



**[DRAFT] MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, September 12, 2024**

**Agency Members, Designees, and Executive Staff Present:**

John Ernst, Chairperson  
Mark Hall, Member  
Benita Law-Diao, Member  
Art Lussi, Member  
Ken Lynch, Member  
Rebecca Miller, Empire State Development  
Zoë Smith, Member  
Matt Tebo, Department of State  
Dan Wilt, Member  
Joe Zalewski, Department of Environmental Conservation

Barbara Rice, Executive Director  
Damion Stodola, Counsel

**Absent and Excused**

**Local Government Review Board Present**

Gerald Delaney, Sr., Executive Director

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum of board members being present in person, the meeting was called to order at approximately 9:32 AM and Chairperson Ernst welcomed the public, presenters, and staff.

**2. WELCOMING REMARKS**

Chairperson Ernst noted that the second phase of the rail trail is now open, and bids will be going out shortly for the launch area of the third phase. Ernst also noted that it was encouraging to see in recent press reporting that the Lake George Park Commission and Lake George Association were working together to review research and science around the long-term response of native plants after the application of ProcellaCOR. Reports indicate that their findings matched – with no traceable chemical in the water within 24 hours of application.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Chair recognized Ron Konowitz, of the Adirondack Powder Skier’s Association. Konowitz discussed the association’s historical contributions and interests in past SLMP amendments, work the association had done in building backcountry trails, and the association’s desire to be part of the Trail Stewardship Working Group. APA Counsel interjected to remind Konowitz not to comment on any pending motion before the board.

The Chair recognized Claudia Braymer, Protect the Adirondacks, who noted a preference for the length of the comment period for the SLMP amendments. APA Counsel interjected to remind Ms. Braymer that this comment should be reserved to the end of the meeting as had been noted immediately prior for Mr. Konowitz. The Chair recognized Dave Gibson, Adirondack Wild, who referenced a recent NCPR story regarding water body carrying capacity.

**4. APPROVAL OF JULY 11, 2024 AGENCY MEETING MINUTES**

On motion of Dan Wilt, seconded by Mark Hall, the draft minutes of the July 11, 2024 Agency meeting were approved without objection or modification. Zoë Smith, Joe Zalewski, and Rebecca Miller noted their abstentions.

**5. RECUSALS**

None

**6. MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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None

**7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Barbara Rice presented her report, highlights of which included:

- Acknowledgement of the passing of Charles E. Vandrei, Jr., DEC's Historic Preservation Officer.
- Review of summer storms which lead to the approval of 11 emergency projects so far this year, the most the Agency has approved.
- In connection with previously approved ProcellaCOR applications, the agency is receiving post-application information that confirms the expected effect, anticipated dissipation of the product, measurable impacts to native vegetation.
- Staff are working on a revamped website to provide a digital resource for people to learn about the agency, submit applications, and provide a user-friendly online experience. This aligns with the Agency's contribution to the State's Government Transparency Initiative Plan, and this work has led to an increased social media presence leading to more public engagement.
- Staff updates: congratulations on the appointment of Molly Jordan to Mapping Technologist 3, and the addition of new staff members Charlotte Staats, Natural Heritage Trust State Land Planner, and Paulina Kwasniak, Receptionist.
- Thanks and acknowledgement for the work done by summer interns Lydia Harvey, Tom Shafer, Mistaya Smith and Emily Pulcini.

**8. MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO COMMITTEES**

On the motion of Art Lussi, and seconded by Joe Zalewski, the board voted unanimously to adjourn into committees at approximately 9:51 AM.

**8.1. STATE LAND COMMITTEE**

The committee meeting convened at approximately 9:52 AM.

Attendance:

*State Land Committee Members:*

Ken Lynch (Chair), Benita Law-Diao, Zoë Smith, Joe Zalewski (DEC)

*Other Members and Designees Present:*

John Ernst, Matt Tebo (DOS), Art Lussi, Mark Hall, Dan Wilt, Rebecca Miller (ESD)

*Local Government Review Board Present:*

Gerald Delaney, Sr.

