

Annual Report 2016



Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

Chairman Sherman Craig



**Adirondack
Park Agency**

Chairman Message



Chairman
Sherman Craig



It was a great honor to be named Chairman of the Adirondack Park Agency. I sincerely thank Governor Cuomo for this opportunity. This Agency has a profound and complex responsibility. An obligation we must get right - to balance environmental protection with economic development. Our continued success means future generations may experience the wonders of wilderness and local residents will have the opportunity to find employment and raise a family in the communities they call home.

This is no easy task. One that is not accomplished alone. So, I am grateful for the insight of my esteemed Board Members. Their distinctive backgrounds and dedication to the Park is instrumental in our ability to resolve multifaceted issues. We were so gratified with the Governor's appointment of John Ernst, Barbara Rice and Dr. Chad Dawson. They replace very passionate and independent thinkers. I am confident they will give of themselves with the same zeal.

We also respectfully recognized the outstanding public service of two of our long standing board members Richard Booth and Charwoman Ulrich who ended their service to the Park Agency in 2016. Mr. Booth was part of the first wave of Agency staff. He joined the Agency shortly after the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan was written and at a time when the Land Use and Development Plan was being drafted. He was a respected voice on the Agency Board.

Chairwoman Ulrich will be remembered for her legendary ability to establish "common ground." She broadened dialogue which advanced the work of the Adirondack Park Agency and by doing so positively impacted Park communities, residents, visitors, and future generations. Prior to the Chairwoman's departure, it was fitting that we celebrated the 11th member of the Adirondack Park Agency Board – Anne LaBastille. On a perfect spring day in May the Agency planted a serviceberry tree in her honor to recognize her seventeen years of service, from 1975 to 1993, to her beloved Adirondacks.

Because of the APA Act, this is one of the few places on the planet that will still resemble itself - as it is today - fifty years from now. I strongly believe because we protect open space we will see reinvestment in our hamlets, continued growth in the local agricultural and forestry industry, more small business development and innovation - all leading to a most fulfilling rural lifestyle.

I would like to build upon the progress of our predecessors to evolve solutions which are in the best interest of the Adirondack Park. My goal is to leave this magnificent place wilder at its core, with vibrant communities interwoven with the Forest Preserve.



Above: Chairman Craig (center) participates in Governor Cuomo's Sustainable Development North Country Conference.



Above: APA Board presents Certificate of Appreciation to local high school students who participate in the Adirondack Youth Climate Summit Program for their outstanding contribution to fight climate change.

At Right: Chairman Craig (right) welcomes new Board Members to APA Board. From Left: John Ernst, Barbara Rice and Dr. Chad Dawson.



Executive Director Message



Executive Director
Terry Martino



Above: Arbor Day Ceremony honoring Anne LaBastille.

From left: Leslie Surprenant, Doris Herwig, Executive Director Martino, Chairwoman Ulrich.

At Right: Governor Andrew Cuomo (seated) announces historic Boreas Ponds acquisition.

With Governor Cuomo from left: DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos, Long Lake Supervisor Clark Seaman, ADK Mountain Club Executive Director Neil Woodworth, Keene Supervisor Bill Ferebee, Minerva Supervisor Steve McNally, North Hudson Supervisor Ron Moore, Indian Lake Supervisor Brian Wells, APA Executive Director Terry Martino, TNC Executive Director Mike Carr and former Newcomb Supervisor George Cannon. Elk Lake - Town of North Hudson, Essex County



Each and every year upon reflection I am filled with admiration for the hard working and dedicated staff whose commitment to the mission of the Adirondack Park Agency is unwavering. In all programs the Agency continued to be detail oriented, technical, scientific and interdisciplinary in its planning, project review and legal work.

We bid farewell to staff members Mary Reardon, Susan Parker and Robert Kreider. During 2016, Ms. Reardon accepted a position with the Department of Labor and Mr. Kreider accepted a promotion within the NYS Office of Information Technology. We also commended Ms. Parker in her retirement for her dedicated service. The Agency is pleased to report promotions for staff members Stephanie Petith to a Secretary 1 position in Regulatory Programs and Kyle Martin to the position of Laborer.

It was a great honor to serve with the first woman chairperson of the Adirondack Park Agency Board who left the Agency in June. Chairwoman Ulrich came to the Agency in November of 2004 with an extensive background in community visioning and development based on her public service in the Central Adirondacks. She used her natural ability to bring people together and co-founded the Common Ground Alliance which is highly regarded as an outstanding example of regional collaboration.

As always 2016 was a busy and productive year. We started revisions to our FOIL regulations, amended the State Land Master Plan and conducted eight public hearings for the historic 2016-17 Classification Package. Regarding the Classification Package we received an unprecedented amount of public comment from people across the State who love the Adirondack Park. It is rewarding to see the vast interest in the day-to-day operations, regional planning and work of the Agency.

In closing, I sincerely thank all Agency staff for their continued dedication to the Adirondack Park. Each member in their own way contributes to the betterment of the Park and together in collaboration with our Board Members and all stakeholders we will continue to build upon the achievements of those who came before us.



About the Adirondack Park

Celebrated during the Adirondack Park Centennial as a “place of people and natural wonder,” the Park has a legacy dating back to 1892 when it was created by the State of New York amid concerns about water and timber resources. The Adirondack Park represents a story of conservation—of how people, communities, wilderness and open space can coexist—for the more than 6 million acres of land that comprise the park.

The heart of the Adirondack Park is the Forest Preserve which was created by an act of the New York State Legislature in 1885. Through Article 14 of the New York State Constitution, the Forest Preserve lands are constitutionally protected: “The lands now or hereafter constituting them shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be sold, nor shall they be leased or taken by any person or corporation public or private.”

The mix of State and private lands is an underlying characteristic of the Adirondack Park. Comprised of 102 towns and villages, the Park includes diverse communities with unique Main Streets, farms, small businesses, working forests, open space, and a range of services and products. The abundance of nature-based tourism and world-class outdoor recreational opportunities, combined with the character and appearance of its public and private lands, make the Park notably different from most other rural areas. The Park offers an unparalleled small town quality and room for businesses within its towns and villages that are gateways to public lands.

