



*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.*

**February 13 - 14, 2014**

**Thursday, February 13, 2014**

**AGENCY MEMBERS, DESIGNEES AND EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT**

Leilani Crafts Ulrich, Chairwoman  
Richard Booth, Member  
Sherman Craig, Member  
Karen Feldman, Member  
Arthur Lussi, Member  
William Thomas, Member  
F. William Valentino, Member  
Dan Wilt, Member  
Brad Austin, Designee, NYS Department of Economic Development  
Lynne Mahoney, Designee, NYS Department of State  
Robert Stegemann, Designee, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
Terry Martino, Executive Director  
James Townsend, Counsel

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD PRESENT**

Frederick Monroe, Executive Director

**AGENCY STAFF PRESENT**

Keith McKeever, Public Information Director  
Kathy Regan, Senior Natural Resources Planner  
Edward Snizek, Supervisor, Natural Resource Analysis  
Daniel Kelleher, Special Assistant for Economic Affairs  
Elaine Caldwell, Administrative Officer  
Brian Grisi, Local Planning Assistance Specialist  
Sarah Reynolds, Associate Council  
Jennifer McAleese, Senior Attorney  
Mary Palmer, KBS1  
Amy Hall, Calculations Clerk 2

## **DRAFT AGENCY MINUTES**

February 13 - 14, 2014

Page 2

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](http://nysapa.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2).

Chairwoman Ulrich called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

### **1. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **2. Opening Comments**

Chairwoman Ulrich acknowledged the local athletes who are participating in the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. She congratulated them and their families. Mr. Lussi added that about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all the athletes have trained in New York and at the Olympic Training Center.

Ms. Ulrich also welcomed Professor Chris Robinson from Clarkson University and his students that are taking part in an Adirondack Semester.

### **3. Board Committee Assignments**

Chairwoman Ulrich announced the following Committee Chair appointments: Sherman Craig, Regulatory Programs; Karen Feldman, Enforcement; Dan Wilt, Local Government Services; Bill Thomas, Public Awareness and Communications and Karen Feldman, Legal Affairs. On motion of Mr. Valentino, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Agency unanimously approved all appointments.

### **4. Approval of December 11-13, 2013 Draft Agency Minutes**

Mr. Valentino commented that the minutes do not capture the comments of the Board Members.

Chairwoman Ulrich stated that the Agency is in the administrative process to replace Deb Lester. She said that if there are any changes or omissions that Board members have it would be a great help if they could give them in writing. She said a CD copy of the meeting has been made available to the Board.

Mr. Craig asked in terms of minutes if written minutes were more important than a recording.

Mr. Townsend stated that written minutes were an impression of what is said, and that audio captures what is actually said. He also noted that the audio is archived.

## **DRAFT AGENCY MINUTES**

February 13 - 14, 2014

Page 3

Mr. Lussi stated that the Board was not voting on what is recorded but written minutes which are not as clear as an audio. He also said that the minutes should make each member's comments more clear.

Mr. Booth asked if we should put aside the approval until next month.

Chairwoman Ulrich suggested that they be tabled until tomorrow giving Members time to look at their notes from December's meeting and to be able to make their suggestions for changes or omissions. The Board unanimously agreed to table consideration of the minutes.

She thanked Sue Streiff for the work she did on the December minutes, and Mary Palmer for her help with February's minutes. She also commented that this was a good conversion to start a new year, and asked the Board to assist their committees' Support Staff with the minutes.

### **4. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Martino presented the Board with the Agency's 2013 accomplishments which included the Annual Report. She noted that in the Annual Report there is a link for each division showing a more detailed report. She acknowledged Keith McKeever for his work on the Annual Report. She also commented on the Board's Highlights for the year, which included 11 meetings, which included from four 1 day meetings, six 2 day sessions and one 3 day session.

Ms. Martino also reported that the 2014 State Land Master Plan has been updated and has been updated on the website. She thanked Kathy Regan and John Barge for their assistance with the SLMP and new Land Use Map.