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*Agency Staff Present:*

Barb Rice, Damion Stodola, Megan Phillips, Kevin Prickett, Matt McNamara, Charlotte Staats

**8.1.1. Planning Division Report**

Megan Phillips, Deputy Director of State Lands and Planning, provided an update on recent Planning Division activities, highlights included:

- New staff member Charlotte Staats was welcomed as a Natural Heritage Trust state land planner to the Planning Division.
- Mistaya Smith, community design intern, completed projects in the Towns of Keene and Hague, she is tentatively slated to present her work to the October meeting of the Agency board.
- The Planning Division's GIS Intern, Emily Pulcini, will be staying on with the Agency during the fall semester as part of a course credit program at Paul Smith's College.
- Congratulations were made to Molly Jordan on her recent assignment to Mapping Technologist 3.
- State Land staff has been active in consultations with the DEC and ORDA for projects related to the UCI downhill mountain bike races at Whiteface, trail turnpiking in the Pigeon Lake Wilderness, and culvert replacements. They are also working on unit management planning for Debar Mountain Wild Forest, Pepperbox Wilderness, and John Brown Farm.
- State Land staff continue to work with the DEC on the High Peaks visitor use management framework project and the Trail Stewardship Working Group.
- The Local Government Services team processed 81 variance referrals from Agency-approved local land use programs (ALLUPs) to date in calendar year 2024. They have also been meeting with town supervisors, enforcement officers and zoning administrators to assist with implementation of ALLUPs and ensure that they have the training they need.
- Robyn Burgess, from the Local Government team will be presenting on zoning in the Adirondack Park at the NY Planning Federation Conference in Lake Placid later this month.

**8.1.2. Cranberry Lake Campground Unit Management Plan Amendment (Oliver Miller, DEC, Josh Houghton, DEC, and Kevin Prickett, APA)**

Oliver Miller, Department of Environmental Conservation, and Kevin Prickett, Adirondack Park Agency, presented their recommendation, including public comments, on the proposed amendment to the 2016 Cranberry Lake Campground UMP and its conformance to the State Land Master Plan.

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On motion of Zoë Smith, seconded by Joe Zalewski, the committee unanimously resolved to recommend to the full board for approval a resolution finding the 2024 UMP Amendment for the Cranberry Lake Public Campground in conformance with the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

**8.1.2. Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan Amendment Package (Matt McNamara, Kevin Prickett, and Megan Phillips)**

The above-referenced Adirondack Park Agency staff presented a summary of the proposed amendments to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and their request for a resolution to initiate a coordinated review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act, allowing them to proceed with public hearings and a public comment period.

On motion of Benita Law-Diao, seconded by Zoë Smith, the committee unanimously resolved to recommend the Draft Resolution of the Adirondack Park Agency with respect to the Proposal to Amend the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan to the full board for approval.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Committee Adjourned at approximately 11:26 AM.

**8.2. Park Policy and Planning Committee**

The committee meeting convened at approximately 12:47 PM.

*Park Policy and Planning Committee Members Present:*

Benita Law-Diao (Chair), Mark Hall, Ken Lynch, Rebecca Miller (ESD)

*Other Members and Designees Present:*

John Ernst, Art Lussi, Zoë Smith, Matt Tebo (DOS), Dan Wilt, Joe Zalewski (DEC)

*Local Government Review Board*

Gerald Delaney, Sr.

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*Agency Staff Present:*

Barb Rice, Damion Stodola, Megan Phillips, Kevin Prickett, Matt McNamara, Charlotte Staats

**8.2.1. Hudson River Black River Regulating District Overview (John Callaghan, HRBRRD)**

John Callaghan, the Executive Director of the Hudson River Black River Regulating District presented an overview on the regulating district's authority, history and projects to the committee.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Park Policy and Planning adjourned at approximately 1:19 PM

**8.3. Park Ecology Committee**

The committee convened at approximately 1:20 PM

*Park Ecology Committee Members Present:*

Zoë Smith (Chair), Benita Law-Diao, Rebecca Miller (ESD), Joe Zalewski (DEC)

*Other Members and Designees Present:*

John Ernst, Art Lussi, Ken Lynch, Matt Tebo (DOS), Dan Wilt.