The Park represents one-fifth of New York’s land area and has the largest publicly protected area in the contiguous United States—comparable in size to the State of Vermont. The Park is home to 132,000 residents and boasts more than 10,000 lakes, 30,000 miles of rivers and streams, and a wide variety of habitats including wetlands and old-growth forests recognized for their ecological significance. Situated within a day’s drive of nearly 85 million people, the Park is well positioned to offer its unique blend of wilderness solitude, outdoor recreation and community life to the millions of visitors who in increasing numbers see the Park as a unique travel destination. The blend of public and private lands provides the Adirondack Park with a unique diversity found nowhere else.



Above: Main Street Old Forge, Hamilton County and view of High Peaks from Whiteface Mountain.

Below: Business district in the Town of Essex, Essex County.



About the Adirondack Park Agency

Agency Divisions include:
Administration

Legal Affairs

Economic Affairs

Regulatory Programs

Park Policy and Planning
- State Land
- Local Government Services

Resource Analysis and
Scientific Services

Below: Chairwoman Ulrich (center seated) is honored by present and former staff and Board Members during a celebration in honor of her State Service.

Former Chairs: Seated from left: James Frenette, Curtis Stiles, Leilani Ulrich, Ross Whaley, James Townsend and Executive Director Martino. Chairwoman Criag standing behind Ms. Ulrich.

The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) was created in 1971 by the New York State Legislature with the mission to protect the public and private resources within the “Blue Line” of the Adirondack Park through the exercise of the powers and duties of the Agency as provided by law. The basic purpose of the APA Act is “to insure optimum overall conservation, development and use of the unique scenic, aesthetic, wildlife, recreational, open space, historic, ecological and natural resources of the Adirondack Park.”

The Agency works to balance the complementary needs of all the people of the State for the preservation of the Park’s resources and open space character with the needs of the Park’s permanent, seasonal and transient populations for growth and service areas, employment, and a strong diversified economic base. The Agency administers two regional land use plans: the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) and the Adirondack Park Private Land Use and Development Plan. These documents classify State and private lands according to their characteristics and capacity to sustain use.

In the State Land Master Plan, State lands are classified in one of the following categories: Wilderness, Primitive, Canoe, Wild Forest, Intensive Use, Historic and State Administrative. The APSLMP establishes policy for the management of these lands and was developed in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) with approval by the Governor. DEC is charged with the care and custody of the Forest Preserve .

The Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan (APLUDP) applies to private land use and development in the Park. The plan defines Agency jurisdiction and is designed to conserve the Park’s natural resources and open-space character by directing and clustering development to minimize impact. Through the plan, all private lands are mapped into six land use classifications: Hamlet, Moderate Intensity Use, Low Intensity Use, Rural Use, Resource Management and Industrial Use. The Agency has limited jurisdiction in Hamlet areas, extensive jurisdiction in Resource Management areas, and various degrees of jurisdiction within the other land use classifications.

Within the Park, the Agency also administers the State Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act for private lands and the State Freshwater Wetlands Act for both the Park’s public and private lands.



Agency Board

BOARD MEMBERS

Sherman Craig, Chairman from 7/16
In-Park: St. Lawrence County
Leilani Ulrich, Chairwoman thru 6/16
In-Park: Herkimer County
Richard S. Booth, thru 6/16
Out-of-Park: Tompkins County
Arthur Lussi,
In-Park: Essex County
Daniel Wilt,
In-Park: Hamilton County
William H. Thomas,
In-Park: Warren County
Karen Feldman,
Out-of-Park: Columbia County
Dr. Chad P. Dawson, from 7/16
Out-of-Park: Onondaga County
Barbara Rice, from 7/16
In-Park: Franklin County
John Lyman Ernst, from 7/16
Out-of-Park: New York County

Howard Zemsky, Commissioner
Department of
Economic Development
Designee: Bradley Austin

Basil Seggos, Commissioner
Department of Environmental
Conservation
Designee: Robert Stegemann

Rossana Rosado,
Secretary of State
Designee: Dierdre Scozzafava thru
6/16
Designee: Sandi Allen from 7/16

The Adirondack Park Agency is a New York State government agency with an eleven-member Board of Commissioners, five of whom must be residents of the Adirondack Park. The Governor appoints eight members, subject to confirmation by the Senate, and three ex-officio members: the Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development, the Secretary of State, and the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. The Board represents a careful balance of local, regional and statewide interests in the Adirondack Park.

Highlights of projects approved by the Agency Board included telecommunication projects in Essex, Herkimer, Putnam, Washington and St. Lawrence Counties; a Biomass District Heating system to service the Ray Brook State Office complex; modifications to enhance Saratoga County Emergency Service system; construction of a town park in Warrensburg; boat wash station to help combat invasive species in the Town of Fine and the Adirondack League Club's timber harvest project.

Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan conformance decisions were rendered for the following Unit Management Plans: Santanoni Historic Area, Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor, Black River Wild Forest Area, Wilmington Wild Forest, Hammond Pond Wild Forest, Vanderhacker Mountain Wild Forest, Lake Durant Campground, Eighth Lake Campground, Limekiln Lake Campground, Cranberry Lake Campground and the Horicon Boat Launch. The Board also authorized staff to conduct a public comment period for the Champlain Islands Complex Area as well as public hearings for the 2016-2017 Classification Package.

The Board approved proposed map amendments to the official Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map for the Towns of Minerva and Crown Point. The Board denied a map amendment for private lands in the Town of St. Armand.

The Board unanimously approved amendments to Approved Local Land Use Programs for the Towns of Lake George, Horicon and Queensbury.

The Board heard informational presentations from the Essex County Industrial Development Agency, Champlain Area Trails, the Department of Environmental Conservation, Wild Center's Youth Climate Change Summit, Lake George Association and received important data on the possible impacts of the Balsam and Hemlock Woolly Adelgids as well as an overview on preventive measures to control infestations from Dr. Whitemore, a prominent expert.