Ms. Martino added that she was deeply appreciative of the staff, the commitment of the Board and Chairwoman Ulrich in doing our work and ensuring the Agency's accountability.

Chairwoman Ulrich thanked Ms. Martino and the staff for the amount of work that has been done in the last two months. She added that it was remarkable doing the Annual Report, and division reports for the presentation.

### **5. Board Discussion**

Chairwoman Ulrich commented that this was the Board's time, as well as the Local Government Review Board, to share their thoughts, observations, suggestions for things that can be done better, and things that are important.

**DRAFT AGENCY MINUTES**

February 13 - 14, 2014

Page 4

Mr. Valentino commented that in the military after combat everyone gets together to do an after action report. He stated that after the ACR and the land classification votes they did not have the opportunity to get together to do that. He added that he hoped there would be that opportunity in the future to get together and brainstorm and process ways that everyone could do their job better.

Mr. Lussi stated that the Clarkson group working on technologies, solar, wind and bio-mass, and looking for ways to implement them. He stated that with a winter like this bio-mass is the way to go.

He also spoke about how we are losing vistas in the Park due to growth and proliferation of plant life. Part of the reason why people come to the park is to see the vistas. He said we have and we need to find a way to resolve that.

Mr. Booth stated that we need to come to grips regarding larger projects on larger sites. We do have to do a better job thinking about how development could occur closer to existing roads and minimize new road development. He added that a lot of people think that the Park Agency statute is not up to date but he disagrees with that. He said that it is written in a way that it gives this Agency a great deal of flexibility in terms of how to proceed. But we do have to think harder and clearer about large site development, that it is kept primarily near existing roads.

Mr. Booth also stated the decision on the Essex Chain came out in the right place, adding that it is important for staff to keep educating the Board about the State Land Master Plan. He said that the Board needs to talk about it regularly because there will be more classifications to decide, not only for us but for future Agency members.

He also noted the need to create a better mechanism for utility right-of-ways where they cross State lands. He noted that everyone, government and interest groups, have to put their heads together to come up with that mechanism from which everyone would benefit.

Lastly, Mr. Booth spoke about coming up with a plan for hamlets. He stated that instead of significantly limiting the more resource management parts of the Park; we need to encourage development in hamlet areas. He added that a lot of these areas do not have great sewer or water systems and these are the places that lose out. He said Adirondack Communities should be at the top of the State's priority list.

Mr. Wilt stated in reference to the recent land classification he thinks it is important to see more cooperation with State and local government. He said that it is healthy to get all the stakeholders

**DRAFT AGENCY MINUTES**

February 13 - 14, 2014

Page 5

and representatives involved in making those decisions together. He added that this is one step in the right direction as far as the Park goes.

Ms. Scozzafava acknowledged the excellent job the Agency did on many decisions by trying to take a balanced approach on the way things are done in the Park. She added that even though it is not really within our role, though it might be in economic development, it is important to look at the health and welfare of the communities and its residents. We need to talk about issues such as healthcare, telecommunications, emergency preparedness, food sources and access to medical providers. She stated that maybe this could be taken into consideration in the Community Spotlight. She noted that the spotlights are wonderful and that town Supervisors want to talk about the good things in their towns, but it would be good to also hear what their biggest challenges are and their needs.

Chairwoman Ulrich stated that these are excellent suggestions, and a good way to broaden out the Community Spotlight. She added that there are times that it is difficult for Supervisors to come in, but it would be good to hear the problems as well as the successes.

Fred Monroe commented that his biggest concern is the response time for emergency personnel and he hopes that the Board can come up with some recommendations to deal with that.

He added that there are some great opportunities for the coming year as well as a huge challenge. The challenge being invasive species in State waters, which has come to a point where they are dealt with by local governments and environmental groups. He added that it has gone beyond the ability of those two entities to deal with them. He said he would like to see the State engage more in aquatic invasive species. This is something that can have a huge impact on our economy.

Mr. Monroe also noted the huge opportunities for several Adirondack communities. With one being bio-mass projects, the other a wood pellet manufacturer. He would like to see the Agency streamline the permitting process when someone wants to locate here and create jobs.

