



LEILANI CRAFTS ULRICH
Chairwoman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

**State Land Committee
June 9, 2016**

The State Land Committee convened at 1:00 pm.

State Land Committee Members Present:

Richard Booth, Chair, Sherman Craig, Arthur Lussi, William Thomas and Karyn Richards (DEC)

Other Members and Designees Present:

Leilani Ulrich, Chairwoman, Karen Feldman, Daniel Wilt, Dierdre Scozzafava (DOS) and Bradley Austin (DED)

Local Government Review Board:

Frederick Monroe, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present:

Richard Weber, James Townsend, Kathy Regan, Walt Linck, Matt McNamara, Mary Palmer.

Approval of March and May 2016 Draft Minutes

By motion of Mr. Lussi, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the March minutes were unanimously approved.

By motion of Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Lussi, the May minutes were unanimously approved with one minor punctuation change by Mr. Booth

Planning Division Report

Ms. Regan noted the planning division report. There were no comments.

Ms. Regan noted the items on the agenda. She said Walt Linck will be presenting the Proposed Final UMP amendment for Hammond Pond Wild Forest and staff will be requesting the board adopt the resolution on conformance with the SLMP. She said Josh Houghton (DEC) will present the Proposed Final Drafts for Eighth Lake, Limekiln Lake and Lake Durant and staff will be requesting authorization to proceed to public comment for SLMP conformance.

Ms. Regan said that Mr. Houghton will also be presenting the Cranberry Lake Campground Public Draft UMP. She added that the Department will be holding a public comment meeting at the campground on June 23rd and accepting public comment until July 15th, noting that staff would like the Board to consider approving a simultaneous public comment period with the Department.

Ms. Regan said the last item is a presentation by Max Wolckenhauer of a Public Draft for a UMP amendment for the Moose River Plains Wild Forest. This item is for information only.

Hammond Pond Wild Forest UMP Amendment

Mr. Linck reviewed the proposed facilities developments to the 1988 Unit Management Plan. He said that the proposal includes a paved pull-off delineated with boulders, and will have eight parking spaces with one being designated as an ADA parking area. He said there will be an accessible viewing area with a walkway from the parking area towards it, adding that there will also be a picnic area with tables and benches nearby.

Mr. Linck stated that there was a public comment period from May 13 through the 27 and no comments were received.

Mr. Lussi noted that the parking area is quite small and said that it is possible that more spaces may be needed. Ms. Regan said that it is used as a commuter parking spot and as it gets used more local people will be encourage to use a different area for that.

Mr. Booth asked the Committee for a motion adopting the resolution of conformance with the SLMP.

By motion of Mr. Lussi, seconded by Mr. Craig, the Board unanimously adopted the resolution.

Eighth Lake, Lake Durant and Limekiln Campground UMP's

Mr. Houghton reviewed the proposed management actions for the three campgrounds. Proposals include construction of new shower buildings, ticket booths and picnic pavilions. They also plan to upgrade electrical systems, replace overhead power lines with an underground system, install new drinking water systems and rehabilitate sewage systems. He added that they are also planning to resurface campground roads and restore a certain percentage of campsites annually.

Mr. Houghton gave a summary of the public comments the Department received on the proposed actions. He said that some people stated they would like to see occupancy increase to spur the local economy. The Department's goal is to enhance the camping experience in the hopes that there will be an economic benefit to the local communities.

Mr. Houghton said that some were concerned about the area chosen for the construction of pavilions at Eighth Lake Campground. He The Department feels the construction of a pavilion within the day use area will provide an additional place for patrons to recreate and has proven to be popular in other facilities.

Mr. Houghton said another concern was the lack of information regarding how many toilet and shower units the proposed comfort stations will contain. He said the design of the shower building will be determined using criteria based on the number of campsites to be served by this building.

Mr. Booth asked how often the sewage disposal and leach field areas collecting effluent was checked, and if it was the same at all three campgrounds. Mr. Houghton stated that it is chlorinated before being disposed into the water with daily checks, and they have current SPEDES permits. He added that Lake Durant and Eighth Lake have a similar setup and Limekiln Lake has a leach field which does not get discharged into the water.