2016 Adirondack Park Agency Board

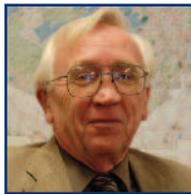
Seated from left: Executive Director Martino, Chairman Sherman Craig, Counsel James Townsend, Board Member Karen Feldman. Standing from left: Review Board Executive Director Fred Monroe, Board Member John Ernst, Board Member Barbara Rice, DOS Designee Lynn Mahoney, Board Member Arthur Lussi, Board Member William Thomas, Board Member Dr. Chad Dawson, DEC Designee Robert Stegemann, ESD Designee Bradley Austin and Board Member Daniel Wilt.



Administration

STAFF

Terry Martino,
Executive Director
Elaine Caldwell,
Administrative Officer 1
Keith McKeever,
Public Information Officer
Daniel Kelleher,
Special Assistant for
Economic Affairs
Susan Streiff,
Secretary to Executive Director
Robert Kreider, thru 12/16
Information Technology
Specialist 2
Amy Hall,
Calculations Clerk 2
George Hare,
Maintenance Supervisor 1
Norma Howard,
Student Assistant
Elizabeth Stankus,
Student Assistant
Kyle Martin,
Laborer
Rod Williams,
Green Thumb Program
Judy Huffer ,
Green Thumb Program



Above Left: Sherman Craig
Chair Administration Committee
Above Right: William Thomas
Chair Public Awareness and
Communications Committee

At Right: Deputy Secretary for the
Environment Venetia Lannon ad-
dresses APA staff.

The Administrative Services Division is responsible for all fiscal management, contract administration, personnel management, physical plant management and office support. Division staff are involved in the preparation of purchase orders and vouchers, fiscal record keeping, determination of availability of funds for the Agency's division programs, payroll and computerization of fiscal records. Staff are also responsible for media relations, community relations and outreach.

Fiscal Management

The Administrative Services Division implemented Governor Cuomo's FY2016-17 budget as enacted. The Agency met all directives issued by the NYS Division of Budget and managed funding to maintain the Agency headquarters and staffing. The Agency continued to work with the Business Service Center (BSC) and the Statewide Financial System for many of its fiscal transactions.

Information Services

Staff continued to assist the Information Technology Services Center (ITS) in implementing Governor Cuomo's directive to reorganize state information technology services to reduce costs through shared services. The Agency interacts with ITS on a daily basis regarding its information technology needs and resources. The Agency successfully transitioned the Agency to 10.net as per the ITS directive.

Human Resources

The Administrative Services Division worked with the NYS Office of General Services, Business Services Center on Governor's Cuomo's mandate to consolidate many of the Human Resources (HR) functions across state agencies. During the FY 16-17, the Agency's Administrative Division continued to work with the Business Service Center to streamline processes for the Agency..

Public and Media Relations

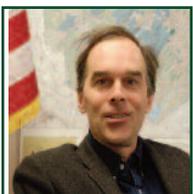
The Public Information Officer (PIO) responded to 301 media inquiries, issued 21 press releases and conducted 14 outreach events to international delegations, local officials, college students, special interest groups and the general public. The PIO served as Hearing Officer for seven variance hearings, eight Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan public hearings and two private land map amendment hearings. The PIO continues to manage the Agency's Facebook and Twitter accounts. Staff represent the Agency at State Agency PIO meetings and Local Government Review Board meetings. In addition, the PIO administers the Agency Board meeting webcasts and is responsible for preparing the Annual Report.



Regulatory Programs

Staff

Richard Weber III,
Deputy Director
Colleen Parker,
Environmental Program Specialist 3
Thomas Saehrig,
Environmental Program Specialist 2
Ariel Lynch,
Environmental Program Specialist 2
Suzanne McSherry,
Environmental Program Specialist 2
Susan Parker, thru 11/16
Environmental Program Specialist 1
Virginia Yamrick,
Environmental Program Specialist 1
Tracy Darrah,
Environmental Program Specialist 1
Devan Korn,
Environmental Program Specialist 1
Mary Reardon, thru 5/16
Secretary 1
Lauretta H. Bullis
Secretary 1
Stephanie Petith,
Secretary 1



Above Left: Arthur Lussi
Chair Regulatory Programs Committee
Above Right: Richard Weber
Deputy Director Regulatory Programs

At Right: APA approved the Town of Warrensburg's proposed recreational park along the banks of the Schroon River.

The Regulatory Programs Division implements the statutory and regulatory provisions of the APA Act, the Freshwater Wetlands Act, and the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act. Staff provide pre-application project guidance and assessment, determine application completeness, apply review standards and prepare permit, variance or denial orders. In 2016, the Regulatory Programs Division received 364 project applications and issued 301 permits and 10 non jurisdictional determinations. In addition, 109 preapplication meetings were opened. The following tables summarize permit activity in 2016.

Permits Issued	2015	2016
Minor	61	77
Major	64	64
Variance	1	7
State Agency Order	8	5
Amendments/Renewals	73	87
General Permits	46	61
Total	253	301

Project Categories	2016
Subdivision Projects	78
Single Family Dwelling Permits	22
Resource Management	72
Wetlands	110
Commercial Use	11
Towers/ Telecommunication projects	9
Sand and Gravel Mining	4
Timber Harvesting	9
Major Public Utility	5
Municipal Bridges	1

* The above list is not comprehensive of all project categories. And a single permit may comprise multiple project categories.



Telecommunication Projects

In 2016, the Agency issued 16 telecommunications permits authorizing 9 new towers, and 7 modifications to existing towers. New towers were approved for sites in the Towns of Fine, Harriestown, Putnam, Queensbury, Saranac and for two different sites in the Town of Warrensburg. The permit in the Town of Putnam involved approval of two new horizontally co-located towers sharing utilities and road access. The project sponsors included AT&T (1), Verizon Wireless (3), New Cingular (1) and (2) public safety communications projects for Warren Counties. Two public safety communication projects were also authorized to extend the height of existing towers in Herkimer and Saratoga Counties.

Variances

The Agency reviewed, conducted hearings and authorized seven variances from the shoreline restrictions in 2016. The variances involved four requests for the expansion of existing dwellings, one request involving structures related to a Town of Warrensburg Park on the Schroon River, an expansion of a restaurant on the shoreline of Mirror Lake in the Hamlet of Lake Placid, and one variance request for a new dwelling on a lot not meeting minimum lot-width standards. Three of these variances were approved by the Deputy Director – Regulatory Programs under delegated authority and after timely briefing of the Regulatory Programs Committee of his recommendation to do so. Exercising this authority for a narrowly prescribed set of variances helps to be responsive to applicants while protecting shoreline resources.