He added that he would like to see the series of half day meetings continue between local government and the Agency, stating that they were very helpful to resolve some of the pinch points between our respective roles.

Mr. Monroe stated that there has been discussion on the Review Board of the need for a comprehensive review of the State Land Master Plan. He said that the Agency has spent tremendous amounts of time

**DRAFT AGENCY MINUTES**

February 13 - 14, 2014

Page 6

doing work arounds on a lot of the issues related to the State Land Master Plan because it has not been amended on a regular basis. He added that it fosters litigation when the decisions that are made are work arounds and are not consistent with the Plan.

Lastly, Mr. Monroe said he would like to see something modeled on the Federal coordination requirement where federal law and regulations have been amended to require coordination between local and federal government on many projects. He added that he would like to see State agencies required to work with local government. He also said that if it was mandated in law it would respect the role of local government for the health, safety and welfare of their people.

Mr. Stegemann emphasized the success that occurs when there is collaboration between the Agencies and the respect there is for each other's roles. He stated that projects can be stopped dead in their tracks, but because of the willingness to communicate and collaborate, many have been worked through.

He also stated that he hopes the bio-mass project does not get stuck because not only here, but everywhere, bio-mass is part of the solution.

Mr. Stegemann commented on the implementation and development of UMPs. He stated that UMP packages are going to be very demanding this year. He said that we need to make sure that everyone is pulling in the same direction and getting as much out of our resources as we can. He noted that this all ties in with the vibrancy of communities, in making sure that we do things in ways to help makes these communities vibrant, at the same time applaud and make known these resources we have in our back yard. He added that we need to be smart about how we help these communities and their ability to grow appropriately.

He also commented on invasive species and what a huge problem it has become and communication with one another will help. Mr. Stegemann said utility right-of-ways are being looked at very hard.

Ms. Feldman stated that it has been an incredible year, and there were so many positive things that have gone on as well as for the future. She wanted to reiterate what others had mentioned, that communication, working together and trusting each other is very important. So many of the decisions we are making really relate to trusting people. She added that she is really excited for 2014 because we have a lot of building blocks that we have started for the future.

**DRAFT AGENCY MINUTES**

February 13 - 14, 2014

Page 7

Ms. Feldman said that if there was a way that we could do some long term planning, whether over 5 years or 10 years, because we are sometimes just reacting to things that are in front of us at the moment. We need to do things that keep up with the times, whether it is amendments or rules and regulations.

She also said that she liked the field trips, and would like to see as many things as possible that they will be making decisions on.

Ms. Feldman commented on budget and staffing saying that we all know that the Governor has asked agencies across the board to cut 2 percent, and are all doing more with less. And that goes to the points made that we all need to come together as much as possible and share the resources that we have.

She stated that some hamlets have no more room for development and we need to look at what we can do to help them in that area. Some hamlets have mostly State owned land, and if we want to look for more development then the hamlets have to have more land to do that.

Lastly, Ms. Feldman said there is a website portal that has just gone online in January, [visitadirondacks.com](http://visitadirondacks.com). They are putting information in there town - by - town fishing and hunting opportunities. She said that is something that could be terrific and could direct people to come to the Adirondacks.

Mr. Craig stated that he wants as much as anyone to be able to solve some of the important big issues such as sewer, water and invasive species. He said that we need to focus on what we can do. There should be some discussion on better definitions about large development. He added that there has been a lack of discussion about our responsibility to do reviews for wildlife.

He added that there are some issues on the water quality and storm water regulations. He said that there are some things that we can discuss on private land issues and possibly make some modifications. He said the Board has been committed to changes, at the very least regulatory change if not statutory change. He added that while he thinks that the big ideas are extremely important for the Adirondack Park, we have limited ability and staff to make those changes so we should focus on the two things that we can focus on.

Mr. Austin said that there have been a lot of great points that have been raised already and limited time to discuss them, so with that he passed the mike to Mr. Thomas.

