



LEILANI CRAFTS ULRICH
Chairwoman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

Draft Minutes
State Lands Committee
June 2015 Agency Meeting

**MINUTES OF THE STATE LANDS COMMITTEE MEETING
June 11, 2015**

The State Lands Committee convened at approximately 1:00 p.m.

State Land Committee Members Present

Richard Booth, Sherman Craig, William Thomas, Robert Stegemann.

Other Members and Designees Present

Karen Feldman, Arthur Lussi, Daniel Wilt, Dierdre Scozzafava, Lani Ulrich.

Local Government Review Board

Fred Monroe.

Agency Staff Present

Terry Martino, James Townsend, Matthew McNamara, Walter Linck, Kathy Regan.

Planning Division Report (Kathy Regan)

Ms. Regan reviewed the division report.

Interagency Guidelines for Implementing BMP's for Control of Terrestrial and Aquatic Invasive Species on Forest Preserve Lands in the Adirondack Park (Peter Frank, DEC)

Mr. Frank reviewed the history of these BMP's as they have been applied to the APA/DEC MOU. The guidelines were first adopted in 2007. In 2010 the guidelines were amended to include Aquatic Invasive Species. In 2012 the guidelines were amended to include current EPA label requirements and DEC pesticide regulations. The major changes for the 2015 amendment are the addition of procedures for Early Detection and Rapid Response and the addition of Best Management Practices (BMP's) for Wild Parsnip. Minor changes include a new title ("Inter-Agency Guidelines for Implementing Best Management Practices to Control Terrestrial and Aquatic Invasive Species on DEC Administered Land of the Adirondack Park"), a section of definitions, minor clarifications and changes to general and specific control BMP's, as well as editorial alterations.

Motion made to authorize Chairwoman Ulrich to sign guidelines made by Mr. Lussi and seconded by Mr. Stegemann. All were in favor.

Pepperbox UMP (Matt McNamara)

The original amendment was for the construction of a lean-to at Gregg Lake along with designation of a foot trail for access. The amendment was changed following Public Comment to designate a tent site at that location, rather than construct the lean-to. The Department will re-evaluate the construction of a lean-to at Gregg Lake when they update the UMP. Mr. Thomas asked if the location of the lean-to was part of State Land that was formerly part of the Watson's East Triangle WF. Mr. Townsend replied to Mr. Thomas answering that the Gregg Lake portion of the Pepperbox Wild Forest had been included in the Watson's East Triangle until 2000.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Stegemann. All were in favor.

Meacham Lake Campground UMP Amendment (Matt McNamara)

Mr. McNamara presented a summary of this UMP amendment, which proposes the relocation of the boat launch facility. The proposed location is better suited for trailered launches, addresses aquatic invasive species issues, and incorporates a sound engineering design. Staff have determined this UMP amendment is consistent with the guidelines and criteria of the State Land Master Plan.

Motion was made by Mr. Craig and seconded by Mr. Stegemann. All were in favor.

Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor UMP Amendment (Rob Davies, DEC)

The proposal is to create a multi-use recreational trail over the entire length of the corridor. Public interest is high in the future of the corridor. Public opinion seems unanimous that the corridor is underutilized and has potential to foster economic growth. Mr. Davies noted that the rail is favored in communities south of Tupper Lake and the trail is favored in communities north of Tupper Lake.

Mr. Davies said alternative 7 is the preferred alternative. He said there were 6 alternatives in the original UMP and the amendment adds a seventh alternative which proposes: rail service from Remsen to Tupper Lake, a multi-recreational trail from Tupper Lake to Lake Placid, and the travel corridor classification under the SLMP being retained.

Mr. Thomas asked about safety on combined trails. Mr. Davies said field staff believe the corridor is wide enough for multiple uses and can accommodate all users where rails are removed.

Mr. Thomas asked about the right-of-way. Mr. Davies said there is a 100 foot right-of-way which offers the potential to explore multiple uses.

Mr. Booth asked about fencing and Mr. Davies said staff does not feel fencing is necessary.

Mr. Craig said there are opportunities for snowmobiling on easement properties and said this is important to the plan. It was noted that some important trails currently allowed by landowners are in need of permanent status.

It was noted that the corridor is listed in the State and National Registers of Historic places as the New York Central Railroad, Adirondack Division, Historic District.