Commercial Activity

Thirty seven new permits and 29 permit amendments were issued for a total of 66 commercial activities, including new commercial uses, telecommunications projects, mining and forestry. Five permits were issued for utility projects including a water supply project in the Town of Webb and the major refurbishment of an electric transmission line in the Town of Croghan. Some noteworthy projects included the replacement of an existing 1,500 sq. ft. convenience store/gas station in the Town of North Elba with a new 9,535 sq. ft. store, the construction of a new 3,200 sq. ft. welding shop and storage facility in the Town of Lewis, and construction of a new 3,920 sq. ft. wedding venue in the Town of Ticonderoga. Staff also met with representatives of commercial solar companies to discuss potential to create commercial solar farms in the Adirondack Park.

Subdivision Projects

Approximately 78 residential subdivision permits were issued in 2016, including 67 permits for “minor” two-lot subdivisions and 11 permits for “major” subdivisions. The subdivision permits authorized an approximate total of 113 new lots. Lots authorized include both buildable and non buildable lots (open space lots).

Silvicultural Treatments

The Agency issued permits for nine timber harvesting projects. Eight of these projects involved lands subject to New York State Working Forest Conservation Easements and one project was a permit amendment. The combined harvest area for all eight projects is 2,133 acres out of more than 300,000 acres managed by the applicants. Agency approved projects therefore represent an area of less than 1% of the applicants’ total landholdings.

State Agency Projects

The Agency issued five §814 Orders for projects on State Land undertaken by a NYS Agency. Three of these Orders were issued to NYS Department of Transportation for bridge replacements: Route 73 bridge over the West Branch Ausable River; Route 9N bridge over the Ausable River; and Route 28 bridge over the Hudson River. The Agency issued project order 2016-81 to the NYS Power Authority and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for the construction of a Biomass District Heating System to service the Ray Brook State Office complex.



Project site for telecommunication and emergency services tower on McCauley Mountain in Old Forge.



Site Plan for State Boat washing station approved on Schroon Lake, Essex County as part of efforts to combat invasive species.



The State Office biomass system will reduce reliance on fossil fuel and promote homegrown energy sources through Governor Cuomo’s Renewable Heat NY (RHNY) initiative.

Economic Services

The Economic Services Unit provides expertise in market and financial feasibility analysis, economic and fiscal impact analysis, and economic development planning to the Agency, local and regional economic developers, and the Park's business community. Staff assist project sponsors and economic developers evaluate site locations and identify sources of help for business development. Staff also assist local governments and not-for-profit groups develop strategies to encourage sustainable economic growth in their communities.

Project Permitting

Staff advised the Agency on the economic impacts on four projects that were approved in 2016 including a biomass facility at the State office complex in Ray Brook, Essex County, a visitor center in the Town of Clifton, St. Lawrence County, and a variance for a restaurant deck and patio in Lake Placid, Essex County. Staff also provided technical expertise related to the Agency's project review process to a range of large-scale and entrepreneurial ventures during the pre-application process..

Community and Economic Development

In 2016, the Agency began a Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance (HEPA) Initiative plan for the Town and Village of Lake George. Staff held two public outreach events in the community throughout the year and used an online survey to receive public input on the plan. The plan is expected to be complete in 2017. Additionally staff met with four municipalities about the HEPA initiative. It is anticipated that some of these communities will participate in the full process in 2017. Through HEPA, the Agency seeks to build partnerships with local municipalities to help them achieve sustainable economic growth. The Agency works with communities to develop economic development plans for their commercial centers and then assists stakeholders in plan implementation.

Staff attended 71 public outreach, local and regional workgroup, and community development meetings throughout the region. Staff attended meetings regarding Park-wide initiatives including the Common Ground Alliance, the Adirondack Park Business Recruitment Workgroup, agriculture development, and broadband expansion. Staff also provided presentations to civic groups in North Creek, Warren County, Old Forge, Herkimer County and Crown Point, Essex County as well as to educational groups from Clarkson University, Stockton College, and Green Mountain College.

Regional Council Support

In 2016, the three Regional Economic Development Councils (REDC) representing the Adirondack Park received a combined \$236 million in grant and loan funding through Governor Cuomo's REDC competition. Key projects in the Park include an expansion of the Mountainman Outdoor Supply Company in Thendara, Herkimer County, an Adirondack Craft Beverage Campus and Incubator in Lake George, Warren County, streetscape improvements in North Creek, Warren County, an expansion of the Woods Inn in Inlet, Hamilton County. A total of 42 projects were funded in the Adirondack Park. Staff assisted in drafting the North Country REDC Priority Project and Plan Implementation Committee Progress Report. Economic staff is also a member of State Agency Resource Teams for the Capital Region, Mohawk Valley, and North Country Councils.



Former Economic Affairs Committee Chair Art Lussi (2nd from right) presents a certificate of appreciation to Essex County IDA Co-Executive Directors Carol Calabrese and Jody Olcott for their efforts to attract and grow business in the Adirondack Park.



Above Left: Daniel Wilt
Chair Economic Affairs Committee
Above Right: Daniel Kelleher
Special Assistant for Economic Affairs

At Right: The Agency approved a new Maplefield gas station and retail store in Ray Brook, Essex County.



Planning Division

STAFF

Kathy Regan,
Deputy Director Planning
John Barge,
Mapping Technologist 3
Robyn Burgess,
A.P. Local Planning Assistance Specialist
Walter Linck,
Associate Natural Resources Planner
Matthew Kendall,
Associate Natural Resources Planner
Kevin Prickett,
Senior Natural Resources Planner
Matthew McNamara,
Environmental Program Specialist 1
Kate-Lyn Knight,
Environmental Program Specialist 1
Mary Palmer,
Office Assistant 2
Annemarie Peer,
Office Assistant 1



Above Left: Dr. Chad Dawson
Chair Park Policy and Planning Committee

Above Right: Kathy Regan
Deputy Director Planning

At right: Kate-Lyn Knight (right) and
Mary Palmer participate in field visit.

Second Right: Planning staff conduct
site visit to Lake Champlain Islands.