Mr. Thomas stated that one of the things he has always been interested in is the ability of towns to change their hamlet boundaries. Towns are developing in different ways and different

**DRAFT AGENCY MINUTES**

February 13 - 14, 2014

Page 8

areas, and they need the opportunity to change those hamlet boundaries to reflect what they need today. This ties into the wastewater treatment issue, there has to be some funding to allow hamlets to develop within the hamlet because that is where we want development to happen. He said there is no way a hotel is going to come into a small town without it having a wastewater treatment system.

He also commented on ways to get more towns interested in planning. He stated that there are 103 towns and villages in the Park, many have no zoning or planning at all. We have to get to those towns so that they can develop and become more a part of the outside world.

Mr. Thomas said that he would like to find some way to promote hiking/biking on State lands adjacent to hamlets. He added that there are a lot of wilderness areas that are close to hamlets, and we need to promote our hiking and biking and use of State land. We have a lot of State land in the Park and we need to be able to use it effectively.

He said that he would like to see more time spent for town supervisors to report to the Board. We should do more outreach for supervisors to come here and talk about their communities. He said they like to talk about the good things in their communities and we need to hear that. We need to hear what they are interested in doing for their future.

Lastly, Mr. Thomas noted that Mr. Valentino started the Public Awareness and Communications Committee and we need to do some work on that. He said it would be better to get communication out on what we do, as well as what we provide for the people.

Chairwoman Ulrich added that the days of the Agency being the Agency that people loved to hate are over. The dedication from this staff is phenomenal.

Chairwoman Ulrich commented on a statement that the Governor made at the end of year cabinet meeting on what public servants do for this State. The time and energy they give up from family and the financial sacrifices they make from working in private service versus what is available in public service as it gets harder with the budgets.

She said that the Governor also mentioned people's health, and how it is sometimes challenged by the endless work of public service. She added that this was something she did not take lightly as she looks around at some of our retirees, and as she looks around at the stress that the staff went through especially at the end of the



**DRAFT AGENCY MINUTES**

February 13 - 14, 2014

Page 9

year. Hurry up and wait is part of the reality of public service, and the management of stress is something that is constant.

Chairwoman Ulrich stated that a change that did occur in our towns and communities was their looking at State lands as an economic benefit. That was not the case as far back as December 2012, but by Local Government Day 2013 there was a different conversation about ways that towns could embrace the State land versus fighting against more State land acquisition. She noted that was not something she was encouraging but would like to see the support of the budgets to maintain the land we have first and foremost.

She said the thing we did not talk about was the major step that occurred in November of the two constitutional amendments passing that related to the Adirondack Park. That was not our doing, that is not ours to report, but it is ours to acknowledge. There was something that happened for the entire State to step up and support things that needed to occur here. She said that was different and helped to lay the groundwork for other changes that this Board may want to support and encourage.

Chairwoman Ulrich said the State is seeing incredible things about this Park, and about the leadership. She said there is recognition that there is thoughtful dialogue. We do not agree all the time but there is thoughtful dialogue and balance in the work that is being done here.

She commented on the recreation portal, and while she was in Florida the number of days she saw upstate New York North Country ads on television. She said it is unprecedented the amount of attention we are getting. She said that this will be good for our communities but will also be a pressure on us as a regulatory board. She advised us to be wise about what we do and to anticipate what we have as the new pressures.

**DRAFT AGENCY MINUTES**

February 13 - 14, 2014

Page 10

**Friday, February 14, 2014**

**AGENCY MEMBERS, DESIGNEES AND EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT**

Leilani Crafts Ulrich, Chairwoman  
Richard Booth, Member  
Sherman Craig, Member  
Karen Feldman, Member  
Arthur Lussi, Member  
William Thomas, Member  
F. William Valentino, Member  
Dan Wilt, Member  
Brad Austin, Designee, NYS Department of Economic Development  
Lynne Mahoney, Designee, NYS Department of State  
Robert Stegemann, Designee, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
Terry Martino, Executive Director  
James Townsend, Counsel

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD PRESENT**

Frederick Monroe, Executive Director

**AGENCY STAFF PRESENT**

Richard Weber, Deputy Director Regulatory Programs  
Brian Grisi, Local Planning Assistance Specialist  
Shaun LaLonde, Soil and Water Engineering Specialist  
Kevin Prickett, Senior Natural Resources Planner  
Mary Palmer, KBS 1

Chairwoman Ulrich opened the meeting at 11:05 AM for committee reports.

