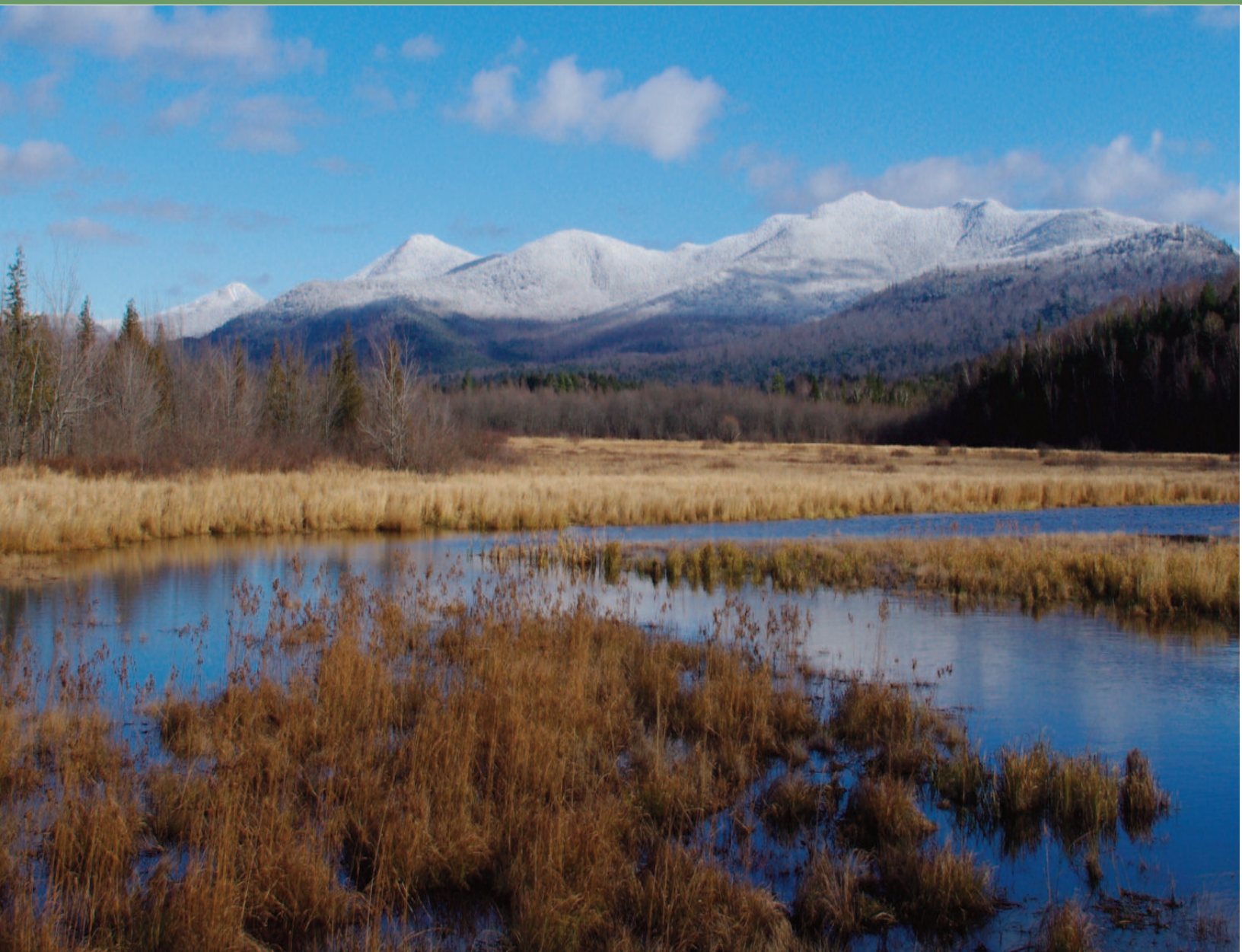


NEW YORK STATE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY



“The Adirondack Park is one of New York’s greatest assets. In the coming years, the protection of the Park’s natural resources and the promotion of economic opportunities must remain one of the State’s highest priorities.”

Chairman Curtis F. Stiles

Annual Report

2010

Message from the Chairman



**Chairman
Curtis F. Stiles**

2010 was a very challenging year for the Park Agency. Despite State fiscal constraints, high profile litigation, the economic conditions of the world around us, a reduction in our workforce from 72 to 56, and the closure of the Visitors Interpretive Centers, significant progress was made transforming how the Agency does business. As this Annual Report will describe, work processes are better, decisions are made quicker, outreach to local government is better, productivity exceeds expectations, and a shared understanding of Adirondack problems are coming closer together.

We are thankful for Governor Paterson's approval of four major land classification packages this year. Each is unique by itself, but common principles have been applied, to ensure the most sensitive natural resources are protected and the remaining lands are accessible and can be enjoyed by all constituencies while maintaining compatibility with the State Land Master Plan. The Moose River Plains, Hurricane and St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower decisions are examples of a balanced and informed Unit Management planning process with our partners at DEC and the Adirondack Community.

Both the Agency Board and staff have benefited greatly from the Community Spotlight series at monthly Agency meetings, gaining insight to community issues as presented by Town Supervisors. Through these sessions a better dialogue is built and together we are able to develop specific supporting actions on a local level and provide background and context to inform broader policy decisions.

The power of what a community can do with local leadership, energy and a shared value of what is important and possible, is truly exciting, uplifting and extremely beneficial as a model for all of us who live in the Park. The ARISE group in Tupper Lake opened Big Tupper Ski Area with volunteers and three paid employees rallying an entire community and inspiring the region. In Keene, broadband access was brought to an entire community due to the drive and vision of a few individuals who were inspired to connect children with the school and the world beyond. There are many more stories like this within the Adirondack Park and we should be focusing on the positive power of inspired leadership instead of the negative rhetoric of conflicted politics, inaction and stalemate. We live in an extraordinary place and can achieve an exceptional future and quality of life for all that live, work and visit here, one community at a time.

The Agency is responsible for administration of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers Act, and the Freshwater Wetlands Act. These statutes, particularly in terms of public and private land protection and use, influence how people live and work in the Park. They also contribute to the exceptional environmental quality, open space character and rural heritage of the region recognized not only nationally but throughout the world.

Changing the tone of the public debate will require acknowledgment of the APA's longstanding and legitimate role established by the New York State Legislature for Park planning, policy and regulations, a role many stakeholders see as a partnership for success. As we embark on the second decade of the 21st century, a decade that includes the 40th anniversary of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, it is now time to move beyond differences and embrace opportunities where environmental planning, economic development and stewardship together gain their rightful place as a fulcrum to build and sustain economies and communities across this amazing place. Ignoring this perspective prolongs divisions that weaken the competitiveness and uniqueness of the Adirondack Park.

I would like to recognize the long and valued services of former Commissioner James Townsend who left the board in May after 11 years of invaluable and dedicated service to the Agency and the Adirondack Park. Jim's leadership of the State Lands and Legal Affairs committees set a standard of excellence, knowledge, insight and commitment we should all aspire to. We will miss his good humor, professionalism, patience and understanding of our mission and challenges of the Adirondack Park.

Additionally, I extend my thanks and gratitude to all of our Agency members and designees for their support and our shared accomplishment in 2010.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the dedicated, highly competent and professional staff of the Agency who work and live here everyday doing their very best to fulfill the Agency mission with balance and objectivity.

Message from the Executive Director



**Executive Director
Terry Martino**



Above: Chairman Stiles (left) and Executive Director Martino present resolutions to retiring staff members Steve Erman, Barbara Rottier and John Quinn.



Above: Senior Staff member Rita Quinn (middle) accepts Agency Resolution honoring her retirement from Executive Director Martino (right) and Chairman Stiles (left)

At right: Dr. Ross Whaley (left), Senior Advisor to the Adirondack Landowners Association welcomes Senator Betty Little, Town of Wells Supervisor Brian Towers and Executive Director Martino to their annual meeting.

2010 was a year where the Agency responded to circumstances and opportunities that directly influenced operations and Adirondack Park communities. Faced with fiscal restraints, staff retirements, and the January 2010 budget directive for a year-end closure of the two Visitor Interpretive Centers, the Agency successfully managed change. Program accomplishments are outlined throughout the Annual Report.

We recognize the VIC staff for the dedication over two-plus decades in interpreting the value of the Adirondack Park to more than 1.5 million visitors. The message of environmental protection, regulations and Park development will now continue through the work from the Ray Brook headquarters.

Staff retirements are highlighted in the report for those individuals who in total provided more than 153 years of service. They will be remembered for their contributions, knowledge and dedication to the Agency's mission. Other staff changes included the appointment of Richard Weber to the Deputy Director of Regulatory Programs. Additionally, John Burth's assignment as an EPS II in Legal was an important step in the reorganization of the Agency's Enforcement Division and in the coordination of staff management and outreach.

Our goal to maintain communication with the public resulted in responses to 4,820 jurisdictional calls and 199 walk-ins, and 271 field wetland site visits. Staff participated in numerous public meetings with municipal leaders, Rotary Clubs, Chambers, and university students. We began the year with the statement, "When in doubt, seek us out." We conclude with the invitation for you to call us to learn about the Agency's jurisdiction with your projects and how we can work with you in the protection of public and private lands in the Park.

State land planning activity saw the culmination of four land classifications to benefit the Park's environment, economy and recreational access. The value of the work with DEC and the participatory public commentary with numerous meetings and input from residents, visitors, and community leaders was exemplary.

2010 demonstrated that within challenges there are opportunities. Throughout the year staff showed resourcefulness and achievement and are to be commended for their accomplishments. As we prepare to turn the page on forty years, we will continue to focus on efficiencies, coordination and reengineering in a manner that benefits the public and your involvement with the Agency.

We share your recognition of how the Agency's work has an impact on the people, municipalities, businesses and natural resources of the Adirondack Park. We look forward to working with you to ensure everyone experiences the environmental, community and economic benefits of this exceptional place - the Adirondack Park.



About the Adirondack Park



Auger Falls located in Town of Wells, Hamilton County

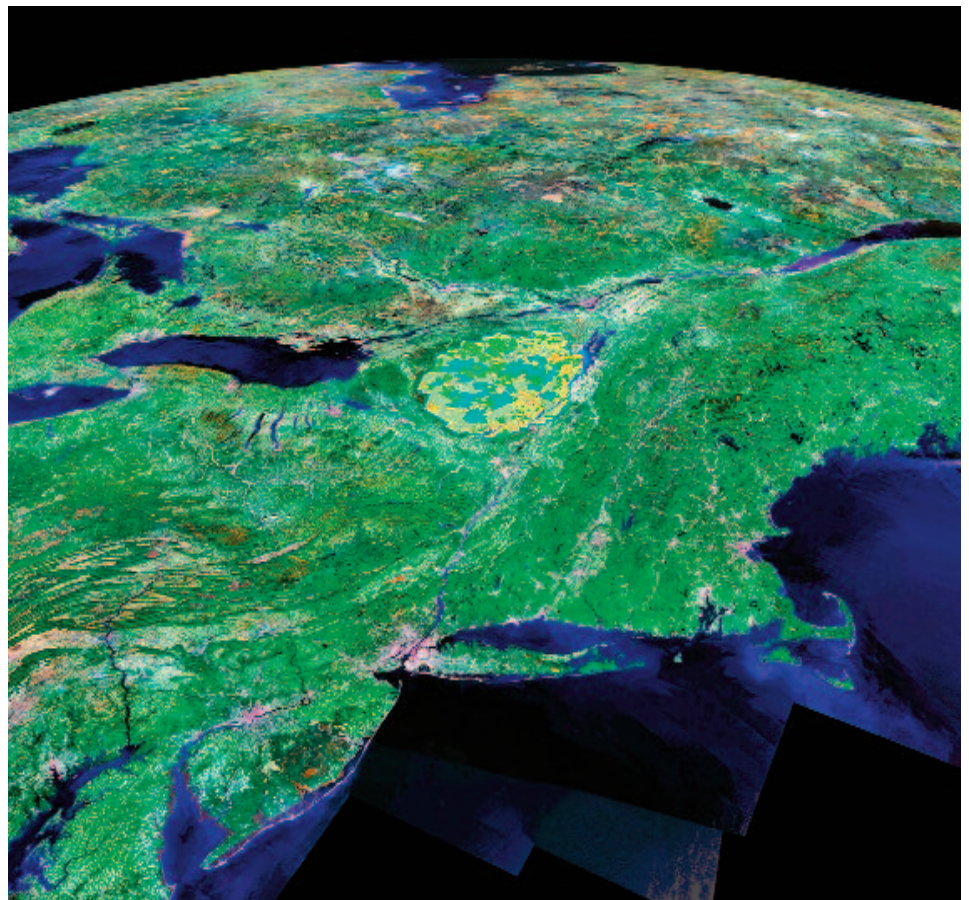
At Right:
The Adirondack Park land use map is superimposed over satellite imagery. The Park covers 6 million acres of New York State. For comparison, the Park is roughly the size of Vermont.

Celebrated during the Adirondack Park Centennial as a “place of people and natural wonder,” the Park has a legacy dating back to 1892 when it was created by the State of New York amid concerns about water and timber resources. The Adirondack Park represents a story of conservation—of how people, communities, wilderness and open space can coexist—for the more than 6 million acres of land that comprise the park.

The heart of the [Adirondack Park](#) is the Forest Preserve which was created by an act of the New York State Legislature in 1885. Through Article 14 of the New York State Constitution, the Forest Preserve lands are constitutionally protected: “The lands now or hereafter constituting them shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be sold, nor shall they be leased or taken by any person or corporation public or private.”

The mix of public and private lands is an underlying characteristic of the Adirondack Park. Comprised of 103 towns and villages, the park includes diverse communities with unique Main Streets, farms, small businesses, working forests, open space, and a range of services and products. The abundance of nature-based tourism and world-class outdoor recreational opportunities, combined with the character and appearance of its public and private lands, make the park notably different from most other rural areas. The park offers an unparalleled small town quality and room for businesses within its towns and villages that are gateways to public lands.

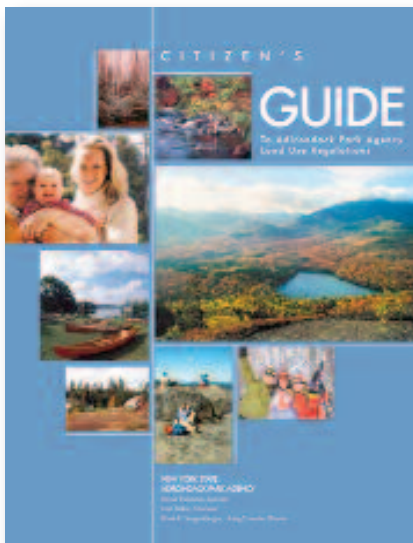
The park represents one-fifth of New York’s land area and has the largest publicly protected area in the contiguous United States—comparable in size to the State of Vermont. The park is home to 132,000 residents and boasts more than 10,000 lakes, 30,000 miles of rivers and streams, and a wide variety of habitats including wetlands and old-growth forests recognized for their ecological significance. Situated within a day’s drive of nearly 84 million people, the park is well positioned to offer its unique blend of wilderness solitude, outdoor recreation and community life to the millions of visitors who in increasing numbers see the park as a unique travel destination. The blend of public and private lands provides the Adirondack Park with a unique diversity found nowhere else.



About the Adirondack Park Agency



Executive Director Martino (right) and Gore Mountain Region Chamber Past President Ed Milner discuss “Purely Adirondack” and other economic initiatives at a Chamber event in North Creek.



For more information, click on the Citizen's Guide cover above for a direct link to the Agency website.

At right:

The [APA Act](#) works to channel growth to where it is best supported. Town of Elizabethtown, Essex County

The [Adirondack Park Agency](#) (APA) was created in 1971 by the New York State Legislature with the mission to protect the public and private resources within the “Blue Line” of the Adirondack Park through the exercise of the powers and duties of the Agency as provided by law. The basic purpose of the [APA Act](#) is “to insure optimum overall conservation, development and use of the unique scenic, aesthetic, wildlife, recreational, open space, historic, ecological and natural resources of the Adirondack Park.”

The Agency works to balance the complementary needs of all the people of the State for the preservation of the park’s resources and open space character with the needs of the park’s permanent, seasonal and transient populations for growth and service areas, employment, and a strong diversified economic base. To achieve its mission the Agency administers two regional land use plans: the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (SLMP) for State lands and the Adirondack Park Private Land Use and Development Plan for private lands. These documents classify state and private lands according to their characteristics and capacity to sustain use.

In the [State Land Master Plan](#), state lands are classified in one of the following categories: Wilderness, Primitive, Canoe, Wild Forest, Intensive Use, Historic and State Administrative. The SLMP establishes policy for the management of these lands and was developed in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Conservation with approval by the Governor. DEC is charged with the care and custody of the Forest Preserve .

The [Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan](#) applies to private land use and development in the park. The plan defines Agency jurisdiction and is designed to conserve the park’s natural resources and open-space character by directing and clustering development to minimize impact. Through the plan, all private lands are mapped into six land use classifications: Hamlet, Moderate Intensity Use, Low Intensity Use, Rural Use, Resource Management and Industrial Use. The Agency has limited jurisdiction in Hamlet areas, extensive jurisdiction in Resource Management areas, and various degrees of jurisdiction within the other land use classifications.

The Agency also administers two other statutes which define jurisdiction within the Park: the State Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Systems Act for private lands and the State Freshwater Wetlands Act for both the park’s public and private lands. The Agency’s administration of these statutes integrates the State’s goals of preserving river areas and wetlands with the closely related purposes of the SLMP and Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan.

Agency programs include: Administration, Economic Services, Regulatory Programs, Park Planning, Local Government Services, State Land, Resource Analysis and Scientific Services, Legal Services and Interpretive Programs. Staff members are multi-disciplined and dedicated to the Agency’s mission – all staff members are park residents living in various towns and villages.



Adirondack Park Agency Board

BOARD MEMBERS

Curtis F. Stiles, Chairman,
In-Park: Franklin County
Richard S. Booth,
Out-of-Park: Tompkins County
Arthur Lussi,
In-Park: Essex County
Frank L. Mezzano,
In-Park: Hamilton County
William H. Thomas,
In-Park: Warren County
James T. Townsend,
Out-of-Park: Monroe County
Service Time: 6/99- 5/10
William Valentino,
Out-of-Park: Albany County
Effective 5/10
Leilani C. Ulrich,
In-Park: Herkimer County
Cecil Wray,
Out-of-Park: New York County
Dennis Mullen, Commissioner
Department of Economic
Development
Pete Grannis, Commissioner
Department of Environmental
Conservation
Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez,
Secretary of State
Economic Development
James Fayle, Designee
Department of Economic
Development
Elizabeth M. Lowe, Designee
Department of Environmental
Conservation
Riele Morgiewicz, Designee
Department of State

Please click [HERE](#) for Board Member Bios.

The Adirondack Park Agency is a New York State government agency with an eleven-member Board of Commissioners, five of whom must be residents of the Adirondack Park. The Governor appoints eight members, subject to confirmation by the Senate, and three ex-officio members: the Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development, the Secretary of State, and the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. The Board represents a careful balance of local, regional and statewide interests in the Adirondack Park.

The Adirondack Park Agency Act gives the Agency broad authority over private and public land use policy and regional planning. The Agency conducts its business at regular monthly public meetings. Board members are engaged in the following committees through which they address specific issues before the Agency: Regulatory Programs, Legal Affairs, Enforcement, Park Policy and Planning, State Land, Park Ecology, Interpretive Programs, Local Government Services, Economic Affairs and Administration.

Monthly meetings include review of permit applications, policy determinations, actions on state land issues and presentations by experts on a wide range of topics including economics, ecology and land conservation.

In 2010, monthly Board meetings provided a framework for a wide range of presentations about the following: Adirondack Park signage, water quality, white-nose bat syndrome, contemporary forest management, the Champlain-Hudson Public Service Commission project, the Raquette River Blueway, mountain biking and climate change, amongst other timely topics. The Agency format highlights the interest and involvement of Agency staff and Board members in the research, project development, planning, marketing and promotions that influence community life, environmental quality and economic opportunities. For a complete listing of Board activities please click [Board Highlights](#).

In 2010, long tenured Board Member James T. Townsend retired. First appointed on June 9, 1999, he served as Chair of the Legal Affairs Committee and the State Lands Committee. He was Agency Chairman upon the retirement of James C. Frenette in 2003 until the appointment of Dr. Ross S. Whaley in 2003. He listened to residents and advocates from every corner of the Park, and spent countless hours in consultation with staff engaged in the committees he served. Mr. Townsend finds every opportunity to spend time in his beloved Adirondacks.



Former Chairman Ross Whaley (L), Chairman Curt Stiles (M), Former Chairman Cecil Wray (R) and Retired Board Member James Townsend (seated). Mr. Townsend also served as Chairman.

Administration

STAFF

Terry Martino,

Executive Director

Stephen M. Erman,

Special Assistant for
Economic Affairs, Retired 9/10

Keith P. McKeever,

Public Information Director

Elaine M. Caldwell,

Administrative Officer 1

Deborah A. Lester,

Secretary to Executive Director

Robert P. Kreider,

Information Technology
Specialist 2

Patrick R. Farrell,

General Mechanic

Susan A. Carey,

Principal Clerk 1

Amy S. Hall,

Calculations Clerk 1

Norma Howard,

Student Assistant

Elizabeth Stankus,

Student Assistant

John J. Jock,

Cleaner

Howard Baker,

Green Thumb Program

Rod Williams,

Green Thumb Program

The Administrative Services Division is responsible for all fiscal management, contract administration, personnel management, physical plant management and office support. Unit staff are involved in the preparation of purchase orders and vouchers, fiscal record keeping, determination of availability of funds for the Agency's division programs, payroll and computerization of fiscal records. Staff are also responsible for media relations, community relations and outreach.

FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Administrative staff managed a fiscal year 2010/2011 appropriated budget of \$5,119,000 and met all mandated reductions. Staff worked closely with the NYS Division of Budget and prepared all documentation, fiscal analysis, and expenditure projections.

PERSONNEL

The Agency saw a 22% decrease in full-time employees from 72 to 56. The reduction was accomplished through retirements and the transfer of the two Visitor Interpretive Centers. The division worked with the NYS Department of Civil Service, NYS Unemployment and other related state agencies in the mandated reduction of workforce process.

CONTRACTS

The division continued to administer the Federal Highway Administration/NYS DOT TEA and Environmental Protection Agency grants. In addition, the division worked closely with the Office of General Services (OGS), the Attorney General and Office of State Comptroller in the contract/transfer process for the two VIC's. Staff also worked with OGS in the surplus/transfer of state equipment at the centers.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Staff continue to upgrade Agency computer resources and software, and coordinate efforts to expand and integrate the Agency-wide computer records management system. Staff addressed record management needs for the State Archive and Records Administration, assisted Legal Division with litigation discovery and improved electronic access for Freedom of Information Requests.

MEDIA RELATIONS

During the year the Chairman, Executive Director and Public Information Officer undertook a rigorous media relations campaign, inclusive of print, op-eds, television and radio. Topics of presentation and discussion included Park Agency jurisdiction, project review requirements, the Adirondack Park Regional Assessment Project, proposed legislation, the potential for regulatory reform and the regional economy.



Frank L. Mezzano

Chair Administration Services

Terry Martino

Executive Director



Chairman Stiles and Executive Director Martino conduct radio interview with WNBZ reporter Jon Alexander.

Regulatory Programs

STAFF

Richard E. Weber III, Deputy Director, Effective 8/10
Holly E. Kneeshaw, Acting Deputy Director, thru 8/10
 Assistant Deputy Director
John L. Quinn, Environmental Program Specialist 3, Retired 5/10
George V. Outcalt, Environmental Program Specialist 2, Retired 5/10
Colleen C. Parker, Environmental Program Specialist 2
Thomas Saehrig, Environmental Program Specialist 2
Michael Hannon, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Susan Parker, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Suzanne McSherry, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Virginia Yamrick, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Leigh R. Walrath, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Tracy J. Darrah, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Ariel A. Diggory, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Mary L. Reardon, Secretary 1
Stephanie C. Summers, Keyboard Specialist 1, Retired 5/10



Above left: **Leilani C. Ulrich**
 Chair Regulatory Programs
 Above right: **Richard E. Weber**,
 Deputy Director

The Regulatory Programs Division implements the statutory and regulatory provisions of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Freshwater Wetlands Act, and Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act. Staff provide pre-application project guidance and assessment, determine application completeness, apply review standards and prepare permit, variance or denial orders.

In 2010, the Regulatory Programs Division received 446 project applications and issued 392 permits. Staff processed 167 preapplication requests. The following tables summarize permits issued in 2010:

Project Type	Number Issued
Major	101
Minor	81
Variance	5
State Agency Order	13
Amendment/Renewals	119
General Permits	73
Total	392

Permit Activity	Number Issued
Commercial Use	13
Towers over 40 feet in height	14
Sand & Gravel, Mining	8
Municipal Bridges	3
Major Public Utility	2
Public Use/Group Camp	7
Hunting & Fishing Cabin	2
Wetlands	31
Resource Management	20
Municipal Sewer/Water	3
Industrial Use	1
Residential Wind tower	0
Single Family Dwelling Units	233
Subdivision Projects	88

CELLULAR PROJECTS

Cellular coverage continues to improve as telecommunication companies increase their efforts to provide service in the Adirondack Park. In January of 2010, the Agency adopted a resolution authorizing the Deputy Director of Regulatory Programs to approve telecommunications projects that are consistent with the Agency Towers Policy. In 2010, the Agency issued 28 permits that resulted in 14 new towers, 3 co-locations and 9 replacements. At year's end, 12 cellular applications were in various stages of review and 10 pre-application requests were under review.

JOB GENERATING PROJECTS

During 2010, the Agency permitted 42 projects which will contribute to the retention or creation of jobs in Park communities. These included small manufacturing, mining, retail and service activities. An additional 59 economic development projects involved semi-public institutional projects, parks and public access projects, infrastructure improvements including, utility lines, bridge and highway reconstruction, cellular communications and water and sewer system improvements will all better position Adirondack communities for economic expansion in the future.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE PROJECT

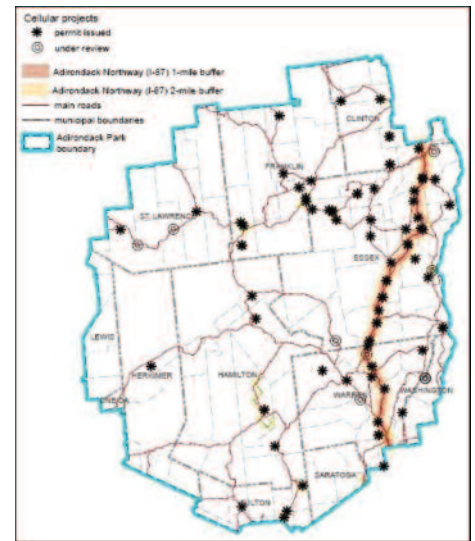
Agency staff continues to respond to Governor Paterson's Executive Order to expedite regulatory review and effectively address the disruptions caused by the sudden closure of the Lake Champlain Bridge. Staff attended coordination meetings, conducted field visits and issued timely approvals. Permits have been issued for bridge demolition, the development of a temporary ferry and the construction of the new tied-arch bridge. Staff are currently working with involved state agencies to expedite planning and permitting of a temporary staging area for the construction of the unique bridge arches and for the restoration and improvements of this important, historic gateway area to New York State and the Adirondack Park. The approved ferry project establishes a vital temporary transportation route across Lake Champlain while construction of the new bridge occurs.

NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

Issuance of every project permit is intended to ensure appropriate natural resource protection for all new land use and development as required by statute. Increasingly Agency staff have been involved in the planning and permitting of specific projects targeted solely on natural resource protection issues such as invasive species control, stormwater management, sediment control, shoreline stabilization and streambank restoration. In 2010, 14 permits were issued for invasive species control and 4 permits were issued for large scale bank stabilization and stormwater management projects.



Agency staff meet with telecommunication representatives and state and local elected officials to discuss permitting process for cellular facilities. The meeting resulted in development of another general permit to fast track the [horizontal co-location](#) of certain towers.



Cellular projects permitted or under review through 2010. Please click above image for large scale map.



Agency staff worked in close coordination with other state agencies and local officials ensuring timely approvals for construction of a temporary ferry to provide transport across Lake Champlain, Town of Crown Point, Essex County.



Cold Springs Granite Quarry, a key economic development project, in Town of Jay, Essex County was approved in 2010.

Economic Services



Above: Town of Jay Supervisor, Randy Douglas, (standing) addresses citizens in attendance at APA public hearing on Cold Springs Granite's quarry expansion project. The hearing was attended by over 90 people.



Above: Base area of Big Tupper Ski Area. Agency staff approved a permit to renew volunteer operation of the ski area located in the Town of Tupper Lake, Franklin County.



Above left: **Arthur Lussi**
Chair Economic Affairs

Above right: **Steve Erman**
Special Assistant for Economic Affairs

At right: International Paper's site plan detailing landfill expansion project approved by APA in 2010.

The Economic Services Unit provides staff expertise in market and financial feasibility analysis, economic and fiscal impact analysis, and economic development planning. Staff assists project sponsors and economic developers in evaluating business locations and identifies other sources of help for business development.

MAJOR PERMITS

The Special Assistant for Economic Affairs assisted International Paper secure a permit for a greater than 25% expansion of their existing landfill located in the Town of Ticonderoga, Essex County. Staff provided fiscal impact analysis for the approved 510-unit Chocolate Moose Campground to be located in the Town of Fort Ann, Washington County. Staff assisted with the review and economic impact analysis for the Cold Spring Granite Quarry project located in the Town of Jay, Essex County. Staff assisted the AuSable Valley Central School District secure a permit for the construction and operation of a wood biomass boiler at the Middle/High School. This project was identified as an important local project that will save the school district money and use local services as a source for the wood chips and trucking. The Special Assistant provided critical guidance resulting in the expedited approval for the Champlain Bridge project.

PRE-APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

The Special Assistant participated in pre-application meetings for a new general aviation terminal permit located in the Town of Harrietstown, the Adirondack Grand Senior Housing Facility in the Westport Industrial Park and continued discussions to advance the Harrietstown Business Park. The Special Assistant for Economic Affairs was a member of the review team for the FrontStreet Mountain Development and assisted with the review of proposed amendments for this large scale resort residential project located in the Town of Johnsbury, Warren County.

Economic staff also coordinated with the Town of Brighton to focus on reuse opportunities for the former Camp Gabriels prison site. Staff participated in a tour of the site with Town officials, Franklin County IDA/LDC officials and representatives of the NYS Office of General Services. The Special Assistant's work resulted in correspondence from the Agency's Executive Director to OGS in December that stated the land would be reclassified to Moderate Intensity Use following the sale of the property and provided guidance on permitting as well as identifying the availability of 71 principle buildings rights for this site.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

In 2010, the Agency's Economic Affairs Committee continued to discuss small business development issues and opportunities in the Adirondack Park. Presentations included a discussion by Rob Riley and Joe Short of the Northern Forest Center on the Sustainable Economy Initiative and the Northern Border Commission. The Committee heard a presentation by John Bartow of the Tug Hill Commission on the Commission's work and survey research with government leaders and landowners. Other topics included a presentation on economic development opportunities related to mountain biking from Tim Tierney of the Kingdom Trails Association in Vermont. There was also a presentation on the historical and economic significance of children's camps in the Adirondacks by Hallie Bond, of the Adirondack Museum and Karen Meltzer of Brant Lake Camp.



Planning

STAFF

James E. Connolly,
Deputy Director

Richard E. Weber III, thru 8/10
Assistant Planning Director,

Brian F. Grisi,
Local Planning Assistance
Specialist

John W. Barge,
Mapping Technologist 3

Matthew S. Kendall,
Senior Natural Resources Planner

Kevin G. Prickett,
Senior Natural Resources Planner

Kathy D. Regan,
Associate Natural Resources
Planner

Walter W. Linck,
Associate Natural Resources
Planner

Robyn E. Burgess,
Environmental Program
Specialist 1

Lauretta H. Bullis,
Secretary 1



Above left: **Richard S. Booth**
Chair Park Policy and Planning
Above right: **James Connolly**
Deputy Director

At right: Agency staff prepared map of available broadband coverage. Please click on image for large scale map.

The Agency's Planning Division is responsible for Local Government Services, Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map updates and map amendments, State Lands, Park Policy Research & Analysis, Geographic Information System (GIS), cartographic services, records management & library services and Web Site Management.

MAP AMENDMENTS

The Agency approved map amendments in the Town of Westport, Essex County and Tupper Lake, Franklin County. Twenty-one acres were reclassified from Resource Management to Hamlet in Westport while 2.5 areas went from Resource Management to Hamlet in Tupper Lake. Staff assisted the towns of Crown Point, Essex and Bellmont on local planning and mapping initiatives.

HAMLETS OF THE ADIRONDACKS

APA staff prepared base maps for the Hamlet study project team which helped in their work to assess five different hamlet clusters throughout the Adirondacks. The project team prepared a guidebook to assist communities with hamlet revitalization and expansion. Public training programs and technical assistance courses will be offered to communities that want to implement smart growth projects. APA will continue to assist communities with any proposed map amendments.

TRAVEL CORRIDOR PLANNING

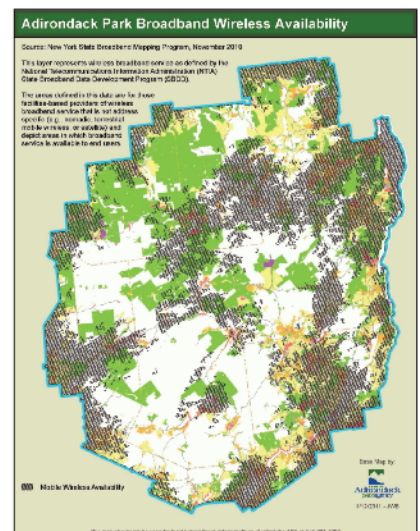
Agency staff were involved in a number of travel corridor actions. Executive Director Martino provided comments to NYSDOT which emphasized the long history of Byways branding associated with signage in the Adirondack Park. Staff assisted with the development of a MOU for Travel Corridor Unit Management Plans. Staff prepared plans with DOT, DEC and local government for the Wilmington Notch section of NYS Route 86 which is part of the Olympic Scenic Byway.

MOU FOR REVIEW OF PROJECTS ON STATE OWNED EASEMENT LANDS

The APA and DEC executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) defining a process for future DEC activities proposed on State easements on private lands inside the Adirondack Park. The MOU defines working relationships, provides guidelines for outlining new land use and development subject to APA review, and establishes review protocols for future DEC projects proposed on private lands with State-owned conservation easements.

CARTOGRAPHY AND INFORMATION ANALYSIS

Agency GIS staff compiled information on regional broadband availability within the Adirondack Park. GIS data was originally collected by the NYS Office of Cyber Security as part of a State-wide project intended to document all high-speed internet locations in NY. Maps which show the location for various broadband wireless and non-wireless services are available on the APA web site. The map represents the area of broadband availability by census block and/or road segment as defined by the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA). GIS data is updated biannually. Please click image for large scale map.



Local Government Services

The Local Government Services staff works with individual towns in the Park to assist them with planning and zoning laws and administering Agency-approved local land use programs. The staff also assists communities by attending community meetings, providing written advice, designing workshops and providing plan and code review.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OUTREACH

Staff responded to 570 inquiries from local officials on land use issues and participated in twenty-six meetings with town officials providing information on Agency jurisdiction and land use law. Seven training workshops were conducted throughout the Park for local government officials. In March, Local Government Day was attended by over 250 local government officials. Fourteen staff members participated in the Northern Adirondack Code Enforcement Officials Association 15th Annual Educational Conference. Staff had eighty-three contacts with CEOs from forty-two towns and villages during the conference. In June, staff attended the Adirondack Camp and Home Show held in Old Forge, NY. Over 1000 people attended the event. In addition to answering questions, Agency staff and the local code enforcement officer provided a one-hour program on local and Park-wide land use regulations.

APPROVED LOCAL LAND USE PROGRAMS

During 2010, seven zoning amendments were approved by the Agency for the following municipalities: Bolton, Edinburg, Hague, Horicon, Queensbury and Westport. This included the complete review of the Town of Edinburg Zoning, Land Use and Subdivision Ordinance and the Town of Queensbury Subdivision Law. In addition, amendments from eight other towns were reviewed by Planning and Legal Division staff and are in various stages of completion. Staff reviewed ninety-nine variances from towns with approved programs of which, 42 involved shoreline setbacks provisions; 5 involved density provisions; and 3 involved allowable uses. Six variance referrals were reversed.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Staff revised a compilation map of Adirondack towns which showed towns with Agency-approved local land use programs, towns with zoning, subdivision, or site plan review regulations and towns without any local land use controls. A summary guide was prepared by staff to assist local officials to work through the procedural requirements for enacting zoning amendments and conducting the required SEQRA review. Staff also offered to prepare large scale municipal maps depicting APA land use areas and parcel boundaries for display in town offices. Twenty-six maps were requested and distributed by staff as part of outreach.



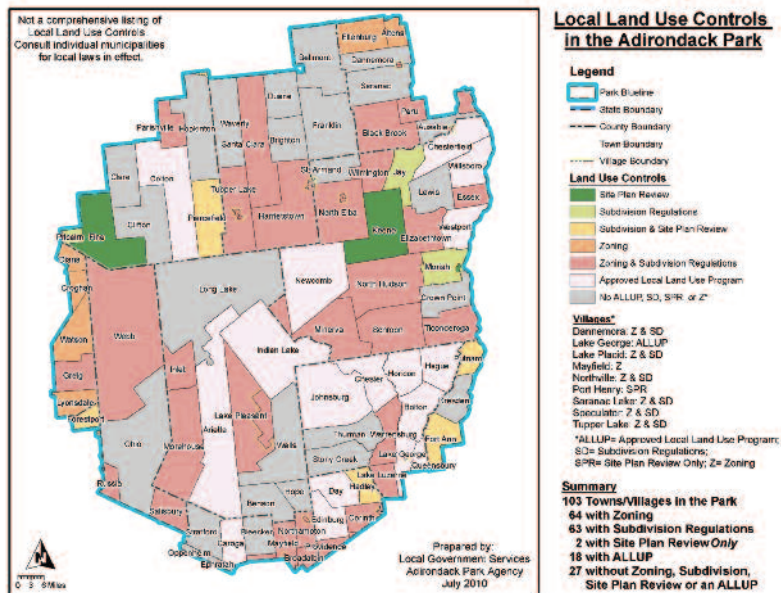
Above: Agency staff welcome officials to 2010 Local Government Day.
Standing: Robyn Burgess
Seated from Left: Amy Hall, Susan Streiff and Lauretta Bullis.



Above: Ted Zoli was the keynote speaker at Local Government Day. He designed the Lake Champlain Bridge.



Above Left: **William H. Thomas**
Chair Local Government Services
Above right: **Brian Grisi**
Local Planning Assistance Specialist



State Lands



Above: Historic fire tower on Hurricane Mountain. The fire towers on Hurricane and St. Regis Mountains were reclassified to Historic under the SLMP in 2010.



Above left: **Dick Booth**
Chair State Lands
Above right: **James Connolly**
Deputy Director

At right: Traditional camping and hunting will continue in the Moose River Plains with the establishment of a new Moose River Plains Intensive Use Camping Area along the Limekiln Lake-Cedar River Road and Rock Dam Road.

State Land staff work with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to prepare and review Unit Management Plans (UMPs) consistent with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (SLMP); provide guidance and interpretation regarding the SLMP to the Agency's board; develop long-range planning studies regarding the future of State lands; review proposed DEC projects on State lands to ensure conformance with the SLMP; and work with the DEC to develop staff proposals for the classification or reclassification of State lands.

STATE LAND CLASSIFICATION

In 2010, four State land classification packages were completed and approved by the Governor. The Annual Classification package included 91 State land classifications totaling 31,056 acres and four reclassifications totaling 468 acres. The Chazy Highlands and the Tahawus tracts highlighted this action. A State Land Master Plan objective to preserve the wild character of the Lows Lake-Bog River-Oswegatchie Wilderness canoe route was achieved with the addition of 7,965 acres into the Five Ponds and Round Lake Wilderness Areas and the establishment of the Eastern Five Ponds Access Primitive Area. These actions were part of the Lows Lake reclassification package.

Governor Paterson approved the Agency's classification recommendations for the Moose River Plains Wild Forest, including creation of a new Little Moose Mountain Wilderness Area and establishment of a new Intensive Use Camping Area. The Governor's approval authorized a new 12,269-acre Little Moose Mountain Wilderness Area; reclassification of 2,925 acres from Wild Forest to Intensive Use to create a new Moose River Plains Intensive Use Camping Area along the Limekiln Lake-Cedar River Road and Rock Dam Road; reclassification of 2,398 acres from Wild Forest to Wilderness for addition to the West Canada Lake Wilderness; reclassification of 163 acres from Moose River Plains Wild Forest to Blue Ridge Wilderness; and reclassification of 59 acres from West Canada Lake Wilderness to Moose River Plains Wild Forest.

The Historic Fire Tower action involved the reclassification of 13,742 acres of State lands resulting in the creation of the Hurricane Mountain Wilderness Area and the Hurricane Mountain Fire Tower Historic Area in Essex County as well as the St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower Historic Area in Franklin County. This action preserved two historic landmarks while expanding wilderness recreation opportunities.

UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

In consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation the Agency determined five new unit management plans (UMPs) were compliant with the State Land Master Plan. In 2010, Independence River Wild Forest, Hurricane Mountain Primitive Area, Jay Wilderness Area, Moose River Plains Wild Forest and the Moose River Plains Intensive Use Camping Area UMPs were approved. Master Plan compliance represents the culmination of an intense planning process designed to protect vital natural resources and critical wildlife habitat while balancing the promotion of traditional recreational activities imperative to the economic well being of Adirondack communities.

The Agency also approved four amendments to existing unit management plans in 2010 including: the Jessup River Wild Forest, Watson's East Triangle Wild Forest, Northville Boat Launch Intensive Use Area and the Scaroon Manor Intensive Use Area.



Resource Analysis & Scientific Services

STAFF

Daniel M. Spada,
Supervisor-Natural Resource Analysis

Shaun E. LaLonde,
Soil and Water Engineering Specialist

Greg A. Bendell, Environmental Engineer

Lawrence P. Phillips,
Associate A.P. Project Analyst,
Forest Resources, Thru 5/10

W. Mark Rooks,
Associate A.P. Project Analyst,
Biological Resources

Edward S. Snizek,
Associate A.P. Project Analyst,
Fresh Water Resources

Mary A. O'Dell,
Biologist 1 (Ecology)

Stephanie L. Petith,
Keyboard Specialist 1

Aaron Ziemann,
EPA Contractor



Above left: **Leilani C. Ulrich**
Chair Park Ecology
Above right: **Daniel Spada**
Supervisor-Natural Resource Analysis

Left photo: Sean Ross (right) from Lyme Timber Company conducts a field visit for Agency staff, Board Members and General Public. Mr. Ross described sustainable forestry practices.

The Resource Analysis and Scientific Services (RASS) unit provides scientific and technical analysis supporting all Agency transactions. The Agency's scientists provide expertise on engineering, soils analysis, forestry, invasive species, wildlife habitat, wetlands and other aquatic systems.

FIELD SERVICES

Staff perform valuable field services including wetland delineations, mean high water mark determinations, structure height determinations, deep-hole test pit determinations, septic system review and stormwater management analysis. In 2010, staff completed 271 wetland delineations, advised on 242 wetland jurisdictional determinations, and evaluated 81 deep-hole test pits.

Deep-hole test pits (DHTP) ensure protection of water resources especially drinking water sources. DHTP provide the necessary information to correctly locate onsite wastewater treatment systems. Staff review is an extremely valuable public health service for Adirondack Park landowners. During 2010, half of all DHTPs indicated that shallow absorption trenches would be required primarily due to seasonal high water tables.

OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

Staff prepared guidance to streamline permitting for Forestry Use Involving Wetlands, participated in the Warren County Cornell Cooperative Extension logger training program and presented a jurisdictional workshop at Empire State Forest Products Association's annual conference. Staff conducted wetlands training for DEC and DOT personnel as well as provided training sessions on invasive species identification for the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program.

Staff participated with Essex County Soil & Water Conservation District and DEC on a Stormwater Workshop for contractors, code enforcement officers and government officials. The workshop explained stormwater management requirements and appropriate construction management measures. Staff participated in the Adirondack Forum on Invasive Species. Staff provided educational presentations to the Lake Placid Garden Club about the threat of invasive species. Staff lectured Paul Smith's College and Cornell University students on the history of wetlands and wetlands conservation in the Adirondacks.

Staff also spearheaded the effort to revise "Development in the Adirondack Park (DAP)." This document provides direction for planning and review of development projects on private lands within the Park.

MAJOR PROJECT REVIEW

Staff continued to review ongoing proposed Front Street project amendments, the Batchellerville Bridge, and the Crown Point Bridge project. In addition staff worked on the Brandreth Park subdivision, Velez Marina, Soft Maple Reservoir, and the ARISE Big Tupper Ski Area project.



At right: Mary O'Dell and Larry Philips conduct a wildlife assessment as part of project review for the BlueLine Development project in Tupper Lake, Franklin County.



Legal

STAFF

John S. Banta,
Counsel

Barbara A. Rottier,
Associate Counsel, Retired 7/10

Paul T. Van Cott,
Associate Attorney

Mitchell J. Goroski,
Senior Attorney

Richard R. Terry,
Senior Attorney

Sarah H. Reynolds,
Senior Attorney

Elizabeth A. Phillips,
Senior Attorney

Mary B. Palmer,
Keyboard Specialist 1

The Legal Division consists of three major components: the Office of Counsel, the Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit, and the Enforcement Unit. The Office of Counsel provides legal services and advice to all Agency divisions and the Agency board. The Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit provides advice to landowners and potential project sponsors regarding Agency jurisdiction, including informal phone advice and formal binding jurisdictional determinations. The Enforcement Unit seeks to resolve violations of the laws the Agency is charged to administer.

OFFICE OF COUNSEL

A key Legal Division accomplishment for 2010 was the Agency's promulgation of a new regulatory definition for the term "boathouse," which went into effect on September 21, 2010. The new definition was undertaken as part of a statutorily-required, five-year review and clarification of APA regulations following the 2002 promulgation of the current definitions. Additional changes were made as a result of public comment received during the rulemaking process.

Major litigation for the Legal Division includes the Agency's continued defense of four regulatory revisions that took effect December 31, 2008. The plaintiffs in the litigation have appealed a lower court decision which approved two of the regulatory revisions and invalidated two others. Other active litigation involves challenges from environmental organizations to Agency decisions declining to classify Lows Lake and snowmobile trail guidelines applied in the Jessup River Wild Forest as well as a challenge from a group of disabled veterans seeking aircraft and helicopter access to wilderness lakes.

Legal staff was responsible for executing Executive Order 25 which required state agencies to conduct a review of their rules and regulations. The Agency's Associate Attorney was the lead attorney on this effort.

Legal staff was also involved in developing a streamlined process for minor variances. Staff developed a revised hearing process to reduce the burden on applicants while still ensuring a thorough review.

LEGISLATION

In 2010, the Agency continued to advance three bills in the legislature: 1) to create a community housing incentive; 2) to create a local planning grant program; and 3) to streamline the Agency's permit process and enable development rights transfer. Notwithstanding consensus among both community and environmental constituencies on most points in the bills, they were not adopted in the legislative session.



Above Left: **Cecil Wray**
Chair Legal Affairs

Above Right: **John Banta**
Agency Counsel

At Right: From left, John Burth discusses settlement agreements with Senior Attorney Sarah Reynolds and Mary Palmer.



HELP YOURSELF
TO A
JURISDICTIONAL
INQUIRY FORM
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HERE.

STAFF

Jurisdictional Inquiry Office

Rita G. Quinn,
Environmental Program
Specialist 2, Retired 9/10
Brian M. Ford,
Environmental Program
Specialist 1
Nancy M. Heath,
Environmental Program
Specialist 1

Enforcement

John M. Burth, Environmental
Program Specialist 2
Trevor S. Fravor, Environmental
Program Specialist 1
Emily M. Tyner, Environmental
Program Specialist 1
Douglas W. Miller, Environmental
Program Specialist 1
Theresa LeBaron, Environmental
Program Specialist 1
Susan Streiff,
Keyboard Specialist 1



Above: **Cecil Wray**
Chair Enforcement

At right: Rita Quinn leads a training workshop for staff on Agency jurisdiction.

JURISDICTIONAL INQUIRY UNIT

The public's first point of contact with the Agency is often a letter or a phone call handled by the Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit. Staff within this Unit provide advice to landowners and others regarding Agency jurisdiction. Staff help citizens determine if an Agency permit or variance is required for proposed land use and development or the subdivision of land within the Park. Determinations often require a full deed history and other legal and factual research. This is the Agency's initial and most common point of contact with the public; hence, a high priority is placed on prompt responses.

In 2010, 856 formal jurisdictional determinations were issued. The average response time was 16 days. Jurisdictional staff answered 4,820 telephone calls and met with 199 walk-in members of the public. Staff also handled 510 referrals from other agencies. In addition, the Agency's Records Access Officer responded to 233 Freedom of Information requests.

This Unit experienced a significant staff transition in 2010 due to retirement. The Agency enlisted voluntary assistance from staff in other units to address these important and time-sensitive inquiries. This process is coordinated by Legal Division staff.

ENFORCEMENT UNIT

In 2010, the Enforcement Unit promptly investigated new cases involving environmentally significant violations. Enforcement Officers actively worked with local officials to prevent or quickly discover new violations. These efforts help to achieve amicable resolutions that avoid undue adverse impacts and burdensome financial expenditures.

In 2010, the Enforcement Unit opened 380 cases and successfully closed 372 cases. Violations were resolved through 189 staff negotiated settlement agreements. Landowners undertook remediation based on informal agreements for an additional 49 minor violations. The Enforcement Unit issued five Notices of Apparent Violation with four of these cases resolved without the need for a hearing before the Agency's Enforcement Committee.

The Enforcement Unit continued to track new subdivisions to identify any illegal activity and take prompt action to address violations before inappropriate development occurred. At the end of year, only 1 new subdivision violation transpired out of 98 subdivisions undertaken within the Park. In addition to utilizing the Real Property database to track subdivisions, Enforcement Staff rely on 2009 air photos and digital photographs of Adirondack lakeshores which staff began inventorying in 2008 to efficiently undertake investigations.

A major staff initiative to increase efficiency and provide better services to citizens was initiated in 2010 when the Enforcement Unit was authorized to issue jurisdictional determinations while addressing alleged violations.



Interpretive Programs

STAFF

PAUL SMITHS STAFF

Michael Brennan,
Environmental Educator 3
Milton B. Adams,
Environmental Educator 2
Cara McCann,
Artist Designer
C. George Hare,
Maintenance Supervisor
Kyle Martin,
Laborer
Lydia Wright,
Environmental Education
Assistant

NEWCOMB STAFF

Rynda McCray,
Environmental Educator 3
Ellen Rathbone,
Environmental Educator 1
Michael Tracy,
Maintenance Assistant
Mary Tisi, Student Assistant



Above: Betsy Lowe, Chair Interpretive Committee

Below: Paul Smiths VIC



The Agency operated two Visitor Interpretive Centers, at Paul Smiths in Franklin County starting in 1989 and at Newcomb in Essex County since 1990. Their mission to “enhance public awareness of Park resources and the Agency’s role in their protection,” played an important part in interpreting the Park Agency’s responsibilities for the public and private lands of the Park.

For more than two decades the VIC’s showcased the beauty and history of New York State’s Adirondack Park to approximately one-and-a-half million visitors. Concurrently, the VIC’s provided environmental programs and services, which reached a multi-generational audience that included over seventy-five thousand school children. The extensive trail systems combined with innovative interpretive services fostered a greater public appreciation for the value of the Adirondack Park to all New Yorkers and citizens of the world.

In January 2010, the Agency was informed of the unprecedented fiscal crisis facing this State and was directed to prepared plans to reduce operating expenses. Within the context of the directive, the Agency examined the lease arrangements for the Newcomb site, leased from Syracuse University and the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse (SUNY-ESF), and the Paul Smiths VIC, located on property leased from Paul Smith’s College.

On July 1, 2010, the Agency transferred the Newcomb facility to SUNY-ESF. Agency staff continued to provide interpretive services through the end of 2010. Effective January 1, 2011, SUNY-ESF assumed all responsibility for the facility. The facility was renamed to the Adirondack Interpretive Center. SUNY-ESF continues to allow public access to the grounds as well as provide public programs including a fly fishing workshop, a philosopher’s camp and direct links to their Ecological Center and Huntington Lodge. The Agency applauds Dr. Neil Murphy and his staff for the vision they brought to the Newcomb facility and the positive benefits it will continue to have on Park visitors, residents and the community of Newcomb.

The Agency partnered with Paul Smith’s College during the year to secure a similar transfer of the Paul Smiths VIC. Agency staff worked diligently with the Office of General Services, State Comptroller and Attorney General’s Office to secure an agreement to transfer the Paul Smiths facility to Paul Smith’s College. This was completed on December 31, 2010. We thank Dr. John Mills and his staff for their dedication and hard work on this endeavor. We are confident their ongoing working relationship with the Adirondack Park Institute (API) and API’s interest in the continuation of programming will ensure Park residents and the community of Brighton continue to benefit from the operation of this vital facility and popular trail system.

We applaud the Adirondack Park Institute’s support for the VIC’s and express sincere appreciation for their years of involvement. Most importantly, we gratefully acknowledge the countless hours committed by the loyal volunteers who passionately believed in the message and role of the Visitor Interpretive Centers.

Our greatest gratitude goes to our VIC staff for their years of engagement in educating generations of Park stewards and for their outstanding commitment to increasing environmental awareness. The VIC staff assistance in preparation for the transfers demonstrated outstanding loyalty to the Centers and will serve the future of these facilities well. The VIC staff contributions will be remembered and carried forth in the work of Agency staff in all day-to-day interactions.

Community Spotlight

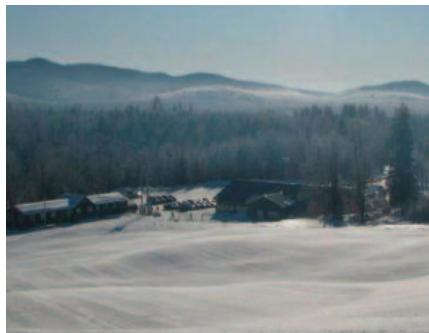
During the year the Community Spotlight series was continued by Chairman Stiles with the goal to foster communication with local government. The supervisor's presentations discussed linkages between the natural resources in their communities and economic sustainability. Other topics included the needs for infrastructure, job creation, and marketing. Supervisors discussed important community issues, challenges and opportunities for collaboration. The following eight supervisors presented at eight Board meetings in 2010:

Moriah Supervisor Tom Scozzafava reported that based on the mining industry Moriah was once an employment center in the Adirondacks. Today major employers include Mountain Lake Services, Moriah Shock Incarceration Facility, Pre-Tech Plastics, a new health center and local government. In addition, Supervisor Scozzafava identified public shoreline on Lake Champlain and two municipally owned campsites as important community assets. He noted that local businesses depend on revenue generated from the campsites and from annual fishing tournaments. Mr. Scozzafava stated Moriah worked with the Agency on projects including the conversion of Fisher Hill mines into a shock incarceration camp and the Mineville Industrial Park. He acknowledged the Agency's quick response to the emergency closure of the Lake Champlain Bridge. Supervisor Scozzafava encouraged the Agency to streamline its permitting process as well simplify the approved local land use program



Above: Lake Champlain shoreline was identified as an important asset for Town of Moriah and Village of Port Henry. Site of approved Velez marina

Inlet Supervisor John Frey informed the Board Inlet relies on tourism for its economic base. Residents are primarily seasonal. In summer the population swells from 406 to over 6,000. A multi-use recreational trail system accommodates outdoor activities including snowmobiling, mountain biking, hiking, cross-country skiing and sled dog racing. Birding is popular due to Hamilton County's annual festival. He emphasized the Moose River Plains Wild Forest is critical to Inlet's economic sustainability. He discussed Inlet's pro-active planning and their 1966 development of zoning and 2001 formation of a Clean Waters Committee. A comprehensive plan was approved in 2003 which was updated 2009. Supervisor Frey indicated the town encountered difficulties when proposing amendments to the Park Land Use Map. The effort resulted in a community divide and more work is necessary to reach consensus.



Above: Base area of Oak Mountain located in Town of Lake Pleasant. Identified as a key economic development opportunity.

Lake Pleasant Supervisor Neil McGovern focused on three major issues: Oak Mountain, Infrastructure, and the Jessup River Wild Forest Unit Management Plan. Oak Mountain is a major municipally owned economic asset. He advised the Agency it is equivalent to Big Tupper as far as importance to the community. Mr. McGovern discussed the significance of public infrastructure. He believes emphasis should be placed on funding Park infrastructure, coordination and implementation to ensure cost effectiveness. He also suggested Agency staff expertise be available to municipalities undertaking infrastructure projects to help mitigate costs. Supervisor McGovern raised concerns over snowmobile trail proposals. He urged the board to consider economic factors in project review and to make decisions based on the unique circumstances found throughout the Park. Supervisor McGovern suggested that the Agency focus its efforts on regional impacts rather than smaller scale local issues.



Above: Minerva school children attend an annual community luncheon. School children were repeatedly identified as the heart of Adirondack communities.

Minerva Supervisor Sue Montgomery Corey detailed Minerva's planning program which includes a planning board, ZBA, a comprehensive plan, junk storage, mobile home, zoning and subdivision laws. The supervisor noted the town's reliance on volunteerism and identified a need for more emergency and fire personnel. She described the town's business community as primarily family-oriented micro-enterprises. The supervisor indicated that Minerva is a great destination for day trips and low-impact Adirondack adventures. She pointed out that Adirondack communities are not alike. She encouraged the Agency to engage communities early, often and to listen to local concerns. She felt the Agency should revise the public notice procedure when there is a proposed amendment to the Park Land Use Map.



Above: Wilmington Supervisor Randy Preston (center), cuts the ribbon to officially open mountain bike trails along the West Branch of the Ausable River.



At left: The Raquette River Corridor was identified as a significant economic opportunity for St. Lawrence County and the Town of Colton.



Above: Indian Lake's first annual "Moose Festival" drew a large crowd and was considered a great success.

Wilmington Supervisor Randy Preston proclaimed the town's economy was historically based on tourism and remains so today. The town revised its local land use code to encourage more tourism-related growth. Efforts are underway to strengthen Wilmington's reputation as home to Whiteface Mountain and a year-round family destination. He pointed out the increase in mountain biking. The town established new trail systems in the Wilmington Wild Forest and is working with private landowners to secure easements to connect the trails to the town center. The town is considering Hamlet expansion to accommodate a desired Adirondack-style lodge and other commercial operations. The supervisor acknowledged key Agency approved residential subdivisions will increase the local tax base but will primarily serve second home owners. Therefore the need for affordable housing is a local priority. Supervisor Preston concluded Wilmington would work towards its primary goal, which is smart growth balanced with natural resource protection.

Lake George Supervisor Frank McCoy stated that Lake George is the lifeblood of their tourism based economy. In the summer, the year-round population of 3,700 residents climbs to 50,000 people. Mr. McCoy reported that the town enacted a local law banning the use of phosphorus fertilizers and also instituted a shoreline buffer plan. These steps were undertaken to protect water quality with the goal to sustain Lake George's long term appeal. Supervisor McCoy discussed a need for more dialogue with local government and the public to help address misinformation. He also encouraged local governments to adopt approved local land use plans to gain greater autonomy over land use and development in their communities.

Colton Supervisor Lawrence Patzwald referred to the western part of the Adirondack Park as "a sleeping giant." He stated that Colton is a bedroom community for Potsdam and Canton. In addition, the town attracts retirees which present opportunities for job creation. Colton's major industry is Brookfield Power which contributes approximately 62% of the town's real property tax revenue. Forestry and tourism are also major employers. Colton established a tourism and beautification committee to promote its natural resources and quality of life. Mr. Patzwald explained that keeping local schools open is critical to the long term viability of Adirondack communities.

Indian Lake Supervisor Barry Hutchins described Indian Lake as the largest populated town in Hamilton County, and said that like many Adirondack communities, the town faces economic challenges. Mr. Hutchins called attention to town attractions including the Adirondack Museum, the Indian Lake Museum, the public library and the Indian Lake Theater, which recently re-opened with the help of a Smart Growth grant and strong local persistence. He highlighted the success of their first annual Great Adirondack Moose festival. He applauded the state's efforts to accommodate traditional outdoor recreation activities into the Moose River Plains Unit Management Plan. He noted the importance of rafting and urged the state to promote it in the Hudson Gorge Unit Management Plan. Ten rafting company trips traverse Indian Lake. Mr. Hutchins discussed the importance of community connector snowmobile trails. He explained a linkage with Lake Pleasant is a priority. Supervisor Hutchins urged the Agency to carefully consider economic impacts during its deliberations.

The commentary the eight supervisors provided was a welcome perspective to the Agency Board of the challenges and opportunities of governance in the Adirondack Park, the unique qualities of community life, and the various ways in which the municipalities and residents interact with the Agency. Each one of the supervisors is to be applauded for their leadership.

Please click to view [Community Spotlight Map](#)

Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board



Frederick Monroe
Executive Director, APLGRB

Section 803-a of the Adirondack Park Agency Act establishes the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board. As provided by law, the purpose of the Review Board is to advise and assist the Agency in carrying out its mission. The Agency enjoys a strong working relationship with the Review Board through open discussion and dialogue focused on local government perspectives.

Agency members and staff regularly attend the Review Board meetings, which are held monthly throughout the Adirondack Park. At the monthly Adirondack Park Agency meetings, Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board Executive Director Frederick Monroe plays a prominent and active role in all deliberations. The Adirondack Park Agency's efforts to achieve balanced decision making are greatly enhanced by this dialogue.

The State of New York provides operating funds for the Local Government Review Board through the Agency's budget.

CHAIRMAN AND OFFICER

Chairman, George Canon,
Executive Director, Frederick Monroe
Secretary, Carol A. Monroe

Review Board website:
www.adkreviewboard.com

At Right:
Agency Chairman and senior staff meet with local government officials as part of ongoing dialog to ensure local government interests are represented and understood.

From Left: Terry Martino, John Banta, Gerald Delaney, Brian Towers, William Thomas, James Connolly, Curt Stiles, Bill Farber and Fred Monroe.



At Left: Local Government Review Board Chairman George Canon was honored at the 2010 Local Government Day. Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages President Brian Towers (right) presents Mr. Canon with a plaque to honor his lifetime commitment to the citizens of the Adirondack Park.

Staff Retirements

In 2010, six staff members retired after long and successful careers working for the betterment of the Adirondacks Park. Their combined contributions will never be forgotten. The Adirondack Park Agency would like to recognize these individuals who together completed over 150 years of state service.

Steve Erman served as Special Assistant for Economic Affairs from March, 1982 to September, 2010, and since late 2007, provided management oversight for the Visitor Interpretive Centers. During his 28-year tenure, he single-handedly staffed the Agency's Economic Services Unit. Mr. Erman approached his duties with a commitment to both the environment and the economic health of the Adirondack Park

George V. "Skip" Outcalt started as a Natural Resource Planning Assistant in December, 1981, and retired as an Environmental Program Specialist 2 in May, 2010. During his tenure he was routinely assigned many of the largest and controversial projects and was always thoroughly prepared and effective in his review.

John L. Quinn served as an Adirondack Park Project Review Officer starting in January, 1980 and retired as an Environmental Program Specialist 3 in May, 2010. Over his 30-year tenure, Mr. Quinn demonstrated the highest level of professionalism coupled with a lively sense of humor. While in the Regulatory Programs Division, he routinely handled a very large volume of projects, totaling approximately 1,770.

Rita G. Quinn first joined the Agency as a Natural Resources Planning Assistant in November, 1979 until May, 1983. She returned to the Agency in April, 1993 as an Environmental Program Specialist and was promoted to a Environmental Program Specialist 2 in September, 2004. She retired in September 2010 as the head of the Agency's Jurisdictional Inquiry Office in the Legal Division.

Barbara A. Rottier joined the Adirondack Park Agency as Associate Counsel in February, 1985, after distinguished service with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, 3rd Department and the Litigation Bureau of the Attorney General. Over her 25-year tenure, she was a tireless presence in the office of Counsel. Until 2009, Ms. Rottier was the highest-ranking woman staff member, providing an inspirational role model for new female staff members, acting as a patient advisor and friend.

Stephanie "Stevie" Summers has served the Adirondack Park Agency and the Adirondack Park as a Keyboard Specialist 1 beginning in June, 2004 and leaving in May, 2010. During her 6-year tenure she demonstrated the highest level of professionalism.



Above: Agency staff and family bid retirees a fond farewell during celebration in May.



Above: Nancy Heath (left), and Mary Palmer (right) with Rita Quinn at her retirement party

At right: Past and present Agency staff members converged on Lake Placid in May for a retirement party for tenured employees.

Guests of Honor From Left: Steve Erman, Skip Outcalt, Barbara Rottier and John Quinn.

Not pictured was Stevie Summers



NEW YORK STATE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY



State of New York Adirondack Park Agency

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Curtis F. Stiles, Chairman / Terry Martino, Executive Director