The Agency's Planning Division is responsible for local government services, Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map updates and map amendments, State lands planning, Park policy, Geographic Information System (GIS), cartographic services and web site management.

Map Amendments

The Agency approved two amendments to the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map. One was a request from a landowner in the Town of Minerva and resulted in the reclassification of approximately 4 acres in an area adjacent to the Hamlet of Olmstedville from Low Intensity Use to Hamlet. The Agency also approved a map amendment requested by the Town of Crown Point. The approval expanded the Hamlet of Crown Point by reclassifying approximately 6 acres of private land from Low Intensity Use to Hamlet.

Geographic Information Analysis

The Agency depends on high quality GIS data produced internally and received from external sources. Major GIS data updates in 2016 include: tax parcels; Natural Heritage sites; Lidar elevation; photo points; telecommunication towers; regulatory transactions; roads; utility corridors; wetlands; and zoning. Staff completed significant mapping improvements to the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan and State Land Master Plan map. Large scale parcels, water, and roads information were used to improve land classification boundaries. The Agency's map information system, the "Lookup System", was expanded with advanced analytic tools to report ecology, regulatory jurisdiction, and adjacent landowner parcel information. Staff produced map products for the 2016-2017 State Land Classification and Reclassification Package involving 102 parcels around the Park. Staff continued to upload exemplary online mapping services for public use. This year staff created map photo tour applications for Boreas Ponds, Lake Champlain Islands, Northville and the State Land Classification Package. Staff also prepared an inspirational Earth Day Poster.

The Agency continued to provide valuable information to its constituents through www.apa.ny.gov. Significant content published in 2016 included all Agency Board Monthly Meeting materials, webcasts, State Land Classification Package documents and maps; State Land Master Plan Amendment materials; Regulatory Rule Review; FOIL Rule Making; Unit Management Plan public comment; and Local Government Day information.

2016 GIS/Web Tasks	Total
GIS Agency Program Administration	64
GIS Map Production	246
LUA Boundary/Blue Line Inquiry	1665
Map Amendments Review	13
State Land Classification/Reclassification Review	103
Web Administration/Content Management	45
Administrative Tasks	19



Local Government Services

Adirondack Park Local Government Day

The 19th annual Local Government Day Conference was held in April 2016 in Lake Placid, New York. The conference focused on economic development strategies and the promotion of projects that benefit rural economies. Local officials described successful projects that improved infrastructure, entrepreneurial initiatives, municipal energy management and the control of invasive species. Three hundred and forty people representing 41 Adirondack towns and villages and 66 organizations attended the 2016 event.



Above: The keynote speaker for the 2016 Conference was Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul.



Above Left: Dan Wilt
Chair Local Government Services Committee

Above Right: Robyn Burgess
A.P. Local Planning Assistance Specialist

At Right: Local Planning Assistance Specialist Robyn Burgess provides overview of the 2016 Local Government Day agenda.

The Local Government Services staff assist individual towns in the Park to develop planning initiatives and land use controls that meet local needs. Staff also administer Agency-approved local land use programs (ALLUPs). During the year, staff attend community meetings, provide advice and guidance on land use issues, prepare and present training workshops and provide plan and code review. Two program staff provide oversight of the eighteen Agency-approved local land use programs and review approximately 100 variance referrals and 50 zoning amendments annually.

The table below summarizes Local Government Services accomplishments in 2016.

Local Government Services Activities	2016
Land Use Regulation Consultations/Reviewed	60
ALLUP Amendments Approved	4
ALLUP Variances Reviewed	101
ALLUP Variances Reversed	4
Comprehensive Plans Reviewed	1
Meetings with Town Officials	24
Responses to Land Use Planning Inquiries	226
Training & Workshops Provided	5
Intra-Agency Local Planning Assistance	42
Coordination with other regional organizations	19
Agency Board Presentations	5

Staff assisted the Town of Horicon, which received original approval in 1978, in the adoption of a revised new code in 2016. This was a complete repeal and replacement of the Town code. In addition staff assisted the Town of Lake George, which received original approval in 1978, in the revision of its sanitary code and stormwater controls.



State Lands

Unit Management Plans

The Agency determined APSLMP conformance for the Remsen – Lake Placid Travel Corridor, Hammond Pond Wild Forest Area, Wilmington Wild Forest Area and the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest Areas UMP amendments.

The Agency also determined that new UMPs for the Lake Durant, Cranberry Lake, Eighth Lake and Limekiln Lake Public Campgrounds were compliant with the APSLMP.

Staff continue to consult with DEC on the development of new UMPs and amendments to existing UMPs. These include plans for Saranac Lakes, Wilcox Lake, Black River, Grasse River, Independence River, Chazy Highlands and Moose River Plains Wild Forest Areas; Lake Champlain Islands Complex; Caroga Lake and the Piseco Lake Public Campgrounds; and the Crown Point Historic Area.



Above Left: Karen Feldman
Chair State Lands Committee
Above Right: Kathy Regan
Deputy Director Planning

At Right: Deputy Director Planning
Kathy Regan (at podium) gives
2016 State Land Classification
Package presentation to an audi-
ence in Canton, St. Lawrence
County.

State Land staff work with DEC to prepare and review Unit Management Plans (UMPs) consistent with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP); provide guidance and interpretation regarding the APSLMP to DEC staff and the Agency’s Board; consult with DEC on long-range plans for the future of State lands; review proposed DEC projects on State lands to ensure conformance with the APSLMP; and work with the DEC to develop staff proposals for the classification and reclassification of State lands.

APSLMP Amendment

Staff held public hearings in January concerning proposed amendments to the APSLMP related to the 2013 Essex Chain Lakes and Pine Lake Primitive Areas classification action. The Agency Board recommended approval for the proposed amendments which were forwarded to Governor Cuomo who subsequently approved the action. The amended APSLMP allows for the use of non-natural materials in the construction of bridges in Wild Forest under specified conditions.

Staff in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation prepared a significant State Land classification package in 2016 that included 102 parcels of land throughout the Park including the Boreas Ponds Tract in Essex County. Staff presented the package to the Agency Board in October. The Board authorized staff to conduct eight public hearings, which were held across the state in November and December. Over 1,200 people attended the public hearings and 462 people spoke. The Agency received over 11,000 public comments by the end of the public comment period. The Agency Board will consider the Classification package in early 2017.

