



## Adirondack Park Agency

**SHERMAN CRAIG**  
Chairman

**TERRY MARTINO**  
Executive Director

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
State Land Committee  
March 9, 2017  
Agency Meeting  
KF:KDR:mp

### State Land Committee March 9, 2017

The State Land Committee convened at 10:25 am.

#### **State Land Committee Members Present:**

Karen Feldman, Chair, Chad Dawson, Arthur Lussi, William Thomas and Robert Stegemann (DEC)

#### **Other Members and Designees Present:**

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

#### **Local Government Review Board**

Frederick Monroe, Executive Director

#### **Agency Staff Present:**

Terry Martino, Executive Director, James Townsend, Kathy Regan, Kevin Prickett, Matt McNamara, Mary Palmer

#### **Approval of February 2017 Draft Minutes**

By motion of Dr. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the February minutes were unanimously approved with one minor correction to a person's title.

Ms. Regan said State Lands will have two presentations: Matt McNamara will be presenting the Moose River Plains Wild Forest UMP amendment, and staff will be requesting the Board adopt the Resolution for conformance with the Master Plan; and Kevin Prickett (APA) and Tom Martin (DEC), will present the Minimum Requirement Analysis (MRA), and staff will be asking the Board for authorization to proceed to public comment. The comment period would be for four weeks, ending on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Regan said there will also be a presentation by Local Government Services on the Town of Colton Approved Local Land Use Program (ALLUP). This item is also for action, asking for Board approval of a repeal and replacement of the Town Land Use Code.

### **Moose River Plains Wild Forest UMP Amendment**

Mr. McNamara gave a brief overview of the Moose River Plains Wild Forest UMP amendment. The amendment would address previous actions regarding bicycling, incorporate proposals from the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA), add approximately 23 miles of new trails and re-route existing trails. The amendment will also provide recreational opportunities for persons with disabilities by modifying trails and lean-tos, and constructing a universal trail and picnic area.

Mr. McNamara said the UMP amendment will connect the trail system to nearby towns and communities and concentrate bicycling to specific areas and monitor the level of use. It will also address parking issues to accommodate new or expanded improvements.

Mr. McNamara said the Agency public comment period ran from January 20 through February 17, 2017. The Agency received 22 comments, most being supportive of the amendment. There were concerns related to the Historic Great Camp Special Management Area (HGCSMA).

Mr. Craig noted that some of the comment letters criticized the lack of emphasis on the HGCSMA special management area and wondered if changed for final draft or if an additional statement should be included. Mr. McNamara said they looked closely at the proposal in regards to the special management area. Staff are confident that this amendment is consistent with the UMP, the Master Plan and the unique historic resources.

Ms. Regan added that staff has not gone back to the Department asking they modify the UMP amendment to include additional information on the HGCSMA. That is a Department decision, not a SLMP conformance issue. If the Department would like to modify the amendment it would not change our review of this process. Mr. Stegemann said he could bring that back as a suggestion, but noted it is not a material change.

Mr. Lussi noted the new trails that are proposed are not exposing Great Camp Sagamore to more traffic than the existing trails. Mr. McNamara said the trails that are being proposed can be accessed from many locations. Staff are confident that additional people accessing the trails from Sagamore will be limited by the fact that these trails are accessible from multiple locations.

Mr. Ernst asked for information on future plans for the area. Mr. McNamara said that there is additional work to complete. The final, specific location for the trails will be developed in work plans. Ms. Regan said if the Department wants to add additional trails, they would need another UMP amendment.

Dr. Dawson said in the comment letters, especially the one from a Board member of Great Camp Sagamore, there was mention and notice on the special management area and another planning document. Dr. Dawson asked if acknowledging them and the

amount of work that they have done has been re-addressed. Mr. Stegemann asked if an acknowledgement to address this were added, would there need to be another review of the amendment. Mr. Townsend stated that such a change would be considered ministerial and would not require additional review..

Mr. McNamara noted that in the 2011 UMP the trails within the special management area are identified as open to bicycles and have been available since that time. The new document created by Great Camp Sagamore focuses on the special management area and it is consistent with this amendment. Additionally, the Great Camp Sagamore supports the amendment.

