



Adirondack Park Agency

KAREN FELDMAN
Acting Chair

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

DRAFT MINUTES
State Land Committee
September 13, 2018
Agency Meeting
KF:KDR:mp

State Land Committee September 13, 2018

The State Land Committee convened at 1:00 pm.

State Land Committee Members Present:

John Ernst – Committee Chair, Chad Dawson, Arthur Lussi, William Thomas and Robert Stegemann (DEC)

Other Members and Designees Present:

Karen Feldman, Acting Chair, Daniel Wilt, Bradley Austin (ESD), and Lynne Mahoney (DOS)

Local Government Review Board

Frederick Monroe, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present:

Sarah Reynolds, Acting Counsel, Kathy Regan, Mary Palmer, Matt McNamara, Walt Linck

Approval of August 2018 Draft Minutes

By motion of Mr. Lussi, seconded by Dr. Dawson, the August minutes were unanimously approved.

Planning Division Report

Ms. Regan welcomed Commissioner Ernst as the new Chair of the State Lands Committee. She also thanked Elizabeth Stankus, Bob Kreider and Matt Kendall for all of their extra help since the retirement of John Barge.

Ms. Regan noted the new 2018 Adirondack Park Land Use and Development and State Land maps. These maps include the changes made as the result of the 2016-2017 classification package, including the additions of the Boreas Ponds Area to the High Peaks Wilderness.

Ms. Regan said Agency staff approved amendments to the Town of Lake George's Zoning and Subdivision Codes via the Delegation Resolution (DelRes). This amendment updated references and terminology in the Town code and made adjustments to the uses and standards in the zoning code consistent with Agency standards and requirements. Agency staff are also working with the Towns of Chester and Indian Lake on amendments to their programs. As the proposed amendments get finalized determinations will be made as to whether they require Agency Board approval or if they may be considered under the DelRes as well.

Ms. Regan noted that there are three items on today's agenda. Josh Houghton (DEC) will present Eagle Point and Brown Tract Public Campground UMPs, and an amendment to the Generic Campground UMP for electric vehicle charging stations. DEC has held two public meetings for the Campground UMPs and will be accepting public comment on them until September 30, 2018. Staff will be requesting that the Agency overlap our conformance public comment period to some degree with the Department and accept comments until October 12, 2018.

Brown Tract Public Campground Draft UMP

Mr. Houghton gave an overview of the management plans which include replacing the ticket booth, constructing a firewood storage building, reconstruction of two comfort stations to include showers, install utility sinks at all restroom buildings and construct a garage/workshop.

Mr. Ernst asked if there are procedures for biological assessments. Mr. Houghton said when staff are ready to do a specific project that may involve wetlands, they will call staff to delineate the wetlands.

Mr. Ernst asked if staff would be on-site to see if there are any cumulative impacts. Mr. Houghton answered affirmatively. He added that siting is important in limiting those impacts. The first choice is to use existing footprints, unless those were not placed properly to begin with.

Dr. Dawson asked if there is a plan in place to continue monitoring visitor use and what impact visitors are having to the water body. Mr. Houghton said there is no current plan schedule. Mr. Houghton added that staff evaluate individual campsites for overuse and are actively working on restoration.

Mr. Ernst asked for a motion to proceed to public comment for conformance with the State Land Master Plan (SLMP).

By motion of Mr. Lussi, seconded by Dr. Dawson, authorization to proceed to public comment was unanimously approved.

Eagle Point Public Campground Draft UMP

Mr. Houghton gave an overview of the management plans which include replacing five existing comfort stations with three comfort stations, replacing a shower building, campsite improvements which include closures and combining sites, repave roads and repair drainage structures, replace playground facilities in the day-use area and replace fireplaces. Also included in the plans are upgrades to improve accessibility, installation of interpretive kiosks, do plantings throughout campground and an asbestos abatement plan for retaining walls.

Mr. Stegemann asked what signage is at the small boat launch for invasive species. Mr. Houghton thought it would be the standard aquatic invasive species signs, but would need to verify. Mr. Houghton added that the launch can handle smaller boats and that larger boats are sent to the Horicon launch.

Mr. Ernst asked if it is appropriate to have a sign noting where the boat wash station is located. Ms. Feldman added that she has seen signage to show where boat wash stations are when launches are not staffed. Mr. Stegemann added that it is the intent to have that signage and to have staff communicate with the campers.

Ms. Feldman asked if Brown Tract has an area where people launch boats. Mr. Houghton said there is a hand launch and it does have signage.

Mr. Lussi noted that there are fairly steep slopes at the Eagle Point campground and asked for clarification on the management of erosion. Mr. Houghton said staff are addressing erosion issues through the camp restoration plan.

Mr. Ernst asked for a motion to proceed to public comment for conformance with the SLMP.

By motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Stegemann, authorization to proceed to public comment was unanimously approved.

Generic Campground Draft UMP Amendment

Mr. Houghton gave an overview of the draft amendment which would update the DEC's 1990 UMP for campgrounds and day-use areas. The guidance will help determine the siting, construction and management of Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations. Mr. Houghton noted that not all facilities are appropriate for EV stations, and they will not be associated with individual campsites.

Ms. Feldman asked if there has been any discussion about a fee to use the charging stations. Mr. Houghton said that charging is one item still under review and that there are management implications to that decision.

Mr. Wilt asked if this project was in conjunction with a program through the New York Power Authority. Mr. Houghton said he was not sure if there is dedicated funding but added Governor Cuomo is encouraging green energy alternatives and having these charging stations is an important part of these efforts.

Dr. Dawson asked for clarification on the technology of the charging stations. Mr. Houghton said there are different levels of chargers. A level 1 charger would charge a vehicle overnight (between eight to twenty hours). A level 2 charger can charge a vehicle somewhere between two to four hours. Other chargers can charge a vehicle more quickly, but the campgrounds do not have the infrastructure to accommodate that type of charger. Mr. Houghton added, the smaller chargers can have a low visual impact and minimal signage would be used.

Mr. Ernst asked for a motion to proceed to public comment for conformance with the SLMP.

By motion of Dr. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Stegemann, authorization to proceed to public comment was unanimously approved.

Mr. Austin asked if the information on the public comment period will be posted on the Agency website. Ms. Regan answered affirmatively.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Ms. Feldman, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 1:50 pm.