



**[DRAFT] MAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, May 22, 2025**

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

John Ernst	Chairperson
Mark Hall	Member
Erin Hynes	Empire State Development
Benita Law-Diao	Member
Art Lussi	Member
Ken Lynch	Member
Zoë Smith	Member
Matt Tebo	Department of State
Dan Wilt	Member
Randy Young	Department of Environmental Conservation
Barbara Rice	Executive Director
Damion Stodola	Counsel

**Absent and Excused**

**Local Government Review Board Present**

Gerald Delaney, Sr. Executive Director

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum of board members being present in person, the meeting was called to order at approximately 9:33 A.M. and John Ernst, Chair, welcomed the public, presenters, and staff.

**2. WELCOMING REMARKS**

Chairperson Ernst made welcoming remarks.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Chair recognized Steve McNally, Supervisor of the Town of Minerva, who reported on Minerva Lake's post-application of the aquatic herbicide ProcellaCOR EC and noted that the town anticipates the possibility of applying for a permit for spot treatment with ProcellaCOR EC next year.

The Chair recognized David LaBar, Councilperson for the Town of Minerva, who summarized actions the Town of Minerva has taken to decrease Eurasian watermilfoil infiltration in Minerva Lake.

The Chair recognized Dave Gibson, Managing Partner at Adirondack Wild, who lauded the inclusion of \$1 million in the New York State budget for the study of carrying capacity on the Saranac Lake Chain of lakes.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

On motion of Dan Wilt, seconded by Benita Law-Diao, the March 13, 2025 meeting minutes were unanimously approved without modification.

#### **5. RECUSALS**

Chairperson Ernst indicated that he was recusing himself from discussion and vote on Agency project P2024-0725.

#### **6. MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion of John Ernst, seconded by Mark Hall, the Agency Board unanimously voted to convene an executive session at lunch.

#### **7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

- Acknowledgement of the 133<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Adirondack Park and the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan.
- The 2025 Adirondack Planning Forum was a great opportunity to hear from local government leaders and the addition of a round table discussion with local government leaders involving state agency heads was successful.
- Thanks went out to the Secretary of State, Walter Mosely, Acting DEC Commissioner, Amanda Lefton, and EFC President and CEO, Maureen Coleman, for their participation in the round table discussion.
- Thanks to Jerry Delaney and Megan Phillips who facilitated the round table discussion which included meaningful dialog about the benefits, strengths and growth opportunities of state programs in the Adirondack Park including New York Forward, and Smart Growth grants.

- Congratulations to Commissioner Mark Hall, who participated in a panel at the Forum relating to water infrastructure, on Star Lake's recent award as the 2025 Water System of the Year.
- Other panels at the Planning Forum included workforce housing, livable communities and climate resiliency.
- Further thanks to Board members for their participation and representation of the Agency during the Planning Forum as well as Agency staff, particularly Local Government Services Staff, ITS and Communications.
- The passing of the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget included an increase in the Agency's operating budget supporting our continued staffing efforts and an additional \$10 million for the headquarters project. Thanks to Governor Hochul and the legislature for providing that additional funding support.
- The budget also included major investments in New York's environmental sustainability, with a historic \$1 billion, the largest climate investment in New York history.
- The budget also supports the growth of the Environmental Protection Fund to bolster a wide array of programs including land acquisition for habitat and open space preservation, climate change mitigation, water quality improvement projects, support for parks and recreation, and the promotion of sustainable solid waste management and recycling.
- In staffing news, Thomas "Drew" Starkey, the Agency's newest Environmental Program Specialist was introduced having joined the Regulatory Programs team in March. And, Lucas Cain, the Agency's newest engineer, recently earned his professional engineering license from New York State.

## 8. **MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO COMMITTEES**

On motion of Mark Hall, seconded by Art Lussi, the Agency Board voted unanimously to adjourn to committees at approximately 9:55 A.M.

### 9. **Public Awareness and Communications Committee**

The committee meeting convened at approximately 9:55 A.M.

*Committee Members Present:* Mark Hall (Committee Chair), Erin Hynes (ESD), Benita Law-Diao, Dan Wilt.

*Other Members and Designees Present:* John Ernst, Art Lussi, Zoë Smith, Ken Lynch, Matt Tebo (DOS), Joe Zalewski (DEC), Steve Hunt (ESD)

*Local Government Review Board: Gerald Delaney*

*Agency Staff Present:* Barbara Rice, Damion Stodola, Keith McKeever, Ben Brosseau, Molly Jordan

### **(1) Communications Report**

Ben Brosseau, Assistant Public Information Officer, provided a communications report which included updates on social media goals and content, as well as plans for future content.

### **(2) Community Spotlight – Town of Elizabethtown, NY**

Cathy Reusser, Supervisor of the Town of Elizabethtown, presented the Community Spotlight on the Town of Elizabethtown, located in Essex County. Supervisor Reusser highlighted the attributes of the town and their need for wastewater infrastructure, as well as the efforts to fund that project.

The Agency Board held a brief break from approximately 10:35 A.M. to 10:45 A.M.

### **(3) Updated Adirondack Park Agency Website**

Ben Brosseau, Assistant Public Information Officer, and Molly Jordan, Mapping Technologist 3, provided an overview and answered questions regarding the updated Adirondack Park Agency website.

#### Old Business

None

#### New Business

None

Committee adjourned at approximately 11:17 AM.

## **LUNCH BREAK & EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Because no action was taken, no minutes of the executive session were required or taken.

### **9.1. Regulatory Programs**

The committee meeting convened at approximately 1:06 P.M.

*Committee Members:* Dan Wilt (Committee Chair), Art Lussi, Ken Lynch, and Matthew Tebo (DOS)

*Other Members and Designees Present:* John Ernst, Erin Hynes (ESD), Zoë Smith, Benita Law-Diao, Mark Hall, Randy Young (DEC)

*Local Government Review Board Present:* Gerald Delaney

*Agency Staff Present:* Barb Rice, Damion Stodola, John Burth, Aaron Ziemann, Benjamin Amos

### **(1) Regulatory Program Report Division Report (John Burth, APA)**

John Burth, EPS 3, presented the Regulatory Programs Division report noting that as of April 30, 2025, the Regulatory Programs team has received 116 permit applications, issued 77 permits, and opened 36 pre-applications. 25 major projects have been completed and sent to ENB for comment, and 2 emergency certifications have been issued.

John Burth introduced the three projects on the agenda for the Committee's consideration and noted that he would then return at the conclusion of the Committee's votes to provide a staff recommendation on future applications involving the herbicide ProcellaCOR EC.

### **(2) P2025-0065**

**Permit for application of herbicide ProcellaCOR EC within five treatment zones in Eagle Lake, in the Town of Ticonderoga in Essex County to control Eurasian watermilfoil.**

Aaron Ziemann, Associate Adirondack Park Project Analyst – Forest Resources, gave a detailed overview and presentation of the application for the use of the herbicide ProcellaCOR EC within 33 acres over five treatment zones in Eagle Lake to control Eurasian watermilfoil, including review of jurisdiction, conclusions of law, a description and slides of the project location and existing conditions, site history, proposed project details, visual analysis slides, public comment, review by others, and staff's recommendations and permit conditions.

On motion of Dan Wilt, seconded by Ken Lynch, the Regulatory Programs Committee unanimously recommended the approval of the application as presented and with recommended conditions to the full Agency Board.

### **(3) P2025-0052**

**Permit for application of herbicide ProcellaCOR EC within 40 acres over**

**two treatment zones in Mountain View Lake in the Town of Bellmont in Franklin County to control Eurasian watermilfoil.**

Aaron Ziemann, Associate Adirondack Park Project Analyst – Forest Resources, gave a detailed overview and presentation of the application for the use of the herbicide ProcellaCOR EC within two treatment zones in Mountain View Lake to control Eurasian watermilfoil, including review of jurisdiction, conclusions of law, a description and slides of the project location and existing conditions, site history, proposed project details, visual analysis slides, public comment, review by others, and staff's recommendations and permit conditions.

On motion of Ken Lynch, seconded by Matt Tebo, the Regulatory Programs Committee unanimously recommended the approval of the application as presented and with recommended conditions to the full Agency Board.

**(4) P2024-0725**

**Single Family Dwelling, Elk Lake Land, Inc., North Hudson, Essex County**

(John Ernst announced his recusal on the record, left the room, and did not participate in discussion or vote. Matthew Tebo served as Acting Chair during the recusal.)

Benjiman Amos, EPS 2, gave a detailed overview and presentation on project P2024-0725, a single-family dwelling on resource management lands in the Adirondack Park, including the conclusions of law, location, existing conditions, proposed project plan, reviews completed by the Town of North Hudson and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, as well as staff recommendations for approval with conditions.

On motion of Art Lussi, seconded by Matt Tebo, the Regulatory Programs Committee unanimously recommended the approval of the application as presented and with recommended conditions to the full Agency Board.

(John Ernst returned to the meeting room.)

John Burth, EPS 3 returned to the podium to report that staff recommend the use of the existing delegated authority of the Deputy Director of Regulatory Programs to issue permits for certain ProcellaCOR EC applications going forward. As part of this approach, John Burth noted the number of applications since 2020, their consistency, and completeness, and noted that, as with any project, the Board may request to review any application. John Burth identified some projects may be appropriate for Board review, including those that may involve (1) a high proportion of treatment area relative to surface area of the lake (because there may be water quality concerns associated with dieback of a high proportion of existing

vegetation); (2) presence of a protected species in a treatment area that is likely to be impacted by the treatment; or (3) proposed re-treatment of a previously permitted treatment area (efficacy concerns with multiple treatments in short timeframe). John Burth responded to questions from Board Members.

#### Old Business

None

#### New Business

None

Committee adjourned at approximately 2:28 P.M.

#### **The Board returned to Full Agency at approximately 2:28 P.M.**

### **10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **10.1. Public Awareness and Communication (Mark Hall)**

The committee received communications report from Assistant Public Information Officer Ben Brosseau and a Community Spotlight for the Town of Elizabethtown from Supervisor Cathy Reusser. The Committee also received a presentation from Ben Brosseau and Mapping Technologist 3, Molly Jordan regarding recent updates to the Adirondack Park Agency Website.

#### **10.2. Regulatory Programs (Dan Wilt)**

The committee received two presentations on the application of ProcettaCOR EC for the control of Eurasian watermilfoil.

On motion of Dan Wilt, seconded by Ken Lynch, the Board unanimously approved permit application P2025-0065 (Eagle Lake) and the draft permit with recommended conditions.

On motion of John Ernst, seconded by Matthew Tebo, the Board unanimously approved permit application P2025-0052 (Mountain View Lake) and the draft permit with recommended conditions.

(John Ernst announced his recusal on the record, left the room, and did not participate in discussion or vote. Matthew Tebo served as Acting Chair during the recusal.)

On motion of Dan Wilt, seconded by Ken Lynch, the Board unanimously approved permit application P2024-0725 (Elk Lake Land, Inc.) and the draft permit with recommended conditions.

(Following the vote, John Ernst returned to the meeting room.)

## **11. INTERIM REPORTS**

The Administration, Economic Affairs, Enforcement, Legal Affairs, Local Government Services, Park Ecology, Park Policy and Planning, and State Lands committees did not meet this month.

G. Delaney thanked Executive Director Rice and Agency staff for the successful local government round table, and Adirondack Planning Forum noting that post-pandemic these types of connections had been more difficult. The value of the opportunity was made clear by requests for more space and more time next year.



**12. MEMBER COMMENT**

Z. Smith noted that watercraft inspection would be opening this weekend for invasive species detection. They have over 100 seasonal staff and are still hiring for these positions.

**13. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**14. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**15. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

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

Chairperson Ernst noted that the next meeting will be June 12-13, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned without objection at approximately 2:38 P.M.

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John Ernst, Chairperson