



## Adirondack Park Agency

**LEILANI CRAFTS ULRICH**  
Chairwoman

**TERRY MARTINO**  
Executive Director

*NOTE: The attachments referred to herein are on file at the Agency and are on the Agency's website. Copies are also available for inspection on request.*

**Draft Minutes, Full Agency, 12/23/15**  
TDM:sas 2:00 pm

**December 10, 2015**

**Thursday, December 10, 2015**

### **AGENCY MEMBERS, DESIGNEES AND EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT**

Leilani Crafts Ulrich, Chairwoman  
Richard Booth, Member  
Sherman Craig, Member  
Karen Feldman, Member  
Arthur Lussi, Member  
Dan Wilt, Member  
Brad Austin, Designee, NYS Department of Economic Development  
Dierdre Scozzafava, Designee, NYS Department of State  
Robert Stegemann, Designee, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
Terry Martino, Executive Director  
James Townsend, Counsel

### **ABSENT AND EXCUSED**

William Thomas, Member

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD PRESENT**

Fred Monroe, Executive Director

### **AGENCY STAFF PRESENT**

Keith McKeever, Public Information Director  
Amy Hall, Clerk 2  
Kathy Regan, Deputy Director, Planning  
Kate-Lyn Knight, Environmental Program Specialist 1  
Rick Weber, Deputy Director Regulatory Programs  
Laurie Bullis, Secretary 1  
Elaine Caldwell, Administrative Officer  
Sue Streiff, Secretary to Executive Director

Video and MP3 audio recordings of the proceedings, including public comment, are available in their entirety via webcast at

[http://nysapa.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=2](http://nysapa.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2)

Chairwoman Ulrich called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. She congratulated Mr. Monroe who was honored at the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages membership meeting. She thanked him for his years of service as the Town of Chester Supervisor.

**1. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**2. Approval of November 2015 Agency Minutes**

On motion of Ms. Feldman, seconded by Mr. Booth, the Agency unanimously adopted the Draft Agency Meeting Minutes of November 12-13, 2015 as amended by Mr. Booth. A copy of the official minutes as adopted by the Agency is on file at the Agency.

**3. Recusals**

None

**4. Motion for Executive Session**

None

**5. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Martino referenced the picture of Kathy Regan's daughter, Amanda Bruha, which was displayed at the Wild Center's Youth Climate Summit and again at the Paris, France climate change conference. She congratulated Ms. Regan on her daughter's success in bringing awareness to the issue. She said that three local citizens attended the conference in Paris: Jen Kretser, the lead organizer of the Wild Center's annual Youth Climate Summit; Gina Fiorile who has been recognized by the President for her commitment to environmental causes; and Saranac Lake High School biology teacher Shannon Bartholomew. Ms. Martino said she is hopeful that the group will again present to the Board on their experiences.

Ms. Feldman said that she enjoyed the group's last presentation and would like them to present to the Board again. Mr. Craig said that as the planning agency for the Park, there should be more Board discussion on alternative energy sources and how the Agency may have to adapt regulations to deal with them on a large scale. Ms. Ulrich agreed and suggested using the Community Spotlight as a platform. Mr. Booth said that the climate change issue needed a major statutory approach by government leaders in order to have a significant impact and that is not happening now. Ms. Martino said the involvement of youth has been important to these discussions.

Ms. Martino commented on the Governor's Regional Economic Awards announcement taking place in Albany. She said Dan Kelleher had been very active in planning with the local council and thanked him for these important services. She said Mr. Kelleher was participating in ongoing meetings regarding the J&L site cleanup project. She said she recently provided a letter of support to St. Lawrence County for an EPA grant for the site remediation.

Ms. Martino said staff would be working on year-end reports which would be presented to the Board in February.

## **6. Motion to Adjourn into Committees**

On motion of Mr. Stegemann, seconded by Mr. Craig, the Agency unanimously adjourned into committees at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Ulrich announced that she would be sitting on the State Land Committee in Mr. Thomas's absence.

