



Adirondack Park Agency

SHERMAN CRAIG
Chairman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

DRAFT MINUTES
State Land Committee
August 12, 2016
Agency Meeting
KF:KDR:mp

State Land Committee August 12, 2016

The State Land Committee convened at 9:30 am.

State Land Committee Members Present:

Karen Feldman, Chair, Chad Dawson, Arthur Lussi, William Thomas and Karyn Richards (DEC)

Other Members and Designees Present:

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

Local Government Review Board:

Frederick Monroe, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present:

Terry Martino, James Townsend, Kathy Regan, Walter Linck, Kevin Prickett, Mary Palmer.

Approval of July 2016 Draft Minutes

By motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Dr. Dawson, the July minutes were unanimously approved.

Planning Division Comments

Ms. Regan stated that the DOT has drafted a generic UMP for Travel Corridors. She said that this is a Team Draft at this time and is being reviewed by both the Department and the Agency. She added that the DOT anticipates being able to present a Public Draft for the Travel Corridor Generic UMP at the November or December Agency meeting.

Ms. Regan said that Agency staff have also been working on developing the Minimum Requirement Analysis process for the use of non-natural materials for bridges in Wild Forest. She said that when staff are ready to present this to the Board, they will send it out for public comment.

Ms. Regan mentioned the four Campground UMPs on the agenda: Cranberry Lake, Eighth Lake, Limekiln Lake and Lake Durant. She said staff will request the board adopt the resolutions on conformance with the State Land Master Plan (SLMP) for each UMP.

Ms. Regan said Kris Alberga (DEC) will present a Public Draft for a UMP amendment to the Mount Van Hoevenberg Recreational Area. She said staff are requesting authorization to go to Public Comment simultaneously with the Department.

Ms. Regan said she will also provide a short power-point presentation on the classification process.

State Land Classification Overview

Ms. Regan noted that the presentation was not specific to any tract of land, rather to the overall classification process. She noted the difference between State land classification and unit management planning. She said the agency has the lead in state land classification, placing the land in the appropriate category, while the DEC has the lead for developing management objectives and actions for the land through the unit management planning process.

Ms. Regan said as part of the classification, agency staff will present a draft EIS to the Board and request the Board accept the DSEIS and enable staff to proceed to public hearings. Staff will host multiple public hearings throughout the state.

Ms. Regan said staff will develop the record of Public Comment and the Final SEIS with preferred alternatives. The Board will vote on the FSEIS and the APA Chairman will then forward the Board recommendation to the Governor. The Governor can then approve, modify or reject the classification action.

Mr. Ernst asked if there were any guidelines for including Study Rivers. Ms. Regan explained that the SLMP lists guidelines for the management of designated rivers, but that rivers can only be designated by the Legislature, not through the classification process. Ms. Regan mentioned that she did not believe the rivers designated as Study Rivers were ever added by the Legislature. Mr. Townsend clarified that efforts were taken to do so in the early 1980s but no action was taken.

Mr. Craig asked if the Board can re-activate the historic analysis of rivers proposed as Study Rivers. Ms. Regan said it would be wise because staff have learned things since the last study was done.

Mr. Craig noted that the classification process looks at the protection and preservation of natural resources but also considers the recreational possibilities of those lands, adding that they are clearly both in our minds.

Ms. Feldman thanked Ms. Regan for the presentation saying that it was a very helpful refresher prior to the upcoming classification action.

Van Hoevenberg UMP Amendment

Mr. Alberga gave an overview of the UMP amendment and the proposed management actions. He said the proposed actions include closing portions of two trails, removal of two bridges, construction of two new trail segments, and construction of two new bridges. He said that the public comment period ends on August 26, 2016.

Mr. Ernst asked how long the easements will be available on the private property and if there was a way around the property if the easements were not available. Kris Seymour, (Nordic Program and Events Manager at Mt. Van Hoevenberg) said they will be losing the easement with one property owner shortly and they need to remedy this area first. He said they would like to make a long term deal with the second property owner.

Mr. Seymour said that it would be possible to work around the loss as there are a number of trails that meet international standards so they would be able to adjust the trails without re-classification.

