



**DRAFT AGENCY MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2026**

Agency Members, Designees, and Executive Staff Present:

Mark Hall	Chair
Jose Almanzar	Member (Remote – Extraordinary Circumstances)
Art Lussi	Member
Steve Hunt	Empire State Development
Ken Lynch	Member
Rush Holt	Member
Zoë Smith	Member
Matt Tebo	Department of State
Dan Wilt	Member
Barbara Rice	Executive Director
Matt Robinson-Loffler	Associate Counsel

Absent and Excused

Benita Law-Diao	Member
Joe Zalewski	Department of Environmental Conservation

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 9:32 AM by Mark Hall, Chair.

2. WELCOMING REMARKS

Chairperson Mark Hall welcomed the public, presenters, staff, and board members, and made welcoming remarks.

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3. PUBLIC COMMENT

- The chair recognized Julia Goren, ARTA, who expressed gratitude for the upcoming VUM presentation and hopefulness for consideration of the ecological metrics/scorecard.
- Dave Gibson, Adirondack Wild, expressed concern over the DEC's OPDMD policy and hopes that the MOU being worked on between this Agency and the DEC will apply to this policy.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Steve Hunt, seconded by Jose Almanzar, April 16, 2026, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

5. RECUSALS

None

6. MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Barb Rice, gave Director's report, highlights of which included:

- Expressed gratitude to all those who participated in the Adirondack Planning Forum last week, and thanked staff for all the hard work

8. MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO COMMITTEES

On motion of Dan Wilt, seconded by Art Lussi, the Agency Board voted unanimously to adjourn to committees at approximately 9:54 AM.

9. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

9.1. State Land Committee

The committee convened at approximately 9:54 AM.

Committee Members Present: Ken Lynch (Committee Chair), Zoë Smith

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Other Members and Designees Present: Jose Almanzar, Mark Hall, Rush Holt, Steve Hunt (ESD), Art Lussi, Zoë Smith, Matt Tebo (DOS), Dan Wilt

Local Government Review Board: Gerald Delaney

Agency Staff Present: Barb Rice, Matt Robinson-Loffler, Megan Phillips

9.1.1. Planning Division Report

Megan Phillips, Deputy Director for Planning provided the planning division report, highlights of which included:

- Gratitude for all of the collaborative efforts that led to the fourth successful Adirondack Planning Forum.
- The Geographic Information Systems team developed and launched Lookup Lite, our public facing web application at this year's planning forum. They also traveled to Potsdam earlier this month for a North Country/Adirondack GIS user group meeting.
- Local Government Services team responded to 49 variance referrals so far this year and is in the early stages of reviewing amendments to agency approved local land use programs for the Towns of Arietta and Lake George. Staff are also reviewing the Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board's housing zoning guide and the Town of Essex comprehensive plan.
- The State Land team are in various stages of review for several unit management plans (UMPs) and has reviewed consultations from the DEC for state land projects on Whiteface Mountain, Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area, and in the Wilmington Wild Forest.
- State Land team also participated in the DEC/APA Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting and participated in an evening public meeting as part of the DEC' public engagement work regarding the visitor use management report which is being presented here today.

9.1.2. High Peaks Visitor Use Management Report

Josh Clague, DEC presented a summary of the Visitor Use Management (VUM) Recommendations Report for the High Peaks Wilderness study area, which highlights findings related to visitor use patterns, behaviors, and preferences while recreating within the area, and provides recommendations on adaptive management strategies that support a safe and high-quality visitor experience.

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9.1.3. Old Business

None

9.1.4. New Business

None

Committee adjourned at approximately 11:14 AM

9.2. Regulatory Programs Committee

The committee convened at approximately 11:29 AM.

Committee Members Present: Mark Hall (Acting as Committee Chair), Art Lussi, Ken Lynch, Jose Almanzar

Other Members and Designees Present: Matt Tebo (DOS), Rush Holt, Steve Hunt (ESD), Benita Law-Diao, Zoë Smith, Joe Zalewski (DEC)

Local Government Review Board: Gerald Delaney

Agency Staff Present: Matt Robinson-Loffler, John Burth, Devan Korn

9.2.1. Regulatory Programs Division Report

Deputy Director of Regulatory Programs, John Burth provided a division report, highlights of which included:

- An update regarding what staff is currently seeing in relation to Battery Energy Storage Systems, the number of applications and preapplications received annually, and how many of those are a component of a solar project.
- Preapplications are an opportunity for applicants to consult with Agency staff for feedback before submitting a permit application. Preapplications are encouraged but not a requirement when submitting a permit application, and are usually based on preliminary plans in early stages.
- Review of the Agency's history with ProcellaCor EC permitting, and overview of the permit applications being presented for review this morning.

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9.2.2. P2026-0034 – Eagle Lake Property Owners – Town of Ticonderoga, Essex County

Aaron Ziemann, APA presented the application received from the Eagle Lake Property Owners involving the use of the aquatic herbicide ProcellaCor EC to control the invasive species Eurasian watermilfoil within two treatment areas in Eagle Lake in the Town of Ticonderoga in Essex County.

On motion of Art Lussi, seconded by Ken Lynch, the Regulatory Programs Committee recommended the approval of the project with the recommended conditions to the full board.

9.2.3. P2026-0074 – Town of Minerva, Essex County

Aaron Ziemann, APA presented the application received from the Town of Minerva involving the use of the aquatic herbicide ProcellaCor EC to control the invasive species Eurasian watermilfoil within five treatment areas in Minerva Lake.

On motion of Ken Lynch, seconded by Mark Hall, the Regulatory Programs Committee recommended the approval of the project with the recommended conditions to the full board.

9.2.4. Old Business

None

9.2.5. New Business

None

Committee adjourned at approximately 1:21 PM

THE BOARD BROKE FOR LUNCH AT 1:21 PM

**THE BOARD RETURNED TO FULL AGENCY
AT APPROXIMATELY 2:01 PM.**

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10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1. State Land (Ken Lynch)

The committee heard a Planning Division report from Megan Phillips and received an informational presentation from the DEC regarding the High Peaks Visitor Use Management recommendations.

10.2. Regulatory Programs (Dan Wilt)

The committee received a Regulatory Programs Division update from John Burth, and heard a presentation regarding project P2026-0034, from Eagle Lake Property Owners for the application of ProcellaCor for the treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil.

On motion of Dan Wilt, seconded by Matt Tebo, the board unanimously approved the application as presented with recommended conditions.

The committee also heard a presentation regarding project P2026-0074, from Town of Minerva for the application of ProcellaCor for the treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil.

On motion of Matt Tebo, seconded by Ken Lynch, the board approved the application as presented with recommended conditions in a vote of 9 to 1 with Zoe Smith voting against.

11. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD

G. Delaney thanked everyone who participated in the planning for, presented and attended the Adirondack Planning Forum and the local government round table.

12. MEMBER COMMENT

- None made.

13. OLD BUSINESS

None

14. NEW BUSINESS

None

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15. PUBLIC COMMENT

- The chair recognized Sunita Halasz, Adirondack Council's Clean Water Community Advocate who was appreciative of the presentation and staff review of aquatic herbicide use while expressing concern over longer term impacts.
- Chris Navitsky, Lake George Waterkeeper made a suggestion that the study done by the LGA was misrepresented.

[Link to video and audio recordings of this meeting available on website:
www.apa.ny.gov]

Chair Mark Hall noted that the next meeting will be June 11-12, 2026.

On motion of Dan Wilt, and seconded by Rush Holt, the meeting was adjourned without objection at approximately 2:19 PM.

Mark Hall, Chairperson