State Land Planning

With successful engagement from stakeholders throughout the southern half of the Adirondacks, the Great South Woods Project was completed as a first-of-its-kind regional recreational planning project for the Park. An implementation strategy was drafted by SUNY College of ESF staff and presented to DEC and the Agency. Staff participated in the year-long public planning process for the Remsen–Lake Placid Travel Corridor UMP amendment. Development of a rail trail between Lake Placid and Tupper Lake as well as improved rail infrastructure to support a tourist train from Tupper Lake to Remsen was approved by the Agency Board. Staff in consultation with DEC continue to prepare best management practices for the construction of all-terrain bicycle trails on Forest Preserve. Staff also continue to evaluate the potential for the development of new back-country ski trails.

2016 State Land Tasks Summary	Total
APSLMP Consultations	144
APSLMP Revision	44
Park Policy and Planning	53
Administration	98
Historic Preservation Act Review	30



Legal and Jurisdictional Office

STAFF

James Townsend,
Counsel
Sarah Reynolds,
Associate Counsel
Paul Van Cott,
Associate Attorney
Mitchell Goroski,
Senior Attorney
Elizabeth Phillips,
Senior Attorney
Steve Brewer,
Senior Attorney
Jennifer Hubbard,
Senior Attorney
Mary Palmer,
Office Assistant 2
Annemarie Peer,
Office Assistant 1

Jurisdictional Inquiry Office

Douglas Miller,
Environmental Program Specialist 2
Denise Wagner
Environmental Program Specialist 1
Brian Ford,
Environmental Program Specialist 1
Emily Tyner,
Environmental Program Specialist 1



Above Left: Karen Feldman
Chair Legal Affairs /Enforcement Committee.

Above Right: James Townsend
Counsel

At Right: Counsel Townsend (standing in doorway) presides over State Land Classification Hearing.

The Legal Division consists of four major components: the Office of Counsel including the Legal Services Unit, the Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit, and the Enforcement Unit. The Counsel and Associate Counsel advise all Agency divisions and the Agency Board. Legal Services attorneys review significant permitting, planning, enforcement, and other documents, assist the Attorney General with litigation, manage adjudicatory hearings, and provide other legal advice as necessary.

Office of Counsel and Legal Services

Key Legal Division accomplishments for 2016 included a proposed rulemaking to amend and repeal FOIL rules. The Legal Division is also working on updating the Agency's SEQR regulations. Staff also updated Agency public information flyers and continued to streamline internal legal review and guidance for non-legal staff and the public.

Legal staff reviewed major permits prior to issuance, provided legal advice on jurisdictional inquiries and helped resolve enforcement matters. Legal staff also provided guidance to the planning division on the classification of state lands and amendments to the Adirondack Park State Master Plan.

Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit

The Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit provides advice to landowners and potential project sponsors regarding Agency jurisdiction, including informal phone advice and written jurisdictional determinations. Staff help citizens determine if an Agency permit or variance is required. Determinations often require a full deed history and other legal and factual research. The Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit also

Jurisdictional Inquiry Received	896
Jurisdictional Inquiry Responses	903
Non-Jurisdictional Determinations	647
Jurisdictional Determinations	174
Variance Determinations	39
General Information Response	25
Potential Violation Determination	18
Average Response Time (in days)	16
Telephone Consultations	4149
Walk-In Consultations	180
Site Visits	30
Referrals from other Agencies	493
FOIL Requests Received	183

handles referrals from other agencies, telephone calls and walk-in members of the public. This is the Agency's initial and most common point of contact with the public; hence, a high priority is placed on prompt responses. The Jurisdictional Unit includes the Agency's Records Access Officer.

In 2016 staff received 896 jurisdictional inquiry forms.

The table above summarizes the Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit responses.



Enforcement

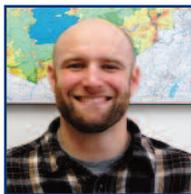
STAFF

Enforcement

John Burth,
Environmental Program Specialist 2
Trevor Fravor,
Environmental Program Specialist 1
Milton Adams,
Environmental Program Specialist 1
Emily O'Mahony,
Environmental Program Specialist 1
Frederick Aldinger,
Environmental Program Specialist 1
Patrick Connally,
Environmental Program Specialist 1



Above Left: Douglas Miller EPS 2
Jurisdictional Office
Above Right: John Burth EPS 2
Enforcement Office



At Right: Trevor Fravor calculates distance to mean high water mark in efforts to prevent degradation of shoreline vegetation.

Enforcement Unit

The Enforcement Unit seeks to resolve violations of the laws the Agency is charged to administer. In 2016, the Agency's Enforcement Program continued to focus on promptly addressing potential violations in a fair and consistent manner and took proactive steps to prevent or quickly resolve new violations. These efforts help to achieve prompt results that avoid undue adverse impacts to resources.

The Enforcement Program began 2016 with 152 unresolved cases. 219 cases were resolved during the year and 208 cases were opened. Staff conducted 180 enforcement site visits, prepared 97 settlement agreements, and executed 58 settlement agreements with landowners. 41 cases were resolved through voluntary compliance on the part of the landowner and 103 cases were closed following investigations indicating that no violation had occurred.

Enforcement staff monitor new subdivision activity in the Park through the New York State Office of Real Property SalesWeb application. This effort determined that 68% of the 96 subdivisions filed in 2016 were issued an Agency jurisdictional determination or permit. Five enforcement cases were opened as a result of SalesWeb monitoring, and of these cases, four remain under review and one case was found to be no violation following investigation.

Enforcement staff continued cross-divisional work in 2016 in addition to undertaking enforcement investigations. This work included 32 jurisdictional determinations issued by enforcement staff, 81 site visits for review of permit applications, 56 permits issued with enforcement staff as the assigned project review officer, and shoreline photo inventories of 12 lakes.

