



Adirondack Park Agency

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

BARBARA RICE
Executive Director

ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY DRAFT MAY MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 12, 2022

AGENCY MEMBERS, DESIGNEES, AND EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

John Ernst, Chairperson
Mark Hall, Member
Andrea Hogan, Member
Arthur Lussi, Member
Zoë Smith, Member
Dan Wilt, Member
Brad Austin, Designee, Empire State Development
Matt Tebo, Designee, NYS Dept. of State
Joe Zalewski, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Barbara Rice, Executive Director
Christopher Cooper, Counsel

ABSENT AND EXCUSED

Ken Lynch, Member

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD PRESENT

Jerry Delaney, Executive Director

AGENCY STAFF PRESENT

Amy Hall
Dan Kelleher
Rob Lore
Keith McKeever
Matt McNamara
Craig Michaels
Emily O'Mahony
Megan Phillips
Kevin Prickett
Bob Kreider, NYS ITS

Chairperson John Ernst called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Chairperson Ernst welcomed everyone to the second in-person meeting in two years, saying it was nice to see everyone on the Board and in the audience. Chairperson Ernst noted that the first telecom working group meeting would be held following the conclusion of today's meeting for those involved. A reminder was given to the Board about their wireless microphones, making sure they knew how to operate them and to either turn them off or remove them prior to leaving the boardroom.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ron Konowitz spoke on behalf of the Adirondack Powders Skiers, noting that they had been invited to assist with laying out back-country ski trails on Jenkins Mountain, explaining some of the details involved, and ended by welcoming the Board to come visit this new site.

Video and audio recordings of the proceedings, including public comment, are available in their entirety via webcast at:

<https://nysapa.granicus.com/videos/584/player?autoplay=0&start=65&stop=892>

2. Approval of March 10, 2022 and April 14, 2022 Agency Minutes

On motion of Art Lussi, seconded by Mark Hall, the corrected March minutes were approved unanimously with Brad Austin, Matt Tebo, and Zoë Smith abstaining as they hadn't been at the meeting.

On motion of Zoë Smith, seconded by Art Lussi, the April minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Recusals

Art Lussi recused from the Whiteface UMP project.

4. Motion for Executive Session

None needed.

5. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Rice welcomed everyone saying that it's exciting to have an in-person meeting and thanking Bob Kreider and Elizabeth Stankus for all their hard work getting the technology ready for the meeting. Executive Director Rice said that the Agency will resume our annual tree planting this June with trees honoring Fred Monroe, former head of the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board and Tom Saehrig, former staff member. Executive Director Rice congratulated Paul Smith's College

Adirondack Watershed Institute's environmental research lab which recently received NYSDOH certification to the environmental lab approval program, expanding PSC's capabilities to detect and address threats to the region's lakes and streams. Executive Director Rice was proud to announce that the Agency in partnership with DEC and OPRHP are hosting a two-part webinar series on integrating inclusivity, accessibility, and sustainability to state lands. These webinars are part of Governor Hochul's ongoing efforts to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion and increase outdoor opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to recreate outdoors. The first webinar already took place with the second one to be held on May 17th. Executive Director Rice noted that Agency staff attended the NYS Climate Action Council public hearing in Tupper Lake, saying that these hearings are being held across the state to gather input on the draft scoping plan which will help guide the State's climate goals and that the CLCPA is accepting public comment through June 6th, with more information available on their website. Executive Director Rice also noted that the 2022 Consolidated Funding application period is open with July 29th being the deadline for submissions. This is an important funding opportunity for Adirondack communities and Executive Director Rice encouraged those interested to reach out to Agency staff who can help direct them to the best resources and assist on project ideas and designs. Lastly executive Director Rice announced that in preparation for the first telecom group meeting, Agency staff have updated the telecom database and mapping materials, making them current through April 2022; they are available for downloading from our website.

6. Motion to Adjourn into Committees

On motion of Mark Hall, and without objection, the Agency adjourned into committees at 10:18 a.m.

State Land Committee

The committee meeting convened at approximately 10:30 am Thursday, May 12, 2022.

State Land Committee Members Present

Art Lussi, Andrea Hogan, Joe Zalewski (DEC) present.
Ken Lynch (Committee Chair) excused.

Other Members and Designees Present

John Ernst (Chair), Brad Austin (ESD), Matt Tebo (DOS), Mark Hall, Dan Wilt, and Zoë Smith.