Dr. Dawson asked if alternative sites were considered due to the number of trees that would be impacted. Mr. Alberga said that they did look at alternative areas, but determined that the proposed location has less impact.

Ms. Feldman asked if there was any consideration given to one large trail instead of two single directional trails. Mr. Seymour explained the standards of competition trails require two trails in this situation. Ms. Richards asked how wide the trails were. Mr. Seymour replied they are approximately twenty feet wide. He added having a two-directional trail during a race is also a safety concern.

Ms. Feldman asked for a motion to proceed to public comment simultaneously with the DEC. By motion of Dr. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Lussi, all were in favor.

Lake Durant, Limekiln Lake, Eighth Lake and Cranberry Lake Campground UMPs

Mr. Linck gave an overview of the proposed management actions for the four campground UMPs. He said the proposed actions include the following: construction of new ticket booths; construction of shower buildings, dump stations, equipment garages, electrical system upgrades, construct ADA waterway access, replacement of waterlines, paving roads, and annual restoration of campsites.

Mr. Linck said that there was a public comment period and staff received one comment. He said the commenter emphasized the need for infrastructure improvements, improvements for people with disabilities, and suggested keeping roads unimproved condition to help keep speed down for safety reasons.

Mr. Wilt asked if the plan is to only do a single action, such as resurfacing a road, if the same UMP procedure has to be followed. Ms. Regan said it would be considered as routine maintenance as long as it was paved already. Mr. Townsend said projects that are not considered routine maintenance are done under a consultation process between the Department and the agency.

Dr. Dawson asked if there were any plans to help with aquatic invasive species. Mr. Linck explained the Department's situation at existing boating access sites. Mr. Linck said there was discussion with staff at each of these campgrounds about ways to inform boaters about boat wash stations. Ms. Regan added that the last time the MOU between the Agency and Department was updated it addressed invasive species management and that much work can be completed under the routine maintenance management and rehabilitation clause.

Mr. Lussi stated that the Agency cannot condition the UMP on a boat wash station, but added that it seems New York State is spending millions of dollars a year on protecting public lakes and that more could be done at our campgrounds. There is an entry point into campgrounds and the least we could do is have a staff member go out and look at the boat to see if there are mussels or milfoil hanging off it.

Ms. Richards agreed and said it is definitely something that should be discussed. She suggested that the people that manage the aquatic invasive program and location of boat washing stations come to the Agency and give a presentation.

Mr. Craig agreed it is a good idea to have that presentation. He said that a few Board members have spent the last couple of years discussing these issues with local government, Lake Associations and the DEC. We have come a fair distance with these discussions.

Mr. Craig said it is a boater's responsibility to put in a clean, drained and dry boat, and the inspection process is still a voluntary process. He said a number of these lakes have part-time boat stewards that are sponsored through State and Federal funding and that has been reasonably effective at reducing the number of invasive species. He added that on a continuum over the last two to three years there has been major improvement on cooperation from the Department and Lake Owners Associations.

Mr. Monroe said it is really important that there should be more emphasis on invasive species at campgrounds and state boat launches.

Ms. Feldman said this is definitely a subject worthy of discussion and it should be put on the schedule in the future.

Ms. Feldman asked if Health Department inspections are done regularly at each of these campground restroom facilities. Mr. Linck said it was.

Mr. Townsend said he would like to make two typographical changes to each resolution. He said in one place it refers to standards and guidelines, when the term should state guidelines and criteria, and the other needs to be made on the resolution title.

Ms. Feldman asked for a motion, including the two typographical changes, to adopt the Resolution for Lake Durant. By motion of Mr. Lussi, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Resolution was unanimously approved.

Ms. Feldman asked for a motion, including the two typographical changes, to adopt the Resolution for Limekiln Lake. By motion of Dr. Dawson, seconded by Ms. Feldman, the Resolution was unanimously approved.

Ms. Feldman asked for a motion, including the two typographical changes, to adopt the Resolution for Eighth Lake. By motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Lussi, the Resolution was unanimously approved.

Ms. Feldman asked for a motion, including the two typographical changes, to adopt the Resolution for Cranberry Lake. By motion of Mr. Lussi, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Resolution was unanimously approved.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Karen Feldman, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:55 am.