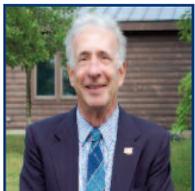
Activity	2015	2016
New Cases Opened	213	208
Site Visits	182	180
Settlement Agreements Sent	115	97
Settlement Agreements Signed	63	58
Jurisdictional Determinations	62	32
Cases Referred to Attorney General	1	0
Case Closed No Violation	86	103
Cases Closed Volunteer Compliance	41	41
Open Cases End of Year	152	141



Resource Analysis & Scientific Services

STAFF

Edward Snizek,
Supervisor - Natural Resource Analysis
Shaun LaLonde,
Soil and Water Engineering Specialist
Mark Rooks,
Associate A.P. Project Analyst,
Biological Resources
Mary O'Dell,
Biologist 1 (Ecology)
Aaron Ziemann,
Associate A.P. Project Analyst, Forest Resources
Leigh Walrath,
Associate A.P. Project Analyst, Fresh Water Resources
Alicia Purzycki,
Environmental Engineer 2
Annemarie Peer,
Office Assistant 1



Above Left: John Ernst
Chair Park Ecology Committee
Above Right: Edward Snizek
Supervisor-Natural Resource Analysis

At Right: Mark Rooks samples aquatic vegetation as part of project review for a proposed dock project.

The Resource Analysis and Scientific Services (RASS) Division provides scientific and technical analysis supporting all Agency transactions. The Agency's scientists provide expertise on engineering, soils analysis, forestry, invasive species, wildlife habitat, wetlands and other aquatic systems. Staff perform valuable field services including wetland delineations, mean high water mark determinations, structure height determinations, deep-hole test pit (DHTP) determinations, on-site wastewater treatment (OSWT) system review and stormwater management analysis.

Engineering

Evaluating existing and proposed development within the Park requires professional engineering services and technical analysis that is based upon sound science and engineering judgment and is consistent with applicable laws, regulations, standards, policies and guidance documents. For example, staff review stormwater management to prevent surface and groundwater impacts from stormwater runoff associated with development proposals. RASS engineers completed a total of 122 site visits in 2016.

Engineering staff conducted technical review for the following categories:

Engineering Reviews by Category	Total
OSWTS Reviews	273
Stormwater Management	210
Shoreline Reviews	210
Shoreline Variance Proposals	130

In addition, staff prepared technical recommendations in support of the following Agency Divisions and activities:

Division (Activity)	Total
Regulatory Programs (Permit Applications)	368
Legal (Jurisdictional Office, legal reviews)	101
Legal (Enforcement)	85
Planning (Local Government)	10
Planning (State Land)	35



Staff Reviews by Category	2016 Totals
Wetland Resources	125
Freshwater Resources	52
Forestry Resources	17
Biological Resources	15

DHTP Categories	2016 Totals
Approved Conventional Systems	82
Approved Shallow Systems	65
Did not meet Agency Guidelines	31



Above: The Agency approved the use of a Diver Assisted Suction Harvester which is essentially a vacuum to transport harvested plants from the lake bottom to a boat. The use of this harvester creates greater flexibility when undertaking aquatic invasive species management activities.

At Right: Aaron Ziemann conducts a deep hole test pit for project applicants to determine the best location to locate an onsite waste water treatment system.

Wetlands

The NYS Freshwater Wetlands Act and the APA Act have stringent requirements for regulated activities involving wetlands. Wetlands staff provide a high level of service to the public that includes delineation, mitigation, and impact analysis. Staff conducted 265 wetland site visits. The average processing time for sites visits was 11 days. In addition, staff completed 477 wetland air photo interpretations. Air photo interpretations improve staff’s wetland determination response time by reducing the need for site visits thus saving hundreds of hours of time and thousands of miles of travel.

Soils

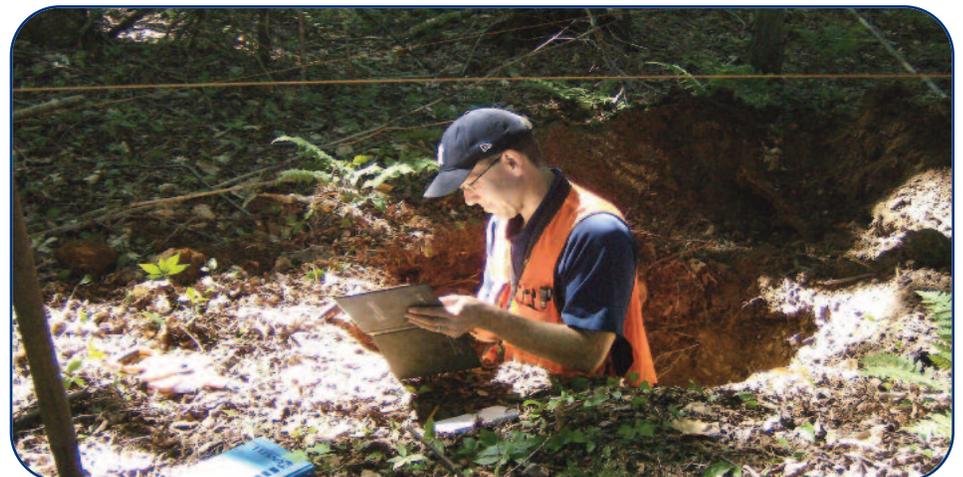
Interpretations of deep-hole test pits (DHTPs) provide the necessary information to correctly locate OSWT systems. A total of 82 projects involving 177 deep-hole test pits were reviewed by Agency staff. Of the 177 DHTPs, 138 were described by Agency staff and 40 were described by outside consultants. All data submitted by consultants is checked by Agency staff to ensure profile accuracy, separation requirements, and appropriate setback distances. Forty-six percent of the test pits were approved for conventional on-site wastewater treatment systems (OSWTs), 37 percent were approved for shallow absorption OSWTs, and 18 percent did not meet Agency guidelines. Of the approved shallow systems 59 percent were due to shallow seasonal high groundwater and 6 percent were due to shallow bedrock.

Freshwater Resources

In early 2016 staff issued new general permits for aquatic invasive species (AIS) management activities to lake associations and local municipalities. Staff reviewed the operational aspects of a Diver Assisted Suction Harvester and issued a conditional letter of non-jurisdiction when used as part of an otherwise permitted activity. During the summer staff participated in the Lake Champlain Basin Program’s Rapid Response review of a newly discovered Asian clam infestation in Bomoseen Lake (Vermont). Staff assisted the Lake George Park Commission in their annual Lake George lake-wide Asian clam survey, assisted Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) in the monitoring of two large water bodies for spiny water flea, and assessed seven backcountry waterbodies for the presence of AIS.