Mr. Lussi asked if any other agencies, besides the DEC themselves, monitors the sewage systems. Mr. Houghton stated that they still have to meet Department of Health standards.

Ms. Richards noted the response to public comment regarding the Eighth Lake trailered boat launch should be changed. The response currently states that the boat launch is not SLMP compliant. It is more accurate to say the current boat launch should be evaluated to determine if it should remain.

Mr. Craig asked if there should be different language to describe it. Ms. Richards stated that the affirmative statement that it is not compliant means that a study has been done. Mr. Houghton noted that the language can be changed to make it less confusing.

Ms. Ulrich asked if the response was a Department document. Ms. Regan said it is a Department document, but the language was crafted together. She added that it is in the process of review and the response can be written differently.

Mr. Booth asked how the evaluation was made that these would be the three campgrounds considered to be first for improvements. Mr. Houghton said that all campgrounds are in need of attention and have the same level of concern. Mike Buzzelli (DEC Operations) added that all campgrounds were assessed to see which ones needed priority, have not had an amendment or attention in a long time, and these three were chosen.

Ms. Feldman asked what made the change at Lake Durant in 2015 the attendance trend was down but the revenue went up. Mr. Houghton said they went to a different accounting system. He said that in addition to camping fees they have also went to selling firewood and ice, pavilion and canoe rentals, so all of that gets factored in to the total revenue.

Mr. Booth asked for a motion authorizing all three proposals to go to public comment. By motion of Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Thomas, it was unanimously approved.

Cranberry Lake Campground UMP

Ms. Regan noted that this was a public draft and the recommendation is to proceed with a simultaneous public comment period with the Department.

Mr. Houghton gave an overview of some of the proposed management plans for Cranberry Lake. He said they would like to construct a dump station that meets DOH standards, replace waterlines, upgrade the electrical system, construct an ADA waterway access site and restore four campsites annually.

Mr. Booth asked if the sewage disposal was 100' feet from the shoreline. Mr. Houghton responded affirmatively and stated that it was a leach field and does not go into the water.

Mr. Wilt asked if there were any staffing problems for the campground. Mr. Houghton said there is always a short supply of applicant, especially lifeguards. Mr. Buzzelli added that there is a down trend of the number of employees. He added that 90% of campground employees are seasonal which makes it hard to find people that want to work like that.

Ms. Ulrich said agencies have to fight for what they need and everyone needs to work together and pass on job openings. Mr. Monroe agreed and said he would see about putting them on the LGRB website to help out.

Mr. Booth asked for a motion to proceed with a simultaneous public comment period with DEC. By motion of Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Lussi, it was unanimously approved.

Moose River Plains

Ms. Regan noted that this was also an amendment and for information only.

Max Wolckenhauer noted the purpose of the amendment. He said it will address previous actions regarding bicycling, incorporate new proposals derived from the mountain bike trail plan, provide additional opportunities for persons with disabilities and address parking issues.

Mr. Wolckenhauer reviewed some of the proposed management actions. He said they propose to construct two 5 – 6 car parking areas on Route 28 and install a new trail register/kiosk at each one, connect the trail system to nearby communities, construct approximately 25 miles and re-route approximately 2 miles of bicycling trails.

Ms. Richards stated that the reason the amendment was contemplated was to create a draw for mountain bikers and it will create a trail system for everyone.

Mr. Lussi asked if there are different levels of trails. Mr. Wolckenhauer said there is a good balance of trails from beginner level to advanced levels.

Mr. Craig asked if staff envisions the 25 miles of trails being used for groups other than bikers and hikers. Ms. Regan said they are not always multi-use trails. She added that staff are currently putting together mountain bike trail guidance to design the trails properly. Mr. McNamara noted that the way trails are laid out facilitates the shared use.

Mr. Townsend asked that the Department consider relocation of the trails proposed on the north shore of 7th Lake so that they do not affect the sense of solitude for paddlers and overnight camping along that shore.

Mr. Wolckenhauer said that one of the techniques is education and having kiosks and signage at the trails for information is extremely important.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Richard Booth, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 2:40 pm.