She also acknowledged John Barge and the Planning Division for their work on the new 2014 Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map which includes the new State land that was acquired last fall. She also stated that it is on the Agency website, and asked if copies could be available for Board members. Executive Director Martino said that we would have copies available for them.

Chairwoman Ulrich also thanked the Board for their corrections to December's minutes. She stated that approval of December's minutes would be tabled until next month so staff will have time to appropriately edit.

1. **Committee Reports**

Regulatory Programs Committee

**DRAFT AGENCY MINUTES**

February 13 - 14, 2014

Page 11

Mr. Craig reported that the Committee met, approved its minutes and unanimously approved all items on the agenda.

- 2005-182R2 Linda and Walter Dlugolecki

The project is located in the Town of Wilmington, Essex County. The tax map number of the property site is Section 26.4, Block 1, Parcel 10.112.

The project is a second renewal of a permit for the construction of a single family dwelling on a vacant lot, jurisdictional pursuant to settlement agreement E2005-47.

On motion by Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Booth, the proposed Dlugolecki permit renewal was unanimously approved.

- 2014G-1 Management of Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species In or Within 100' of Wetlands in the Adirondack Park.

On motion by Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Valentino, General Permit 2014G-1 was unanimously approved to proceed to Public Comment.

- 2014G-2 Access to and Replacement of Utility Poles in Wetlands

On motion by Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Lussi, General Permit 2014G-2 was unanimously approved to proceed to Public Comment.

Park Ecology

Mr. Valentino reported that Agency RASS supervisor Ed Snizek gave a brief discussion of the monthly report and changes that are constantly trying to improve the format.

The Committee had the second reading of the guidelines for invasives and the use of Triclopyr. The committee recommended authorization of the guidance for use which was agreed to by the Board. Chairwoman Ulrich stated that the guidance will be finalized by Mr. Snizek and he does not need to bring that back to the Board.

He said the Agency had a presentation from Agency staff members Shaun LaLonde and Greg Bendell on stormwater jurisdiction, rationale methods and coordination.

State Lands Committee

Mr. Booth stated that State Lands met and had presentations on the Unit Management Plans (UMPs) for St. Regis and Hurricane Mountain.

## **DRAFT AGENCY MINUTES**

February 13 - 14, 2014

Page 12

- On motion of Mr. Booth, seconded by Mr. Stegemann, the St. Regis UMP was unanimously approved to move forward to Public Hearing
- On motion of Mr. Booth, seconded by Mr. Craig, the Hurricane Mountain UMP was unanimously approved to move forward to Public Hearing

### **2. Interim Reports**

The Administration, Economic Affairs, Park Policy and Planning, Enforcement, Legal Affairs, Local Government Services and Public Awareness and Communications Committees did not meet this month. Monthly reports were included in the mailing.

#### Legal Affairs Committee

Ms. Feldman stated that the Committee did not meet. Mr. Townsend added that in addition to the statistics the Board receives from the Jurisdictional and Enforcement offices there is also a Quarterly Report of Guidances that have been issued and a couple of flyers that have been updated. They are there for information and the official versions are on the Agency's website.

#### Local Government Services

Mr. Wilt stated that the Committee met this morning to round out the agenda for the Local Government Conference, which will coincide with the Agency's April meeting. He also noted that registration information will be in the March mailing package. Mr. Wilt also commented on a new item for this year's Conference, the Best Community Event Award.

Chairwoman Ulrich thanked Mr. Wilt for taking on the Local Government Services Committee noting that he has a great deal of local government background experience. She also thanked Mr. Thomas for all his years chairing this committee.

Chairwoman Ulrich noted that one thing that was done last year during Local Government Day week was the Local Government Review Board meeting here and it might not be possible logistically this year. She commented that this had been a wonderful opportunity for some interaction between the Local Government Review Board and the Agency and would like to make sure they do not miss that opportunity hopefully before the summer.

