



TO: Terry Martino
FROM: Walt Linck and John Barge
DATE: March 31, 2014
RE: Planning Division Activity Report for March 2014

This report reflects monthly activity of the State land and other planning staff within the Division.

APSLMP CONSULTATIONS

UMP Development/Review

- Extended the public comment period and postponed the public hearing to April 2 for the Hurricane Mountain and St. Regis Mountain Historic Area UMPs due to inclement weather.
- Reviewed and provided informal comments to DEC on a team draft of an Interim Stewardship Plan for the Essex Chain Lakes PA and Blue Mountain WF area.
- Received and began review of a draft UMP Amendment to the Bog River Complex (Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest) UMP. The amendment is to allow for designation of foot and ski trails in two locations and formalization of three parking areas/trailheads associated with them. These trails and parking areas exist as informal improvements currently being used by some members of the public, but which should be designated, maintained and - in one case - rerouted using Best Management Practices.
- Conducted a joint site visit with DEC staff regarding a likely proposal for construction of a bridge over the outlet of Palmer Pond, just downstream of the Palmer Pond dam, in Vanderhacker Mountain Wild Forest near North Hudson and the Northway. This proposal, if developed, would be described in an amendment to the existing UMP for the unit.

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- Researched past APA reviews of DEC boat launch reconstruction proposals and met with DEC staff regarding these.
- Organized extensive field work data related to review of a team draft of the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest (SLWF) UMP.
- Provided comments regarding a non-conforming bridge in the Saranac Lake Wild Forest as part of review of the draft UMP.

APA/DEC MOU Consultation

- Reviewed, with RASS staff, a bridge replacement project in the Pigeon Lake Wilderness. The project will require a wetlands (General) permit.
- Reviewed a proposal for reconstruction of a DEC administrative road in the Black River Wild Forest.
- Reviewed a proposal for reconstruction of a lean-to in the Sentinel Wilderness.

Permit Review

- Reviewed a permit application for road construction adjacent to the Million Dollar beach in Lake George and determined it is compliant with the APSLMP. (Updated plans for the boat launch have not been received; therefore a compliance determination has not been made.)

WSR Rivers Review/Consultation

- Reviewed a permit application submitted by DOT for relocation of a utility line along State Route 8 in a section of West Canada Creek designated as a "Recreational River" in the vicinity of Nobleboro.

APSLMP REVISION

State Land Classification

- Planned a March field visit to the Thousand Acre Swamp parcel of new State land in Edinburg (to take advantage of frozen ground), but rescheduled it for April 1.

PARK POLICY AND PLANNING

Parkwide Recreation Planning

- Consulted with Legal staff concerning enhancement of scenic vistas along highway corridors within the Adirondack Park and certain relevant policy considerations.

Invasive Species Control

- Reviewed types of boat rinse stations and practices to become more knowledgeable about management and control of aquatic invasive species.

Outreach

- Spoke with a citizen about the Agency's classification process. This person was very concerned that certain newly acquired TNC/Finch lands appeared to have already been classified and that there had been no opportunity for public comment. (This citizen had been reading a DEC web page document that incorrectly identified a preferred classification; the document has since been removed from the page.)
- Spoke with a citizen about the history and current status of the Mt. Van Hoevenberg Unit Management Plan.

Other

- Assisted an owner of private land on Piseco Lake learn more about the development potential of the property, as well as its future development potential under various possible ownership scenarios. Directed the owner to additional State and private resources.

ADMINISTRATION (State Land Staff)

Reporting

- Reviewed and contributed to a draft of the Agency's "Year Ahead: 2014 Plan."
- Prepared monthly report.

Agency Coordination/Efficiency

- Continued developing a more efficient process for review of State land projects. The drafting and review of a new database and potential new forms is underway; follow-up meetings with the ACE team and the Executive Director will occur.

Training

- Assisted other APA staff at the CEO Training workshop held in Lake Placid on March 5.

Website Development

- Updated Agency's State land webpage to address orphaned files and updated links to new APSLMP.

Other

- Met with Administration Division staff regarding a group exercise policy.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT REVIEW

- Completed historic resource reviews for several projects as part of the NYS Historic Preservation Act in the following locations: the Town of Lake George, Town of Lake Luzerne, Town of Ausable, and the Town of Ticonderoga.