**2:45 PM**

## **Full Agency**

Ms. Ulrich reconvened the Full Agency meeting at 2:45 p.m.

### **1) Committee Reports**

#### **a) Regulatory Programs Committee**

On motion by Mr. Craig seconded by Mr. Wilt, the Agency moved to approve the Michael Hopkins permit (2014-0181) involving the subdivision of 181 acres into eleven lots, involving wetlands, and construction of ten single family dwellings.

Suzanne McSherry presented the amendments to the permit. Mr. Craig asked if the clarifications to the permit would change the Regulatory Program Committee vote. The vote stood.

Mr. Lussi again expressed his concern about the Agency historically allowing boardwalks through wetlands but not allowing a proposed dock in this subdivision. Counsel Townsend said that it was the view of the RASS staff that a dock had more effect on a wetland than walking through a wetland.

Ms. Ulrich called for the vote and the permit was unanimously approved as amended.

#### **b) State Land Committee**

On motion by Mr. Booth seconded by Mr. Craig, the Agency unanimously authorized the Primitive Tent Guidance to proceed to public comment.

On motion of Mr. Booth, seconded by Mr. Craig, the Agency unanimously approved the Cross Country Ski Trail Guidance to proceed to public comment.

Mr. Booth reported on the Wilmington Wild Forest UMP Amendment public draft presentation by DEC staff.

On motion of Mr. Booth, seconded by Mr. Stegemann, the Agency unanimously authorized the Camp Santanoni Historic Area UMP to proceed to public comment.

On motion of Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Feldman, the Agency unanimously approved the DSEIS Appendix 1 containing the minor and technical changes, additional material, and as amended by removing the word "public" from the word "road" throughout the document.

Mr. Booth said that he voted against the acceptance of the proposed DSEIS and called for a motion. On motion by Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Stegemann, it was moved to accept the DSEIS and to authorize it to proceed to public comment.

Mr. Booth stated that Primitive Areas are designed to be near Wilderness Areas. He said the package before the Board was clearly not consistent with that. He said widespread biking is not consistent with Wilderness values and therefore not consistent with Primitive Areas as they were intended in the Master Plan. He said the use of motor vehicles to repair trails in Primitive Areas was even farther from what the spirit of Primitive Areas are. He said the notion that one needs motor vehicles to repair trails was ludicrous. He said the Board could have accomplished this with a new classification that would have allowed bikes in the Essex Chain and Pine Lakes Areas. He argued that the SLMP proposed amendments had no basis to go forward without a new classification being proposed. He said the DSEIS for this package is inadequate because the packet might now apply to all Primitive Areas and all Wild Forest Areas because there was no new classification. He said the package ignored this Agency's own policies and he referred to the 1979 Programmatic EIS pages 17, 31, 35, 36. He said that for the Agency to ignore what predecessors have said is a matter of policy raises serious questions. He said he does not accept the argument that because this was before the Board that it should be accepted. He said it is an unacceptable package and that in 43 years this Agency has never voted to substantially weaken the SLMP. He said that the outcome of passing this was a strong proposal for Alternative 2B. He also said that if it passes, it sets an enormous precedent to add an inconsistent use in any land use area. He asked what would discourage a future Agency from considering a snowmobile trail to cross a Wilderness Area? He said if this can happen in Primitive Areas, the

Agency can do it for any area, and that would be a very strong message that this was acceptable. He stated it was unacceptable and he voted against it.

Ms. Ulrich called for the vote and the motion carried with Mr. Craig, Ms. Feldman, Mr. Lussi, Mr. Wilt, Mr. Austin, Ms. Scozzafava and Mr. Stegemann voting for; Mr. Booth and Ms. Ulrich voting against.

Ms. Ulrich explained her voting position as a statement in support of Agency staff. She said she fully believed that moving forward for the Essex Chain was the right thing to do and that it will now happen. She said she wished the Agency had a lot more time because she was worried about future amendments. She said her vote was for staff so that they would have more time in the future.

c) Public Awareness and Communication

The Public Awareness and Communication Committee presentation was held later in the afternoon and the Board heard an exciting presentation from students of Clarkson University on Hut-to-Hut opportunities in the Saranac Lake area.

**2) Interim Reports**

a) Economic Affairs Committee

On motion by Mr. Austin seconded by Mr. Stegemann, the Committee unanimously approved the November 2015 Committee Minutes.

b) Park Ecology Committee

On motion by Austin seconded by Mr. Wilt, the Committee unanimously approved the November 2015 Committee Minutes.

The Administration, Enforcement, Legal Affairs, Local Government Services, and Park Policy and Planning committees did not meet this month. Monthly reports were included in the mailing.

There was discussion regarding the Summaries of Existing Law/Agency Practice section of the Legal Affairs Interim Report. Mr. Lussi suggested the Board hold a workshop on the Boathouse and Docks section. Mr. Booth suggested adding diagrams to this section of the report.

Mr. Wilt said Local Government Services Committee was continuing work on the Local Government Day Conference.

Committee meetings continued.

**4:25 PM**

**Full Agency**

Ms. Ulrich reconvened the Full Agency meeting at 4:25 p.m.

**3) Old Business**

None

**4) New Business**

None

**5) Public Comment**

Ms. Ulrich welcomed Ron Konowitz, Adirondack Powder Skiers Association and commented on his participation in the documentary “The 46ers.” Mr. Konowitz said he had also participated in Whiteface Mountain’s Media Day which promotes the area. He again addressed the requests for SLMP amendments for backcountry skiing. His complete comments can be viewed on the website address above.

**6) Local Government Review Board Comment**

Mr. Monroe said Mr. Hopkins had brought concerns to the Local Review Board about a NIPA letter from the Agency requesting his subdivision be redesigned. Mr. Monroe said the LGRB felt Mr. Hopkins should not have to submit a new design without a decision on the original application and had sent a Resolution of support for Mr. Hopkins to the Agency. He said the LGRB supported the amendments to the SLMP. He said the SLMP was intended to receive regular revisions.

**7) Member Comment**

Ms. Scozzafava said the Clarkson University student’s Hut-to-Hut presentation was very exciting. She wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Mr. Booth, Mr. Lussi, Ms. Feldman and Mr. Townsend wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Mr. Stegemann wished all Happy Holidays.

Mr. Craig said the Agency needs multiple definitions for different trail uses. He thanked the Governor for his efforts to keep Alcoa running and saving hundreds of jobs.

Mr. Austin said the additions to the SLMP would increase the variety of recreational opportunities which will help portions of the economy in the Park. He announced the DED farm grant now available with applications due January 22, 2016.

Ms. Martino thanked the students for their presentation. She also thanked Mr. Dadey and Mr. Drury for their work in recreation planning and engaging youth in the process. She said that although the North Country was not granted the largest award, it still received a large sum and the group that worked on the grant was to be credited. She wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Ms. Ulrich encouraged all to shop locally this season to support the local economies which were suffering from the lack of snow. She thanked staff and the Board for all that has been accomplished this year and looked back on an amazing year. She said she was excited about much of it and looked forward to seeing the year-end reports in February. She said the report reflects all the work that comes before the Agency from staff and other presentations which are daunting. She said it was difficult to be a member of the Park Agency which does all of its business in public as every word spoken is on the internet. She said she appreciated the time to step back and think through and deliberate on the choices before the Board. She said it remains an honor to work with everyone and she supported each person's ability, including her own, to speak his or her mind. She said going forward into the next year, she looks forward to more discussion on the SLMP. She said these deliberations should require whatever amount of time that is necessary. She asked the members to continue to support the staff in every way possible. She said this was the only agency in the State where every member of the staff live and work in the Park as well as the majority of the Board which either have property or recreate within the Park. She said the same hopes and dreams the people in the Park have for their communities, the staff do too for their children and their communities. She said support for the staff is critical going forward for the processes they are pledged to protect. She urged all to enjoy the Holidays and she looked forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

By unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Attachments:  
P2014-0181

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Leilani Crafts Ulrich, Chairwoman