



M E M O R A N D U M

**TO:** Terry Martino  
**FROM:** Brian Grisi  
**DATE:** April 30, 2014  
**SUBJECT:** Summary of the 2014 Adirondack Park Local Government Day Conference

The 17th Annual Adirondack Park Local Government Day Conference was held on April 9th and 10th, 2014 in Lake Placid, New York. The conference was attended by over 150 people on Wednesday and 306 people on Thursday. Forty-nine Park towns and villages were represented along with representatives from sixty-nine regional organizations, consulting firms, and State Agencies.

Wednesday afternoon opened with presentations on community development through recreation opportunities on Forest Preserve Lands, a new web-based marketing tool for Adirondack destinations, and a Park-wide economic plan. Brian Tower, President of AATV opened the session and it was moderated by Bill Farber, Chairman of the Adirondack Partnership. APA Chairwoman Leilani Crafts Ulrich along with representatives from participating State Agencies: Executive Deputy Commissioner Marc Gerstman, DEC; Director of Local Government Services Mark Pattison, DOS; Regional Director Roseanne Murphy, ESD; and EVP of State Marketing Strategy Richard Newman, ESD, discussed State government support of initiatives local government are undertaking and highlighted the work State agencies are conducting throughout the Park.

Also on Wednesday afternoon a concurrent training workshop on SEQR was provide by DOS and DEC staff with local government insights from Stuart Baker, Chairman, Ticonderoga Planning Board and Senior Planner, Town of Queensbury, and Laura Moore, Warrensburg Planning Board and Land Use Planner, Town of Queensbury. This was the first year an auxiliary training session was offered on Wednesday. The session was well attended and will likely be offered again next year.

On Thursday, Agency Chairwoman Leilani Crafts Ulrich and

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Executive Director Terry Martino welcomed the attendees at a morning plenary session. The conference highlighted community projects from around the Park and included presentations on infrastructure, entrepreneurial initiatives and municipal energy management. Training workshops presented by the Department of State and other professionals provided valuable instruction, advice and educational credits for local officials.

In addition to the APA GIS Help Desk, five APA staff took shifts throughout the event to be available to meet with local officials and answer a variety of questions involving APA process and procedures, land use planning and resource analyses.

The annual conference award was presented to the three Regional Economic Development Councils, Capital Regions, Mohawk Valley, and North County, recognized as Top Performers in the Governor's Regional Economic Development Council competition this past year. Projects funded through the Councils are already transforming the Adirondack economy with broadband expansion, biomass facilities, and infrastructure upgrades improving the economic opportunities of the Park. Through their guidance, the Councils have ushered in a new paradigm of economic advancement in the Adirondacks.

Building on the successes of the Regional Economic Development Councils, Richard Newman, EVP of State Marketing Strategy at Empire State Development provided the conference keynote address.

Now in its second year, the conference's Adirondack Park Excellence Competition recognized the "Best Community Events." The conference committee received forty-eight submissions from municipalities, civic and not-for-profit organizations. Events were judged on their demonstration of community spirit and involvement and the benefits provided to residents and visitors. Awards in eight categories and two special recognition events were presented during the luncheon program. A list of awards is available at: [www.apa.ny.gov/Local\\_Government](http://www.apa.ny.gov/Local_Government).

The conference is a collaborative effort presented by the Adirondack Park Agency, the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board, Empire State Development Corporation, NYS Department of State and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

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Many thanks go out to all the people who help make this conference happen. It is truly a collaborative effort on the parts of local governments and State agencies.

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cc: Robyn Burgess