March State Land Tasks Summary:

Task	Count	Year to Date
APSLMP Consultations	12	38
APSLMP Revision	1	5
Park Policy and Planning	3	10
Administration	6	13
Historic Preservation Act Review	4	7

GIS AGENCY PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Consultation

- John Barge attended and presented at a meeting hosted by William Johnson, Geographic Information Officer, Office of

the CTO at the State Office Campus in Albany on Friday, March 21. The meeting, attended by approximately 30 state agency GIS technology staff, was an overview and discussion of the state's two and a half month evaluation of Esri's ArcGIS Online mapping and database system. Barge gave a demonstration of the APA's experience using the online mapping system.

- Provided a GIS Lookup System (LUS) demonstration to Regulatory Program staff at their monthly staff meeting. Taught how to determine latitude/longitude location coordinates and how to annotate, print, and save LUS maps.
- Began a mapping analysis of roads open to the public on Wild Forest lands in 1972 and today.
- Provided guidance to Meredith Ellis, DEC Fish and Wildlife Technician, regarding APA's suggestions how to improve software and data performance using stereo imagery on the photogrammetric workstation.
- Participated in presentation about the Agency's use of GIS to students from SUNY ESF's Ranger School.

Data Management

- Contacted Franklin County and Essex County Real Property Tax offices to request updated parcel data for Agency use. Both counties agreed to provide their data free of charge. Data were received and imported to the GIS and will be made available to all staff through the LUS at a later date. Updated data from all counties except Fulton have been received since the first of the year.
- Produced a new GIS layer of Wild Forest parcels as mapped on the March 1973 State Land Map facsimile. This layer will be used as a reference for trends analysis and management analysis. Approximately 1,202,000 acres (1,185,000 ac. land; 17,000 ac. water) were classified as Wild Forest according to this reconstructed database.
- Requested and received a copy of DEC Real Property state land ownership data for GIS reference. Parcel data is not complete for all areas of the park or for all time.

- Conducted quality control/quality assurance review of Regulatory Program and JIF transaction mapping records input by program staff since January 1st. Fixed 18 project sites and 7 JIF site location errors. Many errors have to do with mapping the same transaction twice.
- A copy of Agency MAD project transaction records was integrated with the GIS database to provide more meaningful project site information in the LUS. Staff can click on a project site on the map and retrieve sponsor name, status, determination disposition, pertinent dates and other key transaction data.
- Delivered an external hard drive to the GIS Program Office in Albany on March 21st for the Agency to receive new stereo imagery. The Agency uses these images for wetlands mapping and other stereo mapping photogrammetric work. Currently, the Agency relies on 2008 and 2009 imagery. New York State has acquired thousands of additional photos covering the park and provides them for free from the state GIS Program Office.

Hardware/Software Management

- Edited visibility analysis LUS programs as requested by Regulatory Program staff to provide concentric rings from target locations for visual reference on the map.
- Prepared GPS software and hardware to improve accuracy of planning boundaries on state lands.

GIS MAP PRODUCTION

- Produced printed copies of the 2014 Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map and State Land Map for Agency Board members.

MAP AMENDMENT REVIEW

- Wilmington - reviewed a potential Hamlet expansion concept at the request of the Town of Wilmington. On March 24, Planning, RASS and Legal staff met with the Town Supervisor, a consultant for the Town, and staff from NYS Department of State to discuss the conceptual Hamlet expansion.
- Caroga - at the request of the Fulton County Planning Department, began reviewing potential map amendments in the Town of Caroga.
- Chester - at the request of the Town supervisor, compiled a summary and maps of approved map amendments in the Town.

WEB ADMINISTRATION/CONTENT MANAGEMENT

- Chaired a meeting on March 5th of the Agency Web Team attended by representative staff from each division. The team: identified website content each division was responsible for; identified missing or outdated content; and discussed common language used by the Agency with the public to minimize unfamiliar terms on the website. Division staff provided John Barge with lists of edits needed for their content. Some staff are also trained to edit their own content. A meeting in April will be held to discuss changes to the documents and forms pages to better organize content.
- Provided training to Sue Streiff regarding posting documents and editing web pages.
- Provided training to Keith McKeever regarding editing the Agency homepage and other web content.
- Removed references to the Agency's Shared GIS CD from the website. Most GIS data is now available for download replacing the physical CD-ROM.
- Removed two job vacancy references from the website.

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ADMINISTRATION (GIS STAFF)

- Prepared monthly report.

March GIS/Web Tasks Summary:

Task	Count	Year to Date
GIS Agency Program Administration	11	49
GIS Map Production	18	21
LUA Boundary/Blue Line Inquiry	6	7
Map Amendments Review	3	6
State Land Classification/Reclassification Review	0	0
Web Administration/Content Management	5	19
Administrative Tasks	1	5

TM:WWL:KGP:KDR:MSK:JWB:lhb