



Adirondack Park Agency

KAREN FELDMAN
Acting Chair

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

DRAFT MINUTES
State Land Committee
February 15, 2019
Agency Meeting
JE:TM:mp

State Land Committee February 15, 2019

The State Land Committee convened at 9:05 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, Associate Counsel, Kevin Prickett, Matt McNamara, Elizabeth Phillips and Elaine Caldwell.

Approval of December 2018 Draft Minutes

By motion of Mr. Stegemann, seconded by Dr. Dawson, the December minutes were unanimously approved.

Saranac Lakes Wild Forest UMP

Kevin Prickett presented the Board with the proposed final UMP and said staff recommend the Board adopt the resolution that the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest UMP is in compliance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP). He also thanked Steve Guglielmi (DEC) for all the work he has done on the UMP.

Mr. Ernst acknowledged that there has been a lot of work by the Agency and the Department over a long period of time.

Dr. Dawson said there has been phenomenal improvement in regards to wildland monitoring in this UMP, going beyond what there was in other UMPs. Staff have given good, clear examples and this is a huge step forward relating to the monitoring of visitor use. Dr. Dawson congratulated staff for how much they accomplished since this UMP went out to public comment.

Dr. Dawson said he was concerned that the carrying capacity on water bodies is not making progress. It has been addressed to some extent over the years with different UMPs, but there is no underlying process. This UMP, with 142 waterbodies, could have been an excellent example for the carrying capacity process.

Mr. Ernst agreed that it has not moved as fast as he and other Board members would like, but it is moving forward. He added that there is a process to develop the framework which will include waterbodies undertaken by the Agency and the DEC. Mr. Ernst said some of the improvements are dependent on monitoring and he is confident in it moving forward.

Mr. Stegemann said the process is maturing rapidly. He thanked Dr. Dawson for the attention he brings to this matter because it is important in the management of this Unit. From the standpoint of compliance with the SLMP, it sets the stage for this to be done in a thoughtful way with collaboration between both agencies. Mr. Stegemann said this plan has been in the works for quite some time. It is extremely important to keep the attention of both agencies to continue to move forward with this process, especially with the carrying capacity of waterbodies.

Mr. Delaney noted that monitoring on the ground allows you to see a lot of impacts made by people when they were there. With boating it is much harder to monitor because of how many boats go in and out. For the numbers you would have to be there 24 hours a day to understand the complete use of the waterbody. Mr. Delaney added as the Local Government Review Board, when the DEC and APA agree to close a historic trailered boat launch that was never a trailered boat launch there is pushback. The Review Board finds themselves trying to explain to people that it was not a trailered boat launch therefore agencies are not taking something away if people were using it improperly.

Mr. Delaney said the biggest challenge for both agencies is having the resources to understand all the uses so they can get to the impacts. He said the boat and user numbers that you have are outstanding, but those are not total numbers. Mr. Delaney said that the agencies are moving in the right direction and understands that it might not be fast enough for some, but a slower approach is sometimes better.

Ms. Feldman said the idea for carrying capacity started with earlier UMPs and that was the beginning of a new era, but we have not accomplished that yet. She commended DEC's willingness to understand that we need to move forward with how the use of the Park's land is monitored. This is a step-by-step process and we do need to come up with a framework for carrying capacity on waterbodies.

Ms. Feldman said we have to remember the need for an assessment of carrying capacity was in the APSLMP at the time that this agency was formed more than forty years ago, and while there have been several attempts to work on this it has not been done. She said she believes that we have made significant progress on this since the Agency has been in existence.

Mr. Ernst said the UMP may not be a perfect product, but a lot of work has gone into it and it is a giant step forward.

Mr. Lussi said we have to realize that APA and DEC cannot do this alone. He thanked the Watershed Institute and the boat wash stations that are giving us some monitoring of what is happening on the waterbodies.

Mr. Wilt agreed and noted that that data is going to be very important to progress with the assessment of the carrying capacity of these lakes. He said we need to support DEC's effort to keep the boat wash program going.

Dr. Dawson agreed noting that the Agency and DEC needs more resources to be able to accomplish this important work. The talent within the Department and the Agency and all potential partnerships can move this forward.

Ms. Feldman noted that there is new technology compared to what there was forty years ago, and we can address some of the concerns that could not be addressed before. Even though it is not moving as quickly as we would like, she is optimistic that we will move forward on this.

Ms. Martino said there is real opportunity here. Looking at this UMP there is a wealth of information in the appendices. There is opportunity to build on partnerships to secure where we are getting the data from. She said the UMP is pivotal in pointing to where we are going to be going in the future.

Mr. Stegemann said we have a template with this UMP which is changing how we look at things. It is setting a stage for a new day and how carrying capacity is being looked at. We have a team established, tools that are being developed, and markers in the UMP that states what is going to happen.

Mr. Ernst asked for a motion to adopt the resolution for compliance with the APSLMP.

The motion was forwarded by Mr. Lussi, seconded by Mr. Stegmann.

Mr. Austin noted the date on the Resolution was February 14th and should be changed to the 15th for approval.

Mr. Ernst agreed and asked with that change if all were in favor. Dr. Dawson respectfully and regrettably opposed, all other committee members were in favor.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Mr. Ernst, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:15 am.