*Local Government Review Board*

Gerald Delaney, Executive Director

*Agency Staff Present:*

Barb Rice, Damion Stodola, Dr. Elizabeth Schuyler

**8.3.1. Park Ecology (Dr. Lizz Schuyler)**

Dr. Lizz Schuyler, Supervisor – Natural Resource Analysis, reported that the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) and Lake George Association (LGA) are embracing a collaborative future following the use of ProcellaCOR. Independent testing provided by LGA and the Jefferson Project showed it to have behaved exactly as it should have in agreeance with results found by the LGPC. Dr.

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Schuyler then introduced today's speaker for the following presentations:

100 Years of Natural Resource Decision Making in the Park (Professor Stacy McNulty, Ph.D. – SUNY ESF)

Professor Stacy McNulty, Ph.D., SUNY ESF (Huntington Forest campus in Newcomb) provided a presentation on a History of Adirondack Natural Resource Policy Decisions.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Committee Adjourned at approximately 2:20 PM.

**9. Committee Reports**

Chairperson Ernst reconvened the full agency at approximately 2:21 PM.

**9.1.1. State Lands (Ken Lynch)**

On motion of Ken Lynch, seconded by John Ernst, the board, with the exception of Joe Zalewski who was absent for this vote, approved and adopted the Resolution of the Adirondack Park Agency with Respect to the 2024 Unit Management Plan for the Cranberry Lake Public Campground Intensive Use Area.

On motion of Ken Lynch, seconded by Matt Tebo the board unanimously voted to approve and adopt the Resolution of the Adirondack Park Agency with respect to the Proposal to Amend the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

**9.1.2. Park Policy and Planning (Benita Law-Diao)**

The committee received a presentation from John Callahan regarding the Hudson River Black River Regulating District.

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**9.1.3. Park Ecology (Zoë Smith)**

The committee received a presentation from Dr. Stacy McNulty regarding the last 100 years of Adirondack natural resource policy decisions.

**10. Interim Reports**

The Administration, Economic Affairs, Enforcement, Legal Affairs, Local Government Services, Public Awareness and Communications, and Regulatory Programs Committees did not meet this month.

Local Government Review Board member Gerald Delaney noted he expects there will be a spirited debate related to the proposed State Land Master Plan amendments. Delaney also thanked Dr. Schuyler for her report and expressed gratitude that the LGPC and the LGA are working together.

**11. Member Comment**

None

**12. Old Business**

None

**13. New Business**

None

**14. Public Comment**

Jackie Bowen, Director of Conservation at the Adirondack Council, noted the Council's belief that the protection of natural resources was paramount in the SLMP to the human experience in the Park, recognized and appreciated the inclusion of visitor use management, climate change, and accessibility language in the SLMP, and discussed the Council's desire to add more clarifying language, additional DEC resources to support the amendments, and adjustments to the amendment process.

Dan Plumley of Keene expressed concern regarding the visitor use management plan in the SLMP would control numbers, he would like to see the Agency look again at a permitting process for recreational access to certain state lands.

[Link to video and audio recordings of the full Agency presentation to be added.]



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Chairperson Ernst noted that the next meeting will be October 17, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned without objection at approximately 2:34 PM.

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John Ernst, Chairperson



**RESOLUTION OF THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE  
2024 UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT FOR THE CRANBERRY LAKE  
PUBLIC CAMPGROUND INTENSIVE USE AREA**

September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**WHEREAS**, Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act (APA Act) directs the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency (Agency), individual management plans for units of land classified in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) and requires such management plans to conform to the guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to such guidelines and criteria, the APSLMP prescribes the contents of unit management plans (UMPs) and provides that the Agency will determine whether a proposed individual UMP complies with such guidelines and criteria; and

