



## Adirondack Park Agency

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

TERRY MARTINO  
Executive Director

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
State Land Committee  
May 16, 2019  
Agency Meeting  
JE:REW:mp

### State Land Committee May 16, 2019

The State Land Committee convened at 11:05 am.

#### **State Land Committee Members Present:**

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

#### **Other Members and Designees Present:**

Daniel Wilt, Bradley Austin (ESD), and Lynne Mahoney (DOS)

#### **Local Government Review Board**

Gerald Delaney, Executive Director

#### **Agency Staff Present:**

Terry Martino, Executive Director, Christopher Cooper, Counsel, Richard Weber, Walt Linck and Mary Palmer

#### **Approval of March 2019 Draft Minutes**

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

#### **Planning Division Report**

Mr. Weber said Local Government Services has been wrapping up the 2019 Adirondack Park Local Government Day Conference and staff would like to thank all those who attended the 22nd annual conference as well as the speakers and organizers for contributing to the continued success of this event. Planning for the 2020 Conference is under way and tentative dates of April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> look the most promising. He also said options were being reviewed for the fall of 2020. He said planning staff will be working with Administrative staff in the upcoming months on preparing the invitation for bids for the conference for the 2020 meeting. Mr. Ernst suggested having the Local Government Day adjoin the monthly agency meeting which would make it easier for members that do not live nearby to attend.

Mr. Weber said Local Government staff assisted two Local Program amendments through the approval process pursuant to the Delegation Resolution. The Town of Queensbury revised portions of its zoning code that addresses development in the Waterfront Residential Zones. Staff worked with the Town to ensure conformance with the shoreline cutting restrictions of the APA Act. The Agency approved the amendment on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Town voted to adopt the amendment at its May 6<sup>th</sup> Town Board Meeting.

Mr. Weber said the Town of Hague proposed to adopt a Solar Code to address the siting of solar projects within the Town. The Town had previously adopted a moratorium on solar projects in order to draft regulations that would allow for solar but recognize the importance of the character of its shoreline. The Agency approved the amendment on May 9<sup>th</sup> and the Town will be considering this amendment for approval at its next Town Board Meeting.

Mr. Weber noted that staff are continuing to work with DEC staff on a number of guidance documents addressing specific uses, including wildlands monitoring and ski trail guidance. Staff are working out final details on ADA accessibility considerations for the Primitive Tent Site Guidance and hope to have the guidance brought back for Board consideration as early as June.

Mr. Weber said a new ATRADS database for State Land Consultations is being created which began under Kathy Regan's leadership. The transactional database will allow staff to be able to track the progress of the State Land Consultation process with DEC.

Mr. Weber said staff member Matt Kendall will be participating at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Adirondack Research Consortium on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. He will be in a panel discussion on the influence of the work of Ian McHarg on the development of the Agency's Park Plan. The 50-year anniversary of the publishing of the book, "Design with Nature" is being recognized in this panel and discussion will focus on how important the methods of the time using hand-drawn overlays were to developing the Agency's land use map. The basic planning principles established in that time are still important today, but the techniques of modern Geographic Information Systems have made the application of the planning process more efficient and effective.

Mr. Weber said there are two items on the agenda: The Travel Corridor UMP and Hammond Pond Wild Forest UMP. Staff will be asking the board to adopt the resolution on Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) Conformance for both UMPs.

### **Travel Corridor UMP**

Mr. Weber commended Ed Frantz (NYS DOT) for all the work that he has done on this project.

Mr. Lussi asked what advice or guidance is being given to DOT for scenic vista areas. Mr. Weber said although there is no clear guidance having the agencies work together it is identified as a topic of discussion.

Mr. Lussi added that it is important to give DOT some of the Agency's guidance for vistas. Not only for aesthetic reasons but also for what we are learning about salt and road maintenance in the winter. Mr. Weber said vistas are case specific and this plan is a big step to help correct those things. Management actions are being done in an implementation phase so we know how long each improvement will take. Mr. Weber said the DOT did a park-wide visual resource assessment along highways and identified segments of highways and put them on a map. This is now part of their inventory in asset management.

Ms. Richards asked if scenic vistas are allowed on highway corridors pursuant to the APSLMP. Mr. Weber said they are recognized on the highway corridor and identified in the APSLMP.

Mr. Lussi said it would be helpful to see better examples of the past, current and best options for improvement of vista areas. Mr. Weber said there are a lot of things to consider when planning, such as time of day, wildlife or human use.

Mr. Ernst asked if the implementation and timeline of the projects are being left up to the DOT, or if the DOT, DEC and APA are discussing the projects on a regular basis and making decisions together. Mr. Weber answered affirmatively. The plan has actions, such as assessments, that are already being worked on.

Mr. Ernst asked if some projects will need to come back to the Board. Mr. Weber said the APSLMP identifies things like vistas on a map that have already been assessed and recognized. If there are locations that are not on the map, the Agency may need to go through the process of recognizing it before saying this is a site that should be developed.

Ms. Richards commended staff on the work that has been done on the UMP. She asked if the guidance for scenic vistas will be specific to travel corridors or will the travel corridor guidance be part of a scenic vista document. Mr. Weber said the likely place to elaborate on the details on the management of scenic vistas in travel corridors may best be handled in the Green Book, the agreed to interagency guidelines between DOT, DEC and APA for the state highways in the Park.

Ms. Richards asked if the Green Book had guidance for scenic vistas. Mr. Frantz said the assessment that was done identifies over two-hundred. The first step is to identify all locations. The second step is to get the technical working group together to make sure the laws are followed and prioritize what needs to be done.

Mr. Lussi complimented Mr. Frantz noting that this is a living document. The way it is designed it can be amended very easily.

Ms. Mahoney asked if the working group is constituted. Mr. Frantz said not at this time and it will need to be formalized. He said the working group will be small to get things done, while at the same time keeping everyone informed. Mr. Frantz said DOT will do fact sheets and post them to the DOT website.

Mr. Delaney commented that he thinks the APSLMP should be updated.

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

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

### **Hammond Pond Wild Forest UMP**

Walt Linck presented the proposed final UMP.

Mr. Ernst said he appreciated the addressing of specific points such as monitoring and carrying capacity, and the inter-agency work on the UMP. This was a complicated area and the work of staff is admirable.

Mr. Lussi asked if there was a plan for public access. Mr. Linck said the short-term plan is the Eagle Lake access will stay and be used as is for up to five years.

Mr. Delaney agreed that it is a complicated area. He suggested as the APA and DEC move forward with the plans they keep the local governments near-by involved in the conversations. Mr. Linck agreed.

Dr. Dawson said that seeing the redline version of changes in this UMP is an important and significant improvement. It shows that monitoring and development have to go hand-in-hand.

Mr. Thomas asked the status of the North Country National Scenic Trail. Ms. Magee (DEC) said hopefully it should come to fruition in the next five years.

Mr. Thomas noted that Hammond Pond Wild Forest has the most trails in the Park and asked if there would be spurs off of some of the trails. Mr. Linck answered affirmatively.

Mr. Ernst commented that Eagle Lake is a test for the Agency. If it is done right, then we can do anything.

Ms. Richards complimented Corrie Magee and Walt Linck for their teamwork in developing this UMP. It is a great example of how the two agencies work together and solve problems together. She said she also appreciates the Board challenging the DEC. Ms. Martino agreed and also thanked Paul Van Cott for his insights.

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

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

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

Mr. Ernst, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 12:45 pm.