Chairwoman Ulrich commented on the beginning of the meeting with Full Agency going over the Annual Report and having a very full and thoughtful conversation about the future, and the thoughts from this Board of what is the greatest priority to this Agency and the Park.

## **DRAFT AGENCY MINUTES**

February 13 - 14, 2014

Page 13

She noted that the Executive Director will be having a similar conversation with managers of the Agency, and that she is looking forward to the Agency's plans for the future.

### **4. Public Comment**

Robert Glennon thanked the Agency for having Public Comment opportunities. He also referenced two books; The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History by Elizabeth Kolbert; and, The World Without Us by Alan Weisman.

Dan Plumley, Adirondack Wild, thanked the Agency for protecting the Essex Chain Lakes as motor less. He added that the entire Finch Classification was a very bold and exciting step for the Adirondack Park, and for the Essex Chain, and generations to come will thank the Board. Mr. Plumley also thanked Mr. Townsend, Chairwoman Ulrich, Executive Director Martino and all the staff that are involved with the forest roundtable. Mr. Plumley also touched on the Jay Mountain Wilderness and was advised by Chairwoman Ulrich and Agency Counsel to defer this portion of his comment to a future time.

All public comments are available on the Agency website.

### **5. Local Government Review Board Comment**

Mr. Monroe stated that last spring there was conversation of a bill that had some aspects of a transfer of development rights. He stated that it is generally supported by local governments, and it is something that some environmental groups would be willing to discuss also. He noted that it would be helpful to have a meeting to see if any progress can be made on a bill that the Legislature would consider on transferable development rights, and that it would be helpful to communities and also help environmental groups accomplish some of their goals.

### **6. Member Comment**

Ms. Scozzafava said she enjoyed the discussion on different priorities and the Agency Agenda for 2014. She added that it is always nice to have those discussions and for people to be able to listen to our thoughts and ideas. She said she is looking forward to the Local Government Conference in April stating that it was a wonderful venue for State agencies to work local communities in the Park. She wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day and safe travels.

Mr. Wilt stated that since the Agency classified the Finch land, his opinion about the State buying land has changed and it was all based on how we made this decision, how everyone worked together and came up with a very good plan that works. We came up with an excellent

**DRAFT AGENCY MINUTES**

February 13 - 14, 2014

Page 14

resolution to the problem. He was impressed and very proud to be a part of this group.

Mr. Booth stated that every time we hear a presentation on Invasives he goes away even more concerned. He said eventually this is going to require dedicated funding that does not depend on getting grants or budget items. He added just to put an idea out there this it is certainly feasible. He noted that if there were a tax of 1/100 of a penny on every gallon of water, whether it's a public or private system, and 1/100 of a penny on every gallon of sewage, that would generate in excess of \$100 million dollars a year. He added that people have to be willing to look at this in a longer term. He wished everyone a safe travel.

Mr. Lussi commented on a book by author Bill McKibben which discussed oil and honey. He stated he has developed allergies. He said that the thoughtful notes this book discussed was that local honey contains medicinal values and antibodies which help control allergies. He added that producing honey locally and is also a perfect economic opportunity for our Park.

Mr. Valentino stated that he would like to thank Terry and the staff for all their hard work that went into the list of accomplishments that was presented yesterday.

Mr. Stegemann acknowledged how proud he was of Captain Streiff and his team, and the other law enforcement staff, for the honorable exit that was given to the deceased Australian soldier, adding that it meant so much to the people in Australia. He emphasized how the coordination of the Rangers with the State and Local Police was extraordinary. He said that so much happens that's good when we coordinate with one another, and we take down the fences as much as we can. He added that we all have our different places of responsibility and there is so much more that can happen.

Mr. Stegemann applauded the discussion on Renovate and the coordination with one another. He reflected that it goes to the efficiencies and the coordination between DEC and APA. He added that we are doing a lot of it and he wanted to applaud it.

