



Adirondack Park Agency

SHERMAN CRAIG
Chairman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

DRAFT MINUTES

State Land Committee
June 8, 2017
Agency Meeting
KF:KDR:mp

State Land Committee June 8, 2017

The State Land Committee convened at 1:05 pm.

State Land Committee Members Present:

Karen Feldman, Chair, Chad Dawson, Arthur Lussi, William Thomas and Robert Stegemann (DEC)

Other Members and Designees Present:

Sherman Craig, Chairman, Daniel Wilt, John Ernst, Barbara Rice, Bradley Austin (DED) and Lynne Mahoney (DOS)

Local Government Review Board

Frederick Monroe, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present:

Terry Martino, Executive Director, James Townsend, Kathy Regan, Kevin Prickett, Walt Linck, Matt McNamara and Mary Palmer

Approval of May 2017 Draft Minutes

By motion of Mr. Lussi, seconded by Dr. Dawson, the March minutes were unanimously approved with one typographical correction.

Deputy Director Report

Ms. Regan noted the Local Government Services Committee Approved Program Summary Report.

Ms. Regan stated the Department (DEC) has extended its public comment period for the Piseco Lake Campgrounds UMP to June 16th and scheduled an additional Public Meeting for June 14th at the Arietta Town Hall at 5 pm.

Ms. Regan said Steve Guglielmi (DEC) will be presenting a Public Draft for the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest UMP and this is for information only. The Department will be holding several public meetings and accepting public comment until August 11th. Agency staff are not requesting simultaneous public comment for this UMP. The Agency would like to commend the Department on the completion of this UMP. We believe that it is one of the most complex Units and recognize the enormous amount of work that was required to complete this document.

Ms. Regan noted she attended the 24th annual Conference on the Adirondacks in May. She said former APA staff member Ray Curran received the Dr. Elizabeth W. Thorndike Adirondack Achievement Award. This award is named for Liz Thorndike for her many contributions to the Adirondack Research Consortium and the Adirondack Community and is given annually to an individual who has demonstrated significant contributions to the long term sustainability of the Adirondack Park through scholarship, research, and policy initiatives. The Agency congratulates Mr. Curran on this award.

Saranac Lakes Wild Forest UMP

Mr. Guglielmi gave an overview of the UMP and covered the actions that are being proposed: constructing new trails, some of which will be open to mountain biking and snowmobiles; water management for fishing, camping and wildlife viewing; closure of sixty-four tent sites and construction of sixty-eight new sites; identify locations for group camping sites and limiting the maximum number of people on the sites; constructing a minimum of twenty campsites to accessible standards; and improving or constructing new parking.

Mr. Guglielmi said the Department will be holding two public meetings in July, and two availability sessions in July. Department staff will be available to answer questions and take comments from the public.

Dr. Dawson asked if roadside primitive campsites will be included in the discussion on primitive tent sites. Mr. Guglielmi replied that he will be addressing them later in his presentation.

Ms. Mahoney asked the difference between a boat launch and a Fish and Waterway Access Site (FWAS). Mr. Guglielmi said a boat launch has a ramp that enables a trailer to enter the water and FWAS is primarily for car-top boats, not enabling trailers to back into the water.

Dr. Dawson asked why staff were only looking at three lakes for carrying capacity with regards to boat launches versus Fishing Waterway Access Sites. Mr. Guglielmi stated that the other FWAS were being blocked. The three that are not being blocked will be analyzed.

Ms. Regan added that a carrying capacity working group is being formed with APA and DEC staff because this issue comes up regularly. There are some FWAS that are not conforming to the SLMP, but that might be appropriate for a trailered launch.

Mr. Ernst noted that with private development we are encouraging clustering, yet with primitive tent sites we have a ¼ mile separation distance. Is there an ecological reason for this? Mr. Guglielmi said that the ¼ mile helps with the users' experience of solitude. Dr. Dawson responded that when campsites are clustered they tend to attract groups and there tends to be a lot of walking between sites, thus increasing the footprint of the campsite(s). Most people won't travel ¼ mile between sites, so those sites tend to have a smaller ecological footprint.

Mr. Craig noted that this UMP discusses having a Management Team. He doesn't remember seeing that before and was wondering if it was a new idea. Mr. Guglielmi said that he took the concept from the High Peaks, but believes it is being used in other UMPs.

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Mr. Craig asked if any of the proposed reclassifications are in the existing 2016-2017 Classification Action. Ms. Regan said they are not because those types must be proposed first in a UMP. Those actions can be added to a package following the adoption of the SLWF UMP.

Ms. Feldman asked about user levels. Mr. Guglielmi said that the SLWF is heavily used, particularly in the summer. The type, location and level of use vary between locations.

Ms. Feldman asked if there was a time frame for implementation. Mr. Guglielmi stated that nonconforming tent sites should be removed within 3 years of adoption of the UMP. He would be surprised if he could get to that much work in that short a time period. He can move forward with some actions, but others require adoption of the UMP. Staff are also hoping to be able to use volunteers to implement certain management actions.

Mr. Lussi asked about the concept of resting campsites and why that wasn't a preferred method. Mr. Guglielmi stated that in actuality this method tends to double the impact because people use both the temporarily closed site and the new site.

Dr. Dawson congratulated the team on their hard work. Ms. Regan congratulated Steve on his presentation. Mr. Stegemann also thanked Steve for all the work he has done on the UMP.

Mr. Lussi stated that the team did a great job and were very creative, particularly with Mountain Bike trails. Mr. Guglielmi thanked the BarkEater Trail Alliance for their help in developing those ideas.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Karen Feldman, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 2:05 pm.