Mr. Stegemann said there needs to be a reaffirmation that acknowledges the HGCSMA and that it is consistent with the Master Plan. If it brings comfort we can add a paragraph in the amendment.

Ms. Feldman asked for a motion to approve the Resolution.

By motion of Dr. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Lussi, the Resolution on UMP Conformance with the State Land Master Plan was unanimously approved.

Mr. Stegemann said he will proceed with the ministerial comments that were discussed and add them to the UMP.

### **Minimum Requirement Analysis (MRA)**

Mr. Prickett and Mr. Martin gave the Board an overview of the Minimum Requirement Analysis (MRA), which is a structured process to evaluate multiple criteria for building trail bridges using non-natural materials in areas classified Wild Forest. The MRA is similar to the Minimum Requirements Decision Guide (MRDG) used by managers on Federal public lands.

Mr. Prickett said the FSEIS, dated March 11, 2016, proposed Amendments to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) to amend wild forest guidelines to allow the possible use of non-natural materials on trail bridges in wild forest areas following a "minimum requirements approach." The amendment's purpose is to enable the construction of bridges that are less intrusive.

Mr. Prickett said the MRA process would be developed by the Agency and the Department and added as an appendix to the APA/DEC MOU.

Mr. Martin said the different factors that influence trail bridge selection are site location, design loads, bridge type and code (federal, state, local) restrictions.

Mr. Prickett said the MRA is designed to assist Forest Preserve planners and managers in making appropriate decisions. The process includes describing the situation and the management alternatives, compare the alternatives, and determine the minimum

activity. The final step is to explain why the selected alternative is the minimum necessary for the construction of a bridge and the rationale should demonstrate that the determination is clearly a result of objective evaluation of the alternatives. The explanation should discuss why other alternatives do not meet the minimum requirements.

Mr. Prickett said staff is requesting authorization to release the draft Minimum Requirements Approach for the Construction of Trail Bridges in Wild Forest Areas in the Adirondack Park to the public for comments on conformance with the Master Plan. Staff would accept public comment until April 14, 2017.

Ms. Feldman noted that this document is for the person or entity that will be constructing a bridge in Wild Forest, weigh all factors and come up with a decision on the best design using the criteria in the guidelines.

Dr. Dawson stated that in addition to develop a process, the document provides a record of how decisions are made.

Mr. Ernst asked if there were any constraints on types of preservatives used to treat wood or metal that would be harmful to the environment. Ms. Feldman said all those things will be taken into consideration and evaluated. Mr. Prickett said this is a complicated decision making process and requires multiple considerations. Mr. Martin added that the Department does not expect to use this process often. Department staff prefer to use natural materials if possible.

Mr. Lussi asked why some existing bridges are not made of all natural materials. Mr. Martin said the SLMP defines what natural materials are and allows fasteners made out of metal in its construction.

Mr. Lussi asked why the word safety is not being considered in the MRA guideline document, especially for legal purposes. Mr. Martin said safety is looked at by engineers on every bridge they build and safety is a requirement of all design work. Mr. Stegemann said it is already inherent in any bridge design that it is going to be safe, but if needed it might be worth noting.

Dr. Dawson said he had this concern and the engineers assured him that every bridge has to be safe, and a design will not be included that is not safe.

Mr. Craig said different locations will be considered for the placement of a bridge and location directly (influences) the possible designs to be considered. If you find a location that is a shorter span and has to deal with a larger volume of water, you need a bridge design that accommodates these needs.

Mr. Martin said decisions such as the need for a bridge and its location are part of the UMP process. The MRA guidelines are the final step as to the decision of what type of materials the bridge will be made of.

Mr. Stegemann asked if it would be appropriate to put a sentence in that reads all bridge designs will be reviewed and one will be chosen and the over-riding factor for any bridge is safety. It is an engineering process and implicit that safety is assured.

Mr. Martin said he wanted to clarify that we are talking about trail bridges and not motor vehicle bridges, and only about the Wild Forest classification category. The Master Plan does not require natural materials for motor vehicle bridges.

Ms. Feldman asked for a motion to proceed with public comment.

By motion of Dr. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the authorization to proceed to public comment was unanimously approved.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

None

Karen Feldman, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:30 am.