



Adirondack Park Agency

KAREN FELDMAN
Acting Chair

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

DRAFT MINUTES
State Land Committee
November 8, 2018
Agency Meeting
KF:KDR:mp

State Land Committee November 8, 2018

The State Land Committee convened at 11:25 am.

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

Gerald Delaney, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present:

Terry Martino, Executive Director, Sarah Reynolds, Acting Counsel, Kathy Regan, Mary Palmer, Matt McNamara, Walt Linck

Approval of September 2018 Draft Minutes

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

Planning Division Report

Ms. Regan noted a correction to the Planning Division Report that stated Gore Mountain classification had been approved by the Governor, that has not yet happened.

Ms. Regan thanked the Planning Division staff for all their hard work, noting it has been a privilege to work with them. She also welcomed Molly Jordan to the Planning Division.

Ms. Regan said Josh Houghton (DEC) will be presenting Public Campground UMPs for Eagle Point and Brown Tract. He will also present a Generic Campground UMP Amendment for Electric Charging Stations at campgrounds. Staff will ask the Board to

adopt the resolutions on conformance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) for all three.

Ms. Regan said Walt Linck (APA) will present the Grass River UMP. This was presented to the Board in June 2018 asking for authorization to proceed to Public Comment. Today staff will ask the Board to adopt the resolution on conformance with the SLMP.

Ms. Regan said DEC staff will present two additional UMPs, which are for information only. The documents for these UMPs were not in the mailing packet but have been brought today on cd. Nick Addison will present the public draft for the UMP amendment to the Blue Ridge Wilderness. Corrie Magee will present the public draft for Hammond Pond Wild Forest.

Ms. Regan reminded the Board that they had adopted resolutions for the High Peaks and Vanderwhacker Mountain UMP amendments at the July Agency meeting. Both resolutions identified the need to develop a Wildlands Monitoring Plan within two years. The objective of this planning process is to improve our ability to meet the APSLMP requirement that UMPs provide “a statement of the management objectives for the protection and rehabilitation of the area's resources and ecosystems and for public use of the area consistent with its carrying capacity.”

Ms. Regan thanked the Agency Chair, State Land and Park Policy and Planning chairs and the Department for their efforts to move this project forward. The group is charged with developing an overall framework for monitoring that will apply to future UMPs. This framework could possibly take the form of a guidance document. Ideas are being developed and the board will be kept informed as the project matures. Ms. Regan will stay involved with this effort in her new role with RASS as the Agency and the Department look at better ways to evaluate carrying capacity for natural resource protection.

Ms. Regan added that simultaneously, DEC and APA have formed a smaller team of four staff to identify components of and create a monitoring plan specific to the High Peaks and Vanderwhacker units. It is important to all of us that these monitoring plans for individual units did not wait until an overall plan was developed, possibly two years from now. The monitoring plan the small group develops will address management actions identified in the July 2018 amendments. Staff imagine the process developed by the team will be used to inform the larger planning process.

Ms. Regan noted today is the second day of the Youth Climate Summit being held at The Wild Center. This is the 10th year for this great program which enables over 200 students from 30 local schools to understand the effect that their actions have on the world around them and encourages them to create their own action plans for their communities. This program has motivated many young adults in the Park to pursue careers and lifestyles that benefit our planet.

Ms. Regan showed the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) new educational posters on protecting your Park, Keep Invasive Species OUT. These posters list simple ways that the public can help, including but not limited to clean, drain, dry boats and trailers, using local firewood, and planting only native species.

Ms. Regan said on November 2nd, during APIPP's fall partner meeting, Agency staff member Emily Tyner was recognized for her dedicated volunteer service to the program (since 2004) by receiving APIPP's volunteer achievement award. Her ongoing volunteer contributions as a civilian include conducting numerous surveys of Adirondack lakes and ponds for aquatic invasive species, managing garlic mustard on Valcour Island to protect several threatened and endangered species of native plants, and most recently, coordinating access to several private properties in Saranac Lake to facilitate rapid response management to the first documented infestation of lesser celandine in the Adirondacks. APIPP staff and partners presented Emily with one of APIPP's commemorative volunteer achievement mugs, candies, a scented candle, and a Keep Invasive Species Out prize pack. The Board congratulated Emily Tyner.

Eagle Point Public Campground UMP

Mr. Houghton gave an overview of the proposed final UMP.

Ms. Feldman asked if there was signage for invasive species at the boat launch, noting that there should be more. Mr. Houghton said there is not a lot of signage there and staff can add more where needed in the spring. Mr. Stegemann agreed.

Mr. Ernst asked for a motion to approve the Resolution on APSLMP conformance.

