



**State Land Committee
September 11, 2020**

The State Land Committee convened at 9:30 a.m.

State Land Committee Members Present:

John Ernst, Committee Chair, Arthur Lussi, Dr. Chad Dawson, Mark Hall, and Joseph Zalewski (DEC)

Other Members and Designees Present:

Bradley Austin (ESD) Presiding Member, Daniel Wilt, Ken Lynch, Zoe Smith, Andrea Hogan, and Lynne Mahoney (DOS)

Local Government Review Board

Gerald Delaney, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present:

Terry Martino, Executive Director, Christopher Cooper, Counsel, Kevin Prickett, Matt McNamara, and Annemarie Peer

September 11 Remembrance

Mr. Austin called for a moment of silence in remembrance of September 11.

Approval of Draft Committee Minutes for July 16, 2020

On a motion made by Chad Dawson and seconded by Mark Hall the July minutes were approved with administrative changes to be made regarding other Board members and designees who were present.

Planning Division Report (Terry Martino)

Terry Martino, reporting on behalf of Deputy Director of Planning, Rick Weber, gave a brief report on the Department of Environmental (DEC) and Agency team that is working on the development of the visitors use management and wild lands monitoring handbook that will be used by DEC staff. Dr. Dawson has been working on the development of the hiking trail monitoring protocol with both DEC and APA staff. The two staff teams have been working with input from Regions 5 and 6 for two years. The materials are now developed where field tests will take place this fall in both regions.

Ms. Martino also shared with the Board that the Sun Community News reported Robert Blais, Mayor of the Village Lake George is the longest sitting mayor in the United States at 49 plus years.

Hinckley Intensive Use Area UMP Amendment (Josh Houghton, DEC)

Mr. Houghton presented an overview of a public draft, for information, of the Draft Unit Management Plan (draft UMP) and the Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DSGEIS).

Mr. Houghton went over a brief history of Hinckley as well as a location overview. Mr. Houghton said a proposed management action from the 2003 draft UMP had been underway, however that did not continue forward, and the effort was restarted in 2018.

He showed plans and maps depicting the draft proposed management actions such as construction of 2.8 miles of roads, 150 campsites, and a staff building, and replacement of bath houses, among other items to be included. He also presented a chart showing the day-use attendance and revenue for the years 2015 through August 2020.

Mr. Houghton also stated they have surveyed and received positive responses, through outreach to local businesses, governments, and community members.

Mr. Houghton also reported the goal is to combine the DSGEIS and draft UMP to supplement the 1990 GSEIS. He said the purpose of the supplement is to address the potential significant impacts that were not adequately addressed in the 1990 GEIS for the proposed development of a campground, associated infrastructure, and related appurtenances at the Hinckley Reservoir Day-Use Area (Hinckley DUA).

Mr. Houghton said that the DSGEIS alternatives could be no action alternatives, original layout, half-scale design (75 campsites), and a larger scale design (300 plus campsites)

Dr. Dawson asked why DEC is looking at the campground now.

Mr. Houghton responded that it takes a long time from concept to approval, and DEC has been working on this for two years.

Mr. Lussi asked what he and fellow board members should be questioning during these planning reviews.

Mr. Cooper responded that the Board's role is to determine compliance with the State Land Master Plan, which is the basis for the Agency review.

Ms. Martino explained the timetable beginning with DEC doing a public, first-time presentation of the UMP to the Board, followed by DEC receiving public comment, which is incorporated into a final UMP which is brought back to the Agency Board by DEC staff. After the presentation of a final UMP, the Agency staff requests Board action

to send the UMP out for public comment in reference to conformance with the State Land Master Plan. After Agency staff receive and review public comment, the Agency staff then present to the Board which takes action to determine SLMP conformance. She said these steps can change when DEC and the Agency request a joint public comment period following the first public presentation by DEC.

Mr. Lussi questioned the timing and the amount of money it would need.

Mr. Houghton answered money could be an issue, however UMPs take time to go through and plans have been in place for years. He also noted that if amenities change it could relieve some other much busier campgrounds and introduce a new place if one is unable to get into another campground.

Mr. Hall asked about invasive species, such as you would find in firewood.

Mr. Houghton responded that they would advocate for education, buying wood locally, and for boat washing stewards.

Mr. Joe Zalewski asked about RV camping sites being available and a utility plan for dumping stations.

Mr. Houghton said there will not be electric, sewer, or hook up sites. A dumping station would be available for RVs.

Ms. Smith also questioned about aquatic invasives and stated that education will be needed.

Mr. Wilt asked if there was any lake association that covers this area.

Mr. Houghton said he reached out to the Friends of Hinckley Lake and has received support.

Mr. Austin also asked about the timing of this and the expectation that campgrounds will make a return on their investment.

Mr. Houghton said DEC is providing amenities to the public.

Fish Creek Intensive Use Area UMP Amendment (Josh Houghton, Gail Sloane, DEC)

Ms. Sloane went over the public draft UMP and the GEIS overview. It is broken into three volumes; volume I consists of the overview, volume II consists of site-specific documents, and volume III consists of reference materials.

She discussed the location and facilities which includes 355 campsites with a capacity of 2,130. It is the largest campsite facility that the DEC has.

She showed photos of maps and sites and discussed a chart of attendance and revenue for the years of 2015 to August of this year.

Ms. Sloane reviewed the proposed management action plan and the fourteen different actions including the reconstruction of roads to accommodate two-way traffic, replacement of bath houses, expansion of parking sites, improvements to the bike path, continued shoreline stabilization, and the planting of trees and shrubs, among other things.

Ms. Smith asked if there would be a boat washing station with an improved boat station.

Mr. Houghton said that there would be more space for a washing station.

Dr. Dawson asked about the Rollins Pond Campground.

Mr. Houghton said that Rollins Pond predates the plan, and that there would be more in-depth discussion when DEC gets to the Rollins Pond UMP.

Mr. Hall also asked about a boat washing station.

Mr. Houghton said they could work on prioritizing one.

Mr. Zalewski said that the locations of stewards is a yearly budget item.

Mr. Austin asked when this will go to public comment.

Mr. Houghton said through to October 2, 2020, and the public can review the material at the DEC website.

Mr. Delaney also stated that a boat washing station should be put in the UMP which would not require future changes at a later date to the UMP.

New Business

None

Old Business

Mr. Dawson stated that we are going on our fifth decade of waiting for some development and/or updates on the carrying capacity of water bodies. He believes it has not been a priority for either the Agency or DEC, even though there has been some discussion in the past in some UMPs, and he requests that the dialogue be opened.

Ms. Martino acknowledged that the carrying capacity of water bodies can be a follow-on project to the wildlands monitoring work that has been underway.

Mr. Ernst, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.