**WHEREAS**, in March 1993, the DEC adopted the Cranberry Lake Public Campground Final UMP; and

**WHEREAS**, in September 2016, the DEC adopted the Cranberry Lake Public Campground UMP superseding the Cranberry Lake Public Campground Final UMP dated March 1993; and

**WHEREAS**, the APSLMP identifies Cranberry Lake Public Campground as an existing intensive use area campground; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed project conforms to the basic guidelines for Intensive Use Areas and will avoid material alteration of wetlands, minimize extensive topographic alterations, limit vegetative clearing, and preserve the scenic, natural and open space resources of the intensive use area; and

**WHEREAS**, the plan proposes the use of natural materials to the fullest extent possible so as to blend with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, DEC presented the Draft 2024 UMP Amendment to the Agency and the Agency authorized a joint public comment period on the Draft 2024 UMP Amendment from May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, through June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the DEC and Agency received three written comments during its public comment period; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2024 UMP Amendment proposes to construct a rustic playground; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2024 UMP Amendment proposes activities consistent with those contemplated in the amended 1990 Generic UMP/Environmental Impact Statement; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the DEC presented the 2024 UMP Amendment to the Agency and Agency staff made a presented the recommendation that the 2024 UMP Amendment conforms with the guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 7 of New York State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), the Agency has considered climate change and the state's climate goals and finds that the Proposed Final 2024 Unit Management Plan Amendment (2024 UMP Amendment) is not inconsistent with, and will not interfere with, the attainment of the state's greenhouse gas emissions limits; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency has considered the 2024 UMP Amendment, the May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 staff presentations, comments received by the public, and the deliberations of Agency Board Members and designees at the Agency's September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Agency finds that the Proposed Final Unit Management Plan Amendment for the Cranberry Lake Public Campground Intensive Use Area, dated August 2024, conforms with the guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Agency authorizes its Executive Director to advise the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation of the Agency's determination in this matter.

Ayes: 9

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Absent: 1



## RESOLUTION

### OF THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE ADIRONDACK PARK STATE LAND MASTER PLAN

September 12, 2024

**WHEREAS**, Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act (Executive Law, Article 27) provides that the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) should be reviewed periodically and may be amended and that any amendments shall be prepared by the Adirondack Park Agency (APA or Agency) in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation (Department or DEC) and submitted to the Governor for her approval after public hearings have been held on the amendments; and

**WHEREAS**, the APSLMP provides that amendments shall be effectuated in the same manner as its original adoption and should be subject to public hearings within and without the Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency adopted a Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS) entitled, "Guidelines for Amending the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan," dated February 28, 1979, that sets forth the factors to be considered for the classification of recent acquisitions and the alteration of introductory guidelines, guidelines for management and use, area descriptions, definitions of existing classifications, and facility definitions.

**WHEREAS**, the APSLMP provides criteria for classifying state lands within the Adirondack Park according to their characteristics and capacity to withstand use; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department has acquired approximately 585 acres of land in the Town of Jay in Essex County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Agency and the Department Concerning Implementation of the State Land Master Plan for the Adirondack Park, (MOU) provides procedures for consultation and consideration of proposed changes to the APSLMP; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency consulted with the Department as required by the MOU and has prepared recommendations for amendments to the APSLMP which constitute a periodic review of the entire plan; and

**WHEREAS**, Agency staff presented a summary of the proposed amendments package to the Agency Board at its September 12, 2024 meeting and defined the action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

**WHEREAS**, Agency staff determined the action to be a Type I action under APA Rules and Regulations (9 NYCRR 586.5(a)(6)(iv));

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, Agency staff are authorized to initiate a coordinated review pursuant to the SEQRA (6 NYCRR Part 617), Agency regulations (9 NYCRR Part 586), and the FPEIS, and to inform potential involved agencies to the action and seek lead agency status with respect to the proposed amendments package; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Agency staff are authorized to conduct at least two public hearings and hold a sixty-day public comment period on the proposed amendments package; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Agency staff will summarize written and verbal comments and present these and a proposed final amendments package to the Board at a future meeting.

Ayes: 10

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Absent: 0