Mr. Thomas asked about train speed limits and Mr. Davies said speed limits depend on corridor condition.

Mr. Booth asked if the trail is complete to Tupper Lake, how does the length compare to other places in the U.S. Mr. Davies said the trail is over 100 miles in length.

Mr. Davies discussed the Camoin Associates Economic Study. He noted the projected increase in visitor use if the multi-use corridor is developed as proposed.

A public hearing will be held July 8 in Tupper Lake. Public comment period will run until July 27. A final UMP will be released in October.

Essex Chain Lakes Complex UMP (Rob Davies, DEC)

Mr. Davies presented an overview of the Essex Chain Lakes Complex UMP. This UMP seeks to:

- Establish multi-use community connections between Indian Lake and Minerva.
- Construct a bridge over the Cedar River.
- Provide access for the disabled including for camping and waterway access.
- Establish equestrian and bicycle trails.
- Designate administrative roads.
- Enhance paddling opportunities.
- Manage continued floatplane use on First and Pine Lakes.
- Maintain seasonal access routes for Big Game hunting season.
- Maintain the historic Outer Gooley farmhouse.
- Designate motor vehicle access to Fifth Lake for people with disabilities.
- Designate motor vehicle access to Chain Lakes, by permit, for the general public.

Mr. Craig asked if Mr. Davies proposes to change the river regulations. Mr. Davies replied that they were not. Mr. Davies explained that under the river regulations a permit may be issued for motorized use, so there is no need to revise the regulations.

There was some confusion between this UMP's proposed snowmobile trails and the ones presented last month as part of the Community Connector Plan. Mr. Davies reminded the members that Section 5 was removed from the Community Connector Plan last month and that it is now included in this UMP. The Department explained that both Alternatives are for Class II Community Connector trails and that the purpose of that trail is to connect Indian Lake to Minerva. Only one of these two alternatives will be chosen. Mr. Thomas said the public would need to weigh the benefits of each alternative carefully.

Mrs. Ulrich asked if the plan discusses the vista at the Outer Gooley Club Farmhouse. Mr. Davies replied that it would not be maintained.

Ms. Feldman asked if there was a thorough discussion on the legal issues in the UMP. Mr. Davies said the plan provides additional information, but that it does not constitute a full legal analysis.

Ms. Feldman asked if the two public hearings (scheduled for July 7 in Newcomb and July 9 in Indian Lake) are enough. Mr. Davies believes that a 45 day public comment period is enough and is consistent with what they have done for other UMPs.

Mr. Wilt asked if the snowmobile trails are Class II. Mr. Davies affirmed that they were Class II Community Connector trails.

Mr. Monroe asked if there had been any consideration Towns or snowmobile clubs adopting these trails to assist the Department with maintenance. Mr. Davies replied that the Department considers both to be viable options and added that the Department appreciates this assistance.

Mr. Lussi stated that getting these plans at the last minute does not give the members and designees time to review them.

Mr. Thomas suggested it would be good to have visits to the area.

Mrs. Ulrich recommended board members attend the Public Hearings.

Mr. Booth stated that the Department has not thought out many issues. He mentioned items that concerned him. Legal concerns included interpretation of the APSLMP, the 2009 Snowmobile Trail Guidance, and the Wild, Scenic, Recreational Rivers Act (WSRRA). Mr. Booth stated that the objectives the Department has listed in the Plan can be accomplished, but not through the UMP process alone.

Mr. Booth suggested that the Department revisit the snowmobile trail alternatives and further refine its analysis. Mr. Booth clarified that the Administrative Roads referred to in the Plan are also known as State Truck Trails. He believes there are problems with using the pre-existing use of the roads to justify both the naming of administrative roads and using these roads without violating the WSRRA.

Mrs. Ulrich said there were several goals and that it would take legal minds to find ways to move forward. She stated that she believes there is still a lot of work to be done and that clearly the Towns are very interested in what happens. She then called on all the legal minds to come together to find ways to move forward

Mr. Monroe said that some are legal arguments but some are not. Some recommendations are based on snowmobile guidance which is not regulation - it is a flexible document. He asked for clarification on what are legal arguments and what are not. Mr. Monroe said he believed these issues can and should be addressed in a clearly legal way in order to avoid litigation.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:25 p.m.