Mr. Stegemann noted that there were two UMPs approved for public comment. He added that getting to that stage, getting them on the ground and available to the public is a proud moment for staff, and he acknowledged Josh Clague and Steve Guglielmi for their work.

Ms. Feldman stated that one of the reasons we are all here sitting at this table is to make a difference and make things better for the people we represent. She thanked the Chairwoman and staff for our open discussions about very important issues and she hopes we can

**DRAFT AGENCY MINUTES**

February 13 - 14, 2014

Page 15

accomplish some of these things, such as establishing a fund that is directed to combat invasive species. We can actually make a difference in people's lives, protect and preserve this Park going forward, and do it in a way that everybody benefits. She added that she is proud to be a member and is really looking forward to 2014. Ms. Feldman wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Mr. Craig agreed with Ms. Feldman that we hope we are doing some good. He commented on the two ice outs in Wanakena so far this winter. In two cycles, torrential rains and fluctuating temperatures eliminated the ice pack on the Upper Oswegatchie and a ten foot wave of ice slabs came down through Wanakena and eliminated the walking bridge that has been there for well over 100 years.

He added that it is a central part of the little town, but does not fit into existing financial criteria for reconstruction so DOT has no funding. He said that people have already started fundraising, but if anyone knows of any funding source to help rebuild this, it would be appreciated. He said a great deal of donated labor will be provided, but the bridge must meet regulatory standards of being strong enough and safe enough as well as meeting criteria to remain on the Historic Registry.

Mr. Austin commented that the Annual Report overview was tremendous, and that it shows the impressive work that is done by staff. He added that there was one number that really jumped out, the one division alone that did 3700 plus phone consultations. He said he did not know how that was even possible. Ms. Martino stated that is why when staff call Brian Ford on any given day you do not always get through to him immediately.

Mr. Austin also noted that as we celebrate one iconic heart today, Valentine's Day, there is another. He encouraged everyone to visit the "I Love NY" website and to please plan a trip to New York.

Mr. Thomas said he was impressed by the update to the State Land Master Plan that was done by the staff in such a timely manner, as well as the new map. He added that you don't expect a turn around as quickly as it happens here and was impressed by the staff.

Mr. Thomas thanked Shaun Lalonde for the education on the JIF procedure. He said although he did not know too much about JIF's, he now knows a lot more about them than he did at the beginning of the day. Any other comments he might have today, he deferred to Mr. Booth, who spoke very well for him.

Mr. Townsend wished everyone safe travels.

**DRAFT AGENCY MINUTES**

February 13 - 14, 2014

Page 16

Executive Director Martino said the Annual Report gives us a perspective of closing the book on a year. She added that she mentioned a number of staff names yesterday and certainly did not mention everybody, but today she would like to hold all the staff up in terms of recognition for all the work that they did throughout the year 2013. She said all the staff names and manager names are in the Annual Report. She thanked everyone for their contributions.

She noted that with the Board discussion yesterday, our feet are firmly planted in 2014. She said we look forward to the upcoming staff work and what our targets are. She added that she was appreciative. Ms. Martino wished everyone safe travels.

Chairwoman Ulrich offered two additions she wanted to mention for this year: the float plane study that the Agency and DEC committed to, and added that she keeps looking forward to new ways to deal with the word "clearcut", what it means to everyone in the room and to the whole State.

Chairwoman Ulrich commented on how much was accomplished in the State listening to the issues within the Adirondacks and understanding them so much better. She also acknowledged Executive Director Martino's skills in keeping everyone focused and organized, as well as accomplishing and meeting deadlines.

Chairwoman Ulrich noted that as we leave for a three-day weekend, it should be a magnificent day for anyone who is on the slopes. She added that we have experienced, as others have, the devastation to our economy when we have a three-day weekend of rain. We are dependent upon the tourism economy and to have this kind of snow is phenomenal. She reminded everyone to take care of their neighbors in need who cannot enjoy it. Ms. Ulrich wished safe travels to all.

**6. Adjournment**

By unanimous consent the Agency adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

LCU/TDM/mbp/sas

Attachments:

---

Leilani Crafts Ulrich, Chairwoman