By motion of Dr. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Stegemann, the resolution was unanimously approved.

Brown Tract Public Campground UMP

Mr. Houghton gave an overview of the proposed final UMP.

Mr. Ernst said that people love the campsite and its rustic quality which emphasizes that not all campgrounds are perceived the same. Mr. Houghton said when they evaluated the surveys some people were concerned that the clientele would change if shower buildings were added.

Mr. Ernst asked if the number of campsites and scale of the campground are designed to keep it rustic. Mr. Houghton said they were and added that Brown Tract operates by generator.

Mr. Stegemann asked where people wash their dishes if they are using a tent. Mr. Houghton said they tend to use the bathrooms or under the spickets which creates gray water around their campsite. He said this is where there are wildlife management and water quality issues, as well as sanitary and health issues.

Mr. Delaney noted that every campsite has its own flavor and they have built-in communities. Local towns and counties are in favor of the improvements moving forward for environmental reasons as well as the potential for more users for economic reasons.

Mr. Linck said the Agency received one comment in support of the management actions.

Ms. Regan noted there are two ministerial changes.

Mr. Ernst asked for a motion to approve the Resolution on APSLMP conformance.

By motion of Dr. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the resolution was unanimously approved.

Generic Campground UMP Amendment

Mr. Houghton gave an overview of the proposed final UMP for electric charging stations.

Mr. Wilt asked if there would be a fee for using the charging stations. Mr. Houghton said it is being discussed. There are pros and cons from the management perspective and the public's perspective.

Mr. Wilt asked if DEC is working with other state agencies such as the New York State Power Authority. Mr. Houghton said there is a working group within the DEC that is working with other agencies.

Mr. Delaney asked if the source of electricity would be renewable or off grid. Mr. Houghton said there is not a renewable source at every site, so they will be grid tied. Mr. Delaney reminded listeners that not all grid sources are from renewable sources.

Dr. Dawson noted that several public comments focused on what level charging station would be provided, referencing current technology. Mr. Houghton and Mr. Stegemann both stated that providing the appropriate (level) charger is an operational determination that does not need to be specified in the UMP.

Ms. Regan said the Agency went out for public comment and did not receive any letters. Mr. Houghton did forward one comment that included a SLMP conformance issue. The commenter stated adding utility hook-ups would not conform with the SLMP because basic guideline one states: "all campgrounds will be rustic in nature without utility hook-ups." Ms. Regan stated that staff believe when that guideline was developed the

objective was to not allow utility hook-ups at individual campsites. Staff feel by having them in common areas, such as by ticket booths, the electric charging stations will be in conformance with the APSLMP.

Mr. Ernst asked for a motion to approve the Resolution on APSLMP conformance.

By motion of Dr. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Stegemann, the resolution was unanimously approved.

Grass River Wild Forest UMP

Mr. Linck gave an overview of the proposed final UMP.

Mr. Ernst asked why the “e” was removed. Mr. Linck said the USGS has it listed without the “e”.

Mr. Ernst asked for a motion to approve the Resolution on APSLMP conformance.

By motion of Mr. Lussi, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the resolution was unanimously approved.

Blue Ridge Wilderness UMP Amendment

Mr. Addison presented the Board the public draft of the UMP amendment.

Dr. Dawson expressed displeasure at not being able to review the UMP before the presentation. Dr. Dawson stated it is easier for the Board if they are able to see it in order to have a discussion about the UMP amendment. Mr. Stegemann said that it will be possible to discuss and identify issues during the public comment period. Mr. Addison added that there will be a one-month comment period as well as a public meeting.

Mr. Ernst agreed with Dr. Dawson. He said normally the Board would have seen the document and had a chance to discuss it before it went out to the public.

Ms. Martino said staff works with the Department to try to bring the UMP prior to the Agency meeting, however it is a courtesy rather than a requirement. The Public Draft is for information and the board will see it following a public comment period, prior to determining conformance with the APSLMP. However, we also recognize the Board benefits when they see the documents prior to the Agency meeting presentation.

Hammond Pond Wild Forest UMP

Ms. Magee presented the Board the public draft of the UMP.

Dr. Dawson noted that the presentation did discuss monitoring and hoped that there is a good monitoring plan that goes into effect quickly because the area could go from low use to high use very quickly. He stated that he also appreciates the phrasing of the plan.

Mr. Ernst commented that there is also general language about capacity to withstand use.

Ms. Feldman said she understood the frustration of having something presented and not having read it. We have been accustomed to having the opportunity to read something and being able to comment on it. She said the UMP was not ready when the mailing went out and she did not want to hold it up for another month. Once it comes back to us we will have the opportunity to comment.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Mr. Ernst, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm.