



**[DRAFT] JUNE MEETING MINUTES**  
**Friday, June 13, 2025**

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

|                 |                                                |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------|
| John Ernst      | Chairperson                                    |
| Mark Hall       | Member                                         |
| Benita Law-Diao | Member                                         |
| Art Lussi       | Member                                         |
| Ken Lynch       | Member (remotely until approximately 11:17 AM) |
| Zoë Smith       | Member                                         |
| Matt Tebo       | Department of State                            |
| Dan Wilt        | Member                                         |
| 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 9:28 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 Pete Nelson, Adirondack Wilderness Advocates, who thanked John Ernst for his commitment to the Adirondacks.

The Chair recognized Julia Goren, Adirondack Rail Trail Alliance, who commented on proposed amendments to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

The Chair recognized Bob Glennon, Protect the Adirondacks!, who asked about the capital project for a new Adirondack Park Agency headquarters.

The Chair recognized Claudia Braymer, Protect the Adirondacks!, who thanked John Ernst for his service, and commented on proposed amendments to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

The Chair recognized Ron Konowitz, Adirondack Powder Skiers Association, who thanked John Ernst for his service and commented on his desire to address ski touring in the park.

The Chair recognized Cathy Pedler, Adirondack Mountain Club, who thanked John Ernst and commented on proposed amendments to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

The Chair recognized Dave Gibson, Adirondack Wild, who expressed thanks to John Ernst for his leadership and service to the Adirondack Park and commented on proposed amendments to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

#### **4. RECOGNITION OF JOHN ERNST**

Alison Webbinaro, the Governor's Regional Representative for the North Country, presented a citation to John Ernst in recognition of his service as Chair of the Adirondack Park Agency.

Executive Director Barb Rice thanked John Ernst for his impactful contributions as Board member and Chairperson of the Adirondack Park Agency. His leadership has built bridges with people all across the Park.

#### **5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

On motion of Dan Wilt, seconded by Zoë Smith, the May 22, 2025 meeting minutes were unanimously approved without modification.

#### **6. RECUSALS**

None

#### **7. MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

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

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

- Thanking Governor Hochul's appointment of board members and welcoming new members Rush Holt, Jr. and Jose Almanzar.
- Welcoming summer GIS/RASS Intern, Haberle "Habe" Conlon, and former summer intern as a new Mapping Technologist 1, Emily Pulcini.
- Congratulating Matt Brown, who was promoted to Environmental Program Specialist 2 in the Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit.
- Congratulating John Burth on his promotion to Deputy Director of Regulatory Programs.

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**9. MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO COMMITTEES**

On motion of John Ernst, seconded by Mark Hall, the Agency Board voted unanimously to adjourn to committees at approximately 10:12 A.M.

**10. Committee Meetings:**

**9.1 State Lands Committee**

The committee meeting convened at approximately 10:12 A.M.

*Committee Members Present:* Ken Lynch (Committee Chair), Benita Law-Diao, Zoë Smith

*Other Members and Designees Present:* John Ernst, Mark Hall, Art Lussi, Matt Tebo (DOS), Dan Wilt

*Local Government Review Board:* Gerald Delaney

*Agency Staff Present:* Barbara Rice, Damion Stodola, Megan Phillips, Charlotte Staats

**(1) Planning Division Report**

Megan Phillips, Deputy Director of Planning presented the Planning Division report, highlights of which included:

- Deputy Director Phillips welcomed new staff to the Planning Division, Emily Pulcini, Mapping Technologist 1 and Habe Conlon, GIS/RASS Summer Intern.
- The State Land team continues to be engaged in the trail stewardship working group which is developing draft design parameters for various uses. Charlotte Staats, a State Land Planner, recently attended the International Trails Summit

in Madison, Wisconsin, providing a brown bag lunch and learn seminar for APA staff upon her return.

- Local Government Services team has completed 66 variance referrals this year to date. They are also reviewing two amendments to ALLUPs for Newcomb and Colton. Following the successful planning forum last month, the team is already working on the bid package to find a venue for the 2026 forum.
- Bike Adirondacks and the Adirondack Rail Trail Alliance are hosting a rail trail community day on Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, during which participants will have the opportunity to join stewardship projects such as culvert clearing and ditch cleaning, and explore the rail trail with an interactive scavenger hunt.
- Deputy Director Phillips acknowledged the passing of Evelyn Greene, a longtime wilderness advocate for the Adirondack Park. In the 90s, Evelyn was instrumental in forming the Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks and later served on the board for Protect the Adirondacks from 2009 until her passing. Evelyn's work is an enduring gift to the Park and its people, and she will be missed.
- Deputy Director Phillips thanked John Ernst for his service as board chairperson and former State Land Committee Chair, and for bringing informed, fair and open-minded leadership while navigating many complex state land issues.

## **(2) Proposed Final Adirondack State Land Master Plan Amendments**

Agency staff presented a summary of the public comments received on the proposed 2024-2025 Adirondack State Land Master Plan amendments package and summarized changes made from the September 2024 draft to the proposed final package for discussion.

### Old Business

None

### New Business

None

Committee adjourned at approximately 11:51 AM at which time Ken Lynch left the meeting.

## **10.2 Enforcement Committee**

The committee meeting convened at approximately 11:51 AM.

*Committee Members:* Art Lussi (Committee Chair), Ken Lynch, and Zoë Smith

*Other Members and Designees Present:* John Ernst, Mark Hall, Benita Law-Diao, Matt Tebo (DOS), Dan Wilt

- (1) John Burth, Deputy Director of Regulatory Programs provided an overview of the enforcement program, the most recent statistics, and the process followed for enforcement cases.

### Old Business

None

### New Business

None

Committee adjourned at approximately 12:18 PM.

## **10.3 Regulatory Programs**

The committee meeting convened at approximately 12:18 PM.

*Committee Members:* Dan Wilt (Committee Chair), John Ernst (sitting in for Ken Lynch), Art Lussi, and Matt Tebo (DOS)

*Other Members and Designees Present:* Mark Hall, Benita Law-Diao, Zoë Smith

*Local Government Review Board Present:* Gerald Delaney

*Agency Staff Present:* Barb Rice, Damion Stodola, John Burth

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

John Burth, Deputy Director of Regulatory Programs, presented the Regulatory Programs Division report noting that as of May 31, 2025, the Regulatory Programs team has received 151 permit applications, issued 98 permits, and opened 47 pre-applications. 32 major projects have been completed and sent to ENB for comment, and 2 emergency certifications have been issued.

**(2) P2025-0078**

**Permit for application of herbicide ProcellaCOR EC within four treatment zones in Chateaugay Lake, in the Towns of Dannemora and Ellenburg in Clinton 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 168 acres over four treatment zones in Upper Chateaugay 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 Art Lussi, seconded by John Ernst, the Regulatory Programs Committee unanimously recommended the approval of the application as presented with recommended conditions to the full Agency Board.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Committee adjourned at approximately 1:00 PM.

**The Board returned to Full Agency at approximately 1:00 PM.**

**11. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**11.1. State Lands Committee (John Ernst)**

The committee received a Planning Division Report from Megan Phillips and a presentation for information regarding comments received on the 2024-25 Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan amendments, as well as a summary of proposed changes from the draft to the final package.

**11.2. Enforcement Committee (Art Lussi)**

The committee received a presentation regarding the enforcement process and accompanying statistics.

**11.3. Regulatory Programs (Dan Wilt)**

The committee received a Regulatory Programs Division report and a presentation on the application of ProcellaCOR EC for the control of Eurasian watermilfoil.

On motion of Dan Wilt, seconded by Benita Law-Diao, the Board unanimously approved permit application P2025-0078 (Chateaugay Lake) and the draft permit with recommended conditions.

## **12. INTERIM REPORTS**

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

G. Delaney thanked John Ernst for his service as Chair of the Adirondack Park Agency board, adding that the tone toward local government has changed and that is partly due to his leadership.

## **13. MEMBER COMMENT**

M. Hall thanked the governor and senate for new appointments and reappointments and congratulated John Burth on his new appointment/position. M. Hall also thanked John Ernst for his calmness in the face of any and all issues the agency faced while he was chair.

## **14. OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **15. NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **16. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Chair recognized Jackie Bowen, Adirondack Council, who expressed congratulations to new and reappointed Board members, and thanked John Ernst for his leadership.

The Chair recognized Claudia Braymer, Protect the Adirondacks!, who noted that there is still confusion about what was still in the proposed Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan amendments and what has been taken out, requesting consideration for re-opening the public comment period. Braymer went on to note that there are still septic replacement funds available in certain situations, and

added that they support Chateaugay Lake, in that they have an integrated plan but expressed concern about multiple treatments on the same body of water.

The Chair recognized Ron Konowitz, Adirondack Powder Skiers Association, who clarified that in 2016 the Agency received comprehensive cross-country ski trail guidance which was rejected pending a definition change in the State Land Master plan.

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

Chairperson Ernst noted that the next meeting will be July 17, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned without objection at approximately 1:20 PM.

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John Ernst, Chairperson