



Adirondack Park Agency

SHERMAN CRAIG
Chairman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

DRAFT MINUTES
State Land Committee
January 11, 2018
Agency Meeting
KF:KDR:mp

State Land Committee January 11, 2018

The State Land Committee convened at 2:10 pm.

State Land Committee Members Present:

Karen Feldman, Committee 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, Bradley Austin (DED) and Lynne Mahoney (DOS)

Local Government Review Board

Frederick Monroe, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present:

Terry Martino, Executive Director, Sarah Reynolds, Kathy Regan, Ed Snizek and Mary Palmer

Approval of November 2017 Draft Minutes

By motion of Mr. Lussi, seconded by Dr. Dawson, the November minutes were unanimously approved.

State Land Committee Report

Ms. Regan said there will be two UMP Amendment presentations given by Mike Pratt, Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA): Whiteface Mountain and Gore Mountain, and these are for information only. Peter Frank (DEC) will give a presentation on Guidelines for Implementing Best Management Practices to Control Invasive Species on DEC Administered Lands of the Adirondack Park. This item is for action requesting Board authorization to proceed with simultaneous public comment with DEC.

Mr. Lussi is recused from the ORDA UMPs and left the room prior to Mr. Pratt's presentation.

Whiteface Mountain UMP Amendment

Mr. Pratt gave an overview of the UMP and proposed management actions. Some of the actions are: new trail construction, widening existing trails, lift improvements, and expanded parking and vehicular/pedestrian circulation improvements. Mr. Pratt also discussed conceptual management actions that are not included in this amendment, including a new snowmaking reservoir. He noted that work continues on management actions approved in previous UMPs.

Mr. Craig asked what the projected increase in use would be if the UMP Amendment was approved. Mr. Pratt said they expect busy days to get busier while they are trying to prevent slow days getting slower. The capacity will increase a little, but it is about being more efficient and able to handle the crowds on those busy days.

Ms. Feldman asked if there are plans for best management practices for invasive species for the machinery. Mr. Pratt said it is addressed in all stormwater management permits which require cleaning machinery prior to and following projects.

Gore Mountain UMP Amendment

Mr. Pratt gave an overview of the UMP and proposed management actions. Some of the actions are: new trail construction, widening existing trails, lift improvements, enlargement of snowmaking reservoir, construction of an independent shuttle lane and construction of a new groomer garage and fueling station. He noted the Gore Mountain UMP amendment is occurring simultaneously with an 814 permit on adjacent Town lands. The 814 permit proposes to expand summer recreation operations at North Creek Ski Bowl which includes plans for a zip coaster, rope course, mini golf, hiking and mountain biking. Mr. Pratt noted that work continues on management actions approved in previous UMPs.

Mr. Pratt said the UMP also requests land re-classifications which involve Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area, Vanderhacker Mountain Wild Forest and Siamese Ponds Wilderness.

Mr. Thomas asked if the new lift extension will still have easy access to the ridge for people that do not want to do the inter-connect, and if it will also cross the current bridge. Mr. Pratt answered affirmatively.

Ms. Feldman said once the Board reads the proposals and hears what the public comments are there will be more questions. She asked if there are any public hearings scheduled. Mr. Pratt answered affirmatively and noted they are looking forward to public participation and comments. Mr. Pratt added they want to stay active with outreach and a public hearing is scheduled for each ski area, as well as an informational meeting in the Town of