Local Government Review Board Present

Gerald Delaney, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present

Megan Phillips, Matt McNamara, Kevin Prickett, Barb Rice, Chris Cooper

(1) State Land Report (Megan Phillips)

Megan Phillips gave an overview of projects and initiatives that State Land staff are presently involved with. She provided status updates on both the trail stewardship working group and visitor use management efforts, as well as an update on the new guidelines for managing invasive species on state-administered lands in the Forest Preserve. She noted that staff have been working with the Department of Environmental Conservation on both new and updated unit management plans, as well as consultations regarding accessibility at Camp Santanoni; designs for the Remsen Lake Placid rail trail, specifically for destination features like the Lake Colby causeway; various bridge projects in the Pigeon Lake Wilderness; and removal of non-conforming structures in a primitive area. Board member Art Lussi expressed interest in a more in-depth update on the rail trail project at a subsequent meeting.

The complete report is available at:

<https://nysapa.granicus.com/videos/584/player?autoplay=0&start=890&stop=1377>

(2) 2021 Whiteface Mountain Ski Center Unit Management Plan Amendment (Matt McNamara)

Matt McNamara gave a detailed overview and presentation of the proposed final 2021 Whiteface Mountain Ski Center Unit Management Plan Amendment and Final GEIS. He summarized the comments received by the Agency during its 30-day public comment period and the Agency's responses, and was joined by Molly Breslin (DEC Counsel) and Chris Cooper in fielding inquiries from board members regarding proposed management actions.

The presentation and following discussion are available at:

<https://nysapa.granicus.com/videos/584/player?autoplay=0&start=1405&stop=4070>

A motion to adopt a resolution finding the UMP amendment to be in conformance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan was made by Joe Zalewski and seconded by Andrea Hogan. All were in favor. Art Lussi recused himself.

(3) No Material Increase of Road Mileage on Wild Forest (Megan Phillips and Josh Clague, DEC)

Megan Phillips and Josh Clague (DEC) gave a presentation and led a discussion with the board regarding the topic of no material increase of road mileage on wild forest lands. Chris Cooper and Molly Breslin (DEC Counsel) assisted in fielding inquiries from board members. Staff asked the board to make three interpretations – 1) what road mileage existed on wild forest lands in 1972 and what mileage exists today; 2) what constitutes a material increase in mileage; and 3) whether CP-3 mileage meets the definition of a road in

the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, and therefore require inclusion in the total mileage calculation. The board authorized a public comment period from May 12 to July 12 (60 days) and requested that staff host at least one public information session.

The presentation and following discussion are available at:

<https://nysapa.granicus.com/videos/584/player?autoplay=0&start=4125&stop=9380>

A motion to put the material out for a 60-day public comment period was made by Joe Zalewski and seconded by Andrea Hogan. All were in favor.

Regulatory Programs Committee

The committee meeting convened at approximately 1:30pm on Thursday, May 12, 2022.

Regulatory Programs Committee Members Present

Dan Wilt (Committee Chair), Art Lussi, and Matt Tebo (DOS). Ken Lynch was absent.

Other Members and Designees Present

John Ernst (Chair), Brad Austin (ESD), Andrea Hogan, Mark Hall, Zoë Smith, and Joe Zalewski (DEC).

Local Government Review Board Present

Gerald Delaney, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present

Rob Lore, Devan Korn, Chris Cooper, Barb Rice

Regulatory Programs Report (Robert Lore)

Mr. Lore began his report by stating that the division continues to see an increase in workload and that staff are now fully engaged in site visits for the season. Staff are scheduling site visits while balancing their office time to ensure they meet regulatory timeframes.

Mr. Lore noted that there are no substantial updates from the last Agency meeting concerning recent high-profile projects other than to state that review continues on the Solar project proposed for the former Benson Mine in Clifton, St. Lawrence County.

Mr. Lore then spoke briefly regarding historic/cultural resources, as they are not often highlighted during Agency meetings and hoped to highlight their importance in the review process.

The complete report is available at:

<https://nysapa.granicus.com/videos/584/player?autoplay=0&start=9608&stop=9867>

P2021-0256 – Pivot Energy (Devan Korn)

Devan Korn gave a detailed overview and presentation of the project including review of jurisdiction, conclusions of law, a description and slides of the project location and the existing conditions, site history, proposed project details, visual analysis slides, public comment, review by others, and staff's recommendation and permit conditions.

The presentation and following discussion are available at:

<https://nysapa.granicus.com/videos/584/player?autoplay=0&start=9867&stop=12315>

A motion for approval with conditions was made by Art Lussi and seconded by Matt Tebo. All were in favor.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

The committee meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30pm Thursday, May 12, 2022.

The meeting adjourned for the day after the Regulatory Programs Committee.

Friday May 13, 2022

The meeting resumed at approximately 9:03 a.m.

Park Ecology Committee

The Committee convened at approximately 9:04 a.m.