Forests

In 2016, staff reviewed eight proposals for jurisdictional timber harvesting projects. Each project was designed to meet specific silvicultural goals, based upon existing forest conditions, with the intent of creating favorable conditions for long-term forest health and timber value. Most of the project sites were within New York State Working Forest Conservation Easements and subject to the rigorous standards of third-party forest certifications.



Agency Staff Transitions



At right: Susan Parker



At left: Robert Kreider



At Right: Mary Reardon



Above Right: Richard Booth
At Right: Chairwoman Leilani Crafts Ulrich

Susan Parker started with the Agency on September 24, 1984 in the Planning Division as a Cartographic Technician 1. She was a key staff member during the transition to digital mapping and Geographic Information Systems. Ms Parker was promoted to a Natural Resources Planning Assistant in July 1987, and then promoted to an Environmental Program Specialist 1 in September 2002 in the Legal Division's Enforcement Unit prior to her move into the Regulatory Programs Division in January 2006. While in Regulatory Programs Ms. Parker was very deliberative and focused her attention on the protection of the Park's resources. The Agency wishes Ms. Parker a long and rewarding retirement.

Robert Kreider accepted a promotion within the NYS Office of Information Technology to an Information Technology Specialist 3 at the Sunmount Developmental Center in Tupper Lake, NY. Mr. Kreider began his career with the Adirondack Park Agency on June 22, 1998 as the Y2KProject Coordinator. Based on his success in this position, Mr. Kreider was hired as the Agency's Information Technology Specialist 2 on June 28, 2000. During his tenure "Bob" managed all computer systems, servers, and computer records in a professional manner and with his unique sense of humor. He also designed and administered the Agency's webcasting system. His calm, confident approach to solving technology issues will be missed. The Agency wishes Mr. Kreider much success in his new role.

Mary Reardon joined the Adirondack Park Agency in May 2000 as a Key Board Specialist 1 in the Legal and Enforcement Division. She was promoted to Secretary 1 in the Regulatory Programs Division in July 2007. Ms. Reardon's organizational skills assisted the division. Her resourceful problem-solving nature enabled her to manage a demanding workload with multiple deadlines. Her outgoing and engaging personality resulted in positive public relations. Ms. Reardon accepted a position at the NYS Department of Health in May 2016.

Richard Booth was appointed to the Adirondack Park Agency Board in October 2007 serving as Chair of the State Lands Committee. Mr. Booth passionately debated conformance to the State Land Master Plan. He was an ardent spokesman for Wilderness, environmental protection and sustainable planning. In his role as professor at Cornell University, he inspires future generations to be responsible citizens of the world. Mr. Booth is truly a wilderness warrior. The Agency is forever indebted to him for his service.

Chairwoman Ulrich was first appointed to the Adirondack Park Agency Board in November 2004. She served as Chair of the Regulatory Programs and Park Ecology Committees. Ms. Ulrich was appointed the first Chairwoman of the Agency on November 9, 2011. Her tenure exemplified hard work, respect for divergent principles and commitment to common goals. Under her leadership efforts to combat the destructive impact of invasive species were bolstered, the Forest Preserve grew at a historic rate and efforts to link public lands to hamlet centers expanded economic opportunity. The Agency is forever grateful for her public service and commitment to the Park.



Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board



Executive Director, Frederick Monroe
Chairman, Gerald Delaney
Secretary, Carol Monroe

Members

CLINTON COUNTY

Gerald Delaney, Sr., Howard Aubin

ESSEX COUNTY

George Canon, Ron Moore,
John Paradis

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Brian McDonnell

FULTON COUNTY

James Groff, Frank Bendl

HAMILTON COUNTY

Brian Wells, Brian Towers

HERKIMER COUNTY

Linda Eykelhoff, Fred Reuter,
Robert Grose

LEWIS COUNTY

Craig Brennan

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

Scott Sutherland, Mark Hall

SARATOGA COUNTY

Bruce Brownell, Sylvia Parker,
Jean Raymond

WARREN COUNTY

Kevin Geraghty, Matt Simpson

WASHINGTON COUNTY

John LaPointe

At Right: Fred Monroe (seated second from right) attended all State Land Classification Hearings on behalf of the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board.

Section 803-a of the APA Act establishes the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board. As provided by law, the purpose of the Review Board is to advise and assist the Agency in carrying out its mission. The Agency enjoys a strong working relationship with the Review Board through open discussion and dialogue focused on local government perspectives.

Agency members and staff regularly attend the Review Board meetings, which are held monthly throughout the Adirondack Park. At the monthly Adirondack Park Agency meetings, Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board Executive Director Frederick Monroe plays a prominent and active role in all deliberations. The Agency's efforts to achieve balanced decision making are greatly enhanced by this dialogue.

The State of New York provides operating funds for the Local Government Review Board through the Agency's budget.



Above: Fred Monroe (holding award) received the 2016 Adirondack Park Local Government Day Award. Mr. Monroe, a gentleman warrior labors tirelessly on the many causes that affect all the people of the Adirondacks. He is an influential voice and a well-respected local government advocate responsible for the successful implementation of initiatives and projects that positively affected the Town of Chester and the Adirondack Park.

From Left: Assemblywoman Janet Duprey, State Forester Robert Davies, APA Executive Director Terry Martino, Supervisor Brain Wells, Review Board Executive Director Fred Monroe, DEC Region 5 Director Robert Stegemann, APA Board Member Karen Feldman, Former Supervisor George Canon, Review Board Chairman Gerald Delaney, APA Counsel James Townsend, APA Board Member Bradley Austin, APA Deputy Director Planning Kathy Regan, APA Board Member William Thomas, Chairman Sherman Craig, Supervisor William Ferebee and Assemblyman Billy Jones.





**Adirondack
Park Agency**



Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

Sherman Craig, Chairman | Terry Martino, Executive Director

Route 86, P.O. Box 99, Ray Brook, NY 12977 | (518) 891-4050 | www.apa.ny.gov

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter