



LEILANI CRAFTS ULRICH
Chairwoman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

Draft Minutes
State Lands Committee
May 12, 2016 Agency Meeting

**MINUTES OF THE STATE LANDS COMMITTEE MEETING
May 12, 2016**

The State Lands Committee convened at approximately 11:00 a.m.

State Land Committee Members Present

Richard Booth, Chair, Sherman Craig, Arthur Lussi, William Thomas, Robert Stegemann.

Other Members and Designees Present

Karen Feldman, Daniel Wilt, Dierdre Scozzafava, Bradley Austin, and Agency Chairwoman, Leilani Crafts Ulrich.

Local Government Review Board

Fred Monroe.

Agency Staff Present

Terry Martino, James Townsend, Kathy Regan, Kevin Prickett.

Approval of the Draft March Committee Minutes

Mr. Booth asked that staff re-listen to the recording of the March Committee Minutes as he believed the draft minutes were incomplete.

Planning Division Report (Kathy Regan)

Kathy Regan reviewed the division report. There were no comments. Kathy discussed the changes that John Barge has made on the Agency website and noted the interactive map and photo application that he created for the Boreas Tract and historic photographs.

Wilmington Wild Forest UMP Amendment (Steve Guglielmi, DEC)

This item was for action.

Steve Guglielmi presented an overview of the area. He noted that the amendment is proposed to address significant trail relocations. He stated that the DEC public comment period has concluded. He reviewed the management proposals for the unit.

Mr. Booth asked how trails, once closed, are restricted to the public. Mr. Guglielmi responded that brush or some other measure is taken to prohibit continued use by the public. Mr. Booth then asked about costs associated with building trails. Mr. Guglielmi responded there are many variables involved depending on the type and location of the trails.

Mr. Craig asked about vista maintenance and asked if such maintenance is outlined in the amendment. Mr. Guglielmi responded that maintenance of the views is not proposed in the amendment.

Ms. Feldman asked if the steep slope areas will be allowed to grow in. Mr. Guglielmi responded that erosion control devices will likely be implemented to encourage vegetation to regrow allowing the trail to recover.

Mr. Lussi noted that assistance is and has been provided by the mountain biking community in building and maintaining trails. Mr. Guglielmi responded that several organizations have assisted and provided crews and resources to perform trail work. He noted that the Town of Wilmington has also been instrumental in building and providing resources to assist DEC in completing trail work.

Ms. Feldman commended DEC staff for both incorporating public comments and remaining open to future comments while protecting sensitive resources. Ms. Feldman added that she hopes this can be a model for future plans that come before the Agency.

Mr. Lussi addressed public comment and agreed with one specific comment that there is no place in Wild Forest for leaf blowers. Mr. Lussi stated that such use should definitely not be allowed during hunting season. He thanked DEC staff for incorporating these types of public comments into the amendment. Mr. Stegemann also commended Department staff for all of their efforts in developing a sound Plan. He also commended the Town for their engagement.

Mr. Craig moved the item to the full Agency for authorization to proceed to Public Comment on APSLMP conformance. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Hammond Pond Wild Forest UMP Amendment (Tom Martin, DEC)

This item was for action seeking approval to proceed to a concurrent public comment period with the Department.

Ms. Regan stated that in 2006 an 814 order was granted to DOT along Route 73. Much of the project area is covered under that order, but a small portion is not and therefore an amendment to the UMP is necessary. In addition, a parallel, 8-car parking lot will be paved to accommodate public viewing.

Mr. Stegemann noted that the trail from the parking area was moved north away from the intersection of Routes 73 and 9N to address public safety concerns.

Mr. Stegemann moved the item to the full Agency for approval to proceed to simultaneous public comment. Mr. Lussi seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Craig asked if the parking area was on the DOT right-of-way. Mr. Martin responded that it is slightly over on the Forest Preserve but this was necessary to accommodate safety concerns.

UMP Review Process-LEAN (Kathy Regan, Josh Clague, DEC)

Mr. Clague explained the initiative of the LEAN process and the Governor's intent to improve processes within State government while increasing productivity and product quality.

As part of the Governor's initiative, Agency and Department staff met to review current processes and determine how they can be improved. A primary objective is to achieve consistent UMP review by developing guidance to follow when reviewing plans.

Staff determined that by aligning available resources with expectations, streamlining the review process by developing work plans and assigning timeframes, resolving issues as quickly as possible, updating UMP templates and revising the current Memorandum of Understanding will help to improve the overall process. It was noted that additional staffing requests have also been made to address workload issues.

The idea of simultaneous comment periods developed while staffs were strategizing on how best to implement the LEAN process. Ms. Ulrich asked if there would be a way to indicate which comments were received by either the Agency or the Department. Ms. Regan responded that each agency would collect their own comments, but they would be shared between agencies.

Mr. Booth stated that one public comment process for UMP amendments makes sense, but a one comment process for a new, full UMP is different. He urged staff to differentiate between when a plan is initially proposed and its management proposals are outlined for the first time as opposed to amendments that are being made to address certain issues within the plan. He cautioned staff that the public may not consider this a step forward.

Ms. Feldman stated it seems in the last year we have collectively stumbled on the initial review of UMPs. She asked staff to somehow provide the draft UMPs to the Board sooner so the Members have additional time to review the proposed plans before they are sent out for public comment. She said the extra review time would allow the Board more time to prepare for making decisions.

Ms. Ulrich stated she was glad staff had this discussion. She also was pleased to hear that a request was made for additional staffing and noted that the timing was important. She commended both Department and Agency staff for their efforts.

Mr. Craig stated it was good to see both agencies working together. He noted that it does make sense to have one comment period for UMP amendments. He suggested that the process of one public comment period for amendments should be implemented. He asked if the Board felt an additional comment period was warranted, could they ask for one. Ms. Regan responded affirmatively. He added that if staff could find ways to address issues sooner, the benefit would be realized by all.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately at 12:15 p.m.