Park Ecology Committee Members Present

Zoë Smith (Committee Chair), Mark Hall, Brad Austin (ESD), Joe Zalewski (DEC)

Other Members and Designees Present

John Ernst (Chair), Andrea Hogan, Arthur Lussi, Matt Tebo (DOS), Dan Wilt

Local Government Review Board Staff Present

Gerald Delaney, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present

Dan Kelleher, Megan Phillips, Alicia Purzycki, Keith McKeever, Matt McNamara, Craig Michaels, Emily O'Mahony, Kevin Prickett, Bob Kreider, NYS ITS, Barb Rice, Chris Cooper

(1) Park Ecology Committee Report (Alicia Purzycki)

Alicia Purzycki provided an overview of Agency Resource Analysis and Scientific Services (RASS) division activities. Alicia noted that staff are busy in the field conducting site visits related to wetlands, soils, stormwater, and shoreline setbacks, among other topics.

The complete report is available at:

<https://nysapa.granicus.com/videos/585/player?autoplay=0&start=210&stop=497>

(2) Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program: Key Accomplishments and 2022 Field Season Plans (Rebecca Bernacki and Brian Greene)

Rebecca Bernacki and Brian Greene provided a presentation of 2021 accomplishments achieved by the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP). Rebecca and Brian noted that APIPP's Terrestrial Early Detection and Rapid Response crew inspected over 1,700 possible infestations in 2021 and treated more than 500 sites to manage invasive species. Brian Greene also reported that between 50 and 70 lakes are surveyed for invasive species annually and that 75% of Adirondack lakes are free from invasive species. To prevent the spread of invasive species, APIPP is working to partner with local lake associations to survey lakes, train volunteers to identify infestations, and educate the public on spread prevention.

The complete presentation is available at:

<https://nysapa.granicus.com/videos/585/player?autoplay=0&start=498&stop=1784>

(3) Adirondack Watershed Institute: Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention (Dan Kelting)

Dan Kelting provided an overview of the Adirondack Watershed Institute's (AWI) aquatic invasive species prevention activities. AWI employs 120 stewards to inspect boats at more than 46 boat launches and points of contact throughout the Park in order to identify and remove invasive species. In 2021, the stewards inspected approximately 75,000 boats for invasive species and removed such species on about 3.6% of evaluated vessels. This rate of decontamination is less than the previous three years suggesting that AWI's education programming is working. AWI will continue its

inspection and education programming throughout 2022 to continue to protect Adirondack waterbodies.

The complete presentation is available at:

<https://nysapa.granicus.com/videos/585/player?autoplay=0&start=1787&stop=4833>

(4) New Business

None

(5) Old Business

None

The committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:05 a.m. by Chairperson Ernst without objection.

Full Agency resumed at 10:09 a.m.

7. Committee Reports

a) State Land Committee

The committee received a report from Megan Phillips.

On motion of John Ernst, seconded by Dan Wilt, the Agency unanimously approved the Whiteface Ski Center UMP Resolution on conformance with the APSLMP. Art Lussi was recused.

On motion of Mark Hall, seconded by Matt Tebo, the Agency unanimously approved sending the No Material Increase of Road Mileage on Wild Forest Lands out for a 60-day public comment period with the added condition of at least one public information session.

b) Regulatory Programs Committee

The committee received a report from Rob Lore.

On motion of Dan Wilt, seconded by Mark Hall, the Agency unanimously approved with conditions P2021-0296, Pivot energy, Town of Ticonderoga, Essex County.

c) Park Ecology Committee

The committee received a report from Alicia Purzycki and had great, informative presentations from the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program the Adirondack Watershed Institute.

8. Interim Reports

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

Local Government Review Board Report:

Jerry Delaney thanked the APA and DEC for taking on the task of access to state lands, adding that closing roads always has an impact on communities. Jerry Delaney also spoke about determining if the APSLMP intended to include a material increase in road mileage in future state land purchases adding that for the sake of our communities as well as their acceptance of future land purchases this needs to be thought about.

9. Old Business

Zoë Smith asked for updates on the Agency's upcoming 50th anniversary and if there were any plans for a Local Government Day in 2023. Executive Director Rice answered that both are being worked on with plans to be announced in the near future.

10. New Business

None

11. Public Comment

None

Video and audio recordings of the proceedings, including public comment for this portion of the meeting are available in their entirety via webcast at:
<https://nysapa.granicus.com/videos/585/player?autoplay=0&start=4834&stop=6424>

Before ending, Chairperson Ernst announced that the next meeting is scheduled for June 9 & 10, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned without objection at 10:45 a.m.

John Ernst, Chairperson