrange a field trip for Agency Board Members to the Essex Chain and Indian River parcels so that Board Members can become more familiar with the new State lands and classification issues.

**STATE LAND and UMP REVIEW ACTIVITIES**

State land staff met with DEC to discuss streamlining the process with State land JIF's.

State land staff presented the 2013 Classification Package to the Agency Board. State land staff continued to modify the DSEIS, arrange public hearing dates and locations, file notice in ENB, and advertise the public hearings.

State land staff worked with DEC and OPRHP on the issue of placing solar panels on the Hurricane Mountain Fire Tower as drafted in the UMP for this Historic Area.

State land and RASS staff met with Ausable River Association, The Town of North Elba, a landscape architect and DOT to discuss plans for completing the Route 86 Scenic Byway project.

State land staff participated in the 2013 Adirondack Research Consortium.

State land staff met with Dr. Ken Adams (retired SUNY Plattsburgh) and staff from the Albany Pine Bush in the Chazy Highlands Complex to review management issues with Jack Pine and Pitch Pine Barrens. State land staff attended a "scoping" meeting hosted by DEC in the Town of Saranac for the Chazy Highlands UMP.

State land, regulatory and RASS staff met with DEC at Taylor Pond Dam to discuss potential dam repairs. State land staff reviewed a proposed food locker for the High Peaks Wilderness. Additional information has been requested.

State land staff met with DEC planning staff in Indian Lake to provide comments on DEC's draft Interim Access Plan for the recently acquired Finch lands.

State land and RASS staff met with DEC Albany and regional staff concerning problems with the Bog River dam below Hitchins Pond and alternatives being considered to repair, replace or remove it.

State land staff attended the quarterly meeting of the Forest Preserve Advisory Committee meeting in Windham, NY. At the meeting staff gave a presentation concerning APA staff's recently initiated classification process for the recently acquired Finch lands.

State land staff conducted site visits with DEC staff in the Independence River Wild Forest concerning a proposed new snowmobile trail segment, a badly eroded segment of a horse trail, and a primitive tent site in need of new management.

State land staff attended meetings for the Region 5 Open Space committee.

State land staff met with DEC staff regarding review of the Saranac Lake Wild Forest Initial Draft UMP.

State land staff attended meeting for the Region 5 Open Space committee.

State land staff conducted site visit with DEC staff in Saranac Lakes Wild Forest concerning hiking trail bridge construction and wetland jurisdiction.

### CARTOGRAPHY AND INFORMATION ANALYSIS

GIS Data Management - Staff updated all Agency transaction locations mapped in Lookup System 2 for the past year. Search and analysis of all Agency transactions is vital to staff. Staff are working to improve the integration of transaction record keeping with GIS functions.

GIS Agency Program Administration/Training - Staff provided training to Operations Division staff covering tips for best use of Lookup System 2 for searching property ownership, creating adjacent land owner lists, mapping past Agency transactions, and other common mapping procedures. Several Legal staff also attended.

GIS Hardware/Software Management - Staff edited Lookup System printing scripts as a result of state mandated replacement of all Agency HP printers to Lexmark printers.

GIS Map Production - Staff produced a map of Arbor Day tree plantings at the Agency office in Ray Brook.

Arbor Day / Earth Day Commemoration Map



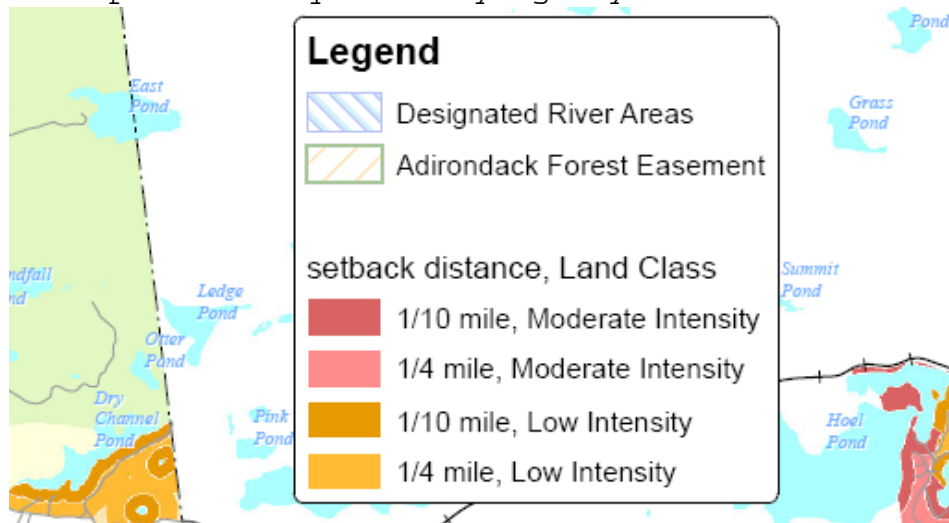
Tree	Year	Person	Species
A		Greenleaf Chase	Sugar Maple
B	2003	John Stock	Red Spruce
C	2004	Harold Jerry	White Pine
D	2005	Breck and Barb Chapin	Sugar Maple
E	2006	Donald Hill	Red Spruce
F	2007	Dr. Barbara McMartin	White Pine
G	2008	Peter Berle	Hemlock
H	2009	Agency Secretaries	White Pine
I	2011	Clarence Petty	Red Maple
J	2012	Dr. Edwin Ketchledge	Red Maple
K	2013	Richard Lawrence	Red Maple

Source: Aerial, Imaged USDA USGS AEX GeoEye, Geotrac, Aerials, GIS, and the GIS User Community

GIS Consultation - Staff provided historic APLUDP/SLMP land classification acreage statistics and GIS data to Kelly Holzworth, GIS Specialist with The LA Group.

GIS Consultation - Staff responded to a written request for GIS data covering the Adirondack region requested by the Algonquin to Adirondack research initiative.

GIS Consultation/ Map Production - Staff produced maps and analysis of setbacks from water in Moderate and Low Intensity Use areas for the park as requested by Agency Counsel.



GIS Map Production - Staff provided edits to two maps for the "Adirondack Park Outdoor Recreation Strategy" publication as requested by Jim Connolly.

GIS Hardware/Software Management - Staff documented Agency needs and attempts to replace the 1980's vintage computer planimeter equipment still in use by staff to measure area and distance on map plans received by the Agency. The digitizing table and IBM DOS PC have been used for more than 20 years providing useful and important information to staff. Alternatives may include using even older analog equipment or scanning hardcopy manuscripts and heads-up digitizing on screen.

GIS Hardware/Software Management - Staff installed ArcPad software on the GIS server to facilitate advanced GPS functions on Agency field data collection equipment.

GIS Consultation - Staff met with RASS, SUNY-ESF, and Natural Heritage staff via conference call to discuss how we will complete and re-delegate grant tasks related to data management and data dissemination for both Phase I and Phase II of EPA funded projects.



Web Content Management - Staff changed text on several hundred pages from "Translate" services to "Language Access Services" as requested by Administration.

Web Content Management - Staff posted Dan Kelleher's "Provide Vision Local Government Day 2013" slide presentation on the Business/Economy webpage.

Web Content Management - Staff posted "APA Draft Consensus Rule Making" content.

Web Content Management - Staff managed monthly mailing content updates.

Web Content Management - Staff updated the Agency's homepage to include information on the 2013 State land classification action.

Administrative Tasks - Staff prepared monthly reports.

Administrative Tasks - Staff attended the mandated online course "Project Sunlight Substantive Training."

Administrative Tasks - Staff attended the mandated online course "Equal Employment Opportunity: Rights and Responsibilities."

May GIS/Web Task Summary:

Task	Count
GIS Agency Program Administration	1
GIS Consultation	4
GIS Hardware/Software Management	3
GIS Map Production	26
GIS Data Management	4
GIS Training	2
LUA Boundary/Blue Line Inquiry	9
Map Amendments Review	2
State Land Classification/Reclassification Review	1
Web Administration	0
Web Content Management	5
Administrative Tasks	6