

Adirondack Planning Forum Agenda

Wednesday, May 7th, 2025:
 🌀 Social/Light Hors D'oeuvres 🌀
 Hotel Saranac Great Hall - 5:00PM

Thursday, May 8th, 2025 <i>Conference Sessions</i>		
8:00AM	★ Registration Begins at 8:00AM on Thursday ★	
8:45AM	🌀 Welcome & Introductory Remarks 🌀 <i>Barbara Rice, APA Executive Director</i> <i>Amanda Lefton, DEC Acting Commissioner</i> - Hotel Saranac Ballroom -	
9:00AM to 9:30AM	🌀 Refreshment Break & Visit with Exhibitors 🌀 - Hotel Saranac Great Hall -	
	Track A - DOS Training - Saranac Lake Free Library -	Track B - Hotel Saranac Ballroom -
Session 1 9:30AM to 10:45AM	Public Meetings & Hearings	Municipal Water Infrastructure <i>Project Planning, Funding & Implementation</i>
Session 2 11:00AM to 12:15PM	Subdivision Review: Part 1	Workforce Housing Success Stories
12:15PM to 1:30PM	🌀 Luncheon 🌀 - Hotel Saranac Ballroom -	
Session 3 1:30PM to 2:45PM	Subdivision Review: Part 2	Livable Communities
2:45PM to 3:00PM	🌀 Refreshment Break & Visit with Exhibitors 🌀 - Hotel Saranac Great Hall -	
Session 4 3:00PM to 4:15PM	Area Variances: A Deep Dive	Climate Resiliency for Rural Communities

THURSDAY

◆ Session 1: 9:30AM-10:45AM ◆

1A. Public Meetings & Hearings

Saranac Lake Free Library

This session addresses the goals and requirements associated with holding meetings, in contrast to the purposes and legal requirements surrounding a public hearing. It explores the role of the chairperson in conducting effective meetings and hearings, and includes a discussion of how to manage the public and the media in the context of a hearing or meeting. Also addressed are aspects of the Open Meetings Law, including executive sessions, quorums, minutes, and public notices.

- **Chris Eastman & Monica Ryan** - Local Government Specialists, NYS DOS

1B. Municipal Water Infrastructure - Project Planning, Funding & Implementation

Hotel Saranac Ballroom

Affordable public infrastructure is essential to the sustainability of Adirondack Park communities. Securing funds and implementing complicated public infrastructure projects can be a daunting task for small rural municipalities. This presentation provides Municipal Leaders and Operators with information on grant programs, shares knowledge gained through the successful implementation of public infrastructure projects, and helps set expectations for managing your project. Lauren Townley will provide insight on critical funding opportunities available from the Department of Environmental Conservation through the Water Quality Improvement Project Program and Non-agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant (NPG). The WQIP funds projects that improve water quality or habitat, promote flood risk reduction/restoration, enhance climate resiliency or protect a drinking water source. The NPG grant program aims to prepare nonpoint source projects for construction and application for implementation funding.

Based on her engineering background and project management skills, Carrie Tuttle, will provide insight on the municipal water projects she guided from concept through construction. Mark Hall, as a former elected official and certified water operator, will share his project experience and discuss a recent award-winning drinking water project completed in Star Lake.

- **Mark Hall** – APA Board Member & Certified Water Operator
- **Carrie Tuttle** – Chief Operating Officer, Development Authority of the North Country
- **Lauren Townley** – Research Scientist 2, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
 - *Moderator:* Keith McKeever – Director of Public Information, NYS APA

◆◆ Session 2: 11:00AM-12:15PM ◆◆

2A. Subdivision Review – Part 1

Saranac Lake Free Library

An overview of the statutory authority for municipalities to review subdivisions. Discussion will focus on the elements of a subdivision plat—layout of lots and infrastructure—along with concepts such as deep lot development and clustering. Review procedures are also addressed, including State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR), county referral, public hearings, decision-making, and the possibility of default approvals.

- **Chris Eastman & Monica Ryan** - Local Government Specialists, NYS DOS

2B. Workforce Housing Success Stories

Hotel Saranac Ballroom

Developing quality housing in communities is critical across the Adirondack Park. After identifying and securing funding for housing projects, what does it take to break ground and be successful? During this session, attendees will hear insights on how communities can partner with potential developers to make projects possible, including cost considerations and the implementation process. Panelists will share their experiences supporting and working on housing initiatives and projects, and how others can follow suit.

- **Megan Murphy** – Executive Director, Adirondack ROOTS
- **Leslie Karasin** – Adirondack Program Director, Northern Forest Center
- **Jeremy Evans** – Chief Executive Officer, Franklin County Industrial Development Authority
 - *Moderator:* Charlotte Staats – State Land Planner, Adirondack Park Agency

☞ Luncheon 12:15PM-1:30PM ☞

- Hotel Saranac Ballroom –

◆◆◆ Session 3: 1:30PM-2:45PM ◆◆◆

3A. Subdivision Review - Part 2

Saranac Lake Free Library

Continuation of Subdivision Review with NYS DOS.

- **Chris Eastman & Monica Ryan** - Local Government Specialists, NYS DOS

3B. Livable Communities

Hotel Saranac Ballroom

Panelists will share information about State and local initiatives to bolster the livability of New York communities. The State Master Plan for Aging is designed to ensure that older adults and individuals of all ages can live healthy, fulfilling lives while aging with dignity and independence. The Department of Transportation (DOT) is spearheading efforts to improve the walking, bicycling, and rolling options for New Yorkers and to create a well-connected active transportation network, while simultaneously developing a Transportation Master Plan that provides a long-range vision through the year 2050 that will guide statewide transportation policies and priorities.

- **John Cochran** - Chief of Staff, NYS Office for the Aging
- **Deb Nelson** - Director, NYS Department of Transportation, Office of Policy, Planning and Performance
 - *Moderator:* Megan Phillips – Deputy Director of Planning, NYS APA

☞ Refreshment Break: 2:45PM-3:00PM ☞

Visit with Exhibitors in the Great Hall

◆◆◆ Session 4: 3:00PM-4:15PM ◆◆◆

4A. Area Variances: A Deep Dive

Saranac Lake Free Library

Area variances are the most frequent appeal before most zoning boards of appeals. This course is a thorough exploration of each factor of the area variance test with examples and discussion of details often missed and concepts often misunderstood. Tips and best practices for review, decision-making, and documentation, with several court case examples that address key legal considerations and challenges will also be highlighted

- **Chris Eastman & Monica Ryan** - Local Government Specialists, NYS DOS

4B. Climate Resiliency for Rural Communities

Hotel Saranac Ballroom

As climate change reshapes the Adirondacks, rural communities face increasing water resources, biodiversity, and infrastructure challenges. In this session at the Adirondack Planning Forum, experts from the Adirondack Climate Outreach and Resilience Network (ACORN) and the Ausable Freshwater Center will share research-driven insights and practical solutions for climate adaptation. Through case studies and collaborative strategies, attendees will explore ways to build resilience and protect both natural ecosystems and local communities in the face of a changing climate.

- **Sunita Halasz** – Project Coordinator, Adirondack Climate Outreach and Resilience Network
- **Kelley Tucker** – Executive Director, Ausable Freshwater Center
 - *Moderator:* Dr. Lizz Schuyler - Supervisor, Natural Resource Analysis

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- Public Meetings & Hearings **CM | 1.25**
- Municipal Water Infrastructure **CM | 1.25**
- Subdivision Review - Part 1 **CM | 1.25**
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- Area Variances: A Deep Dive **CM | 1.25**
- Climate Resiliency for Rural Communities **SR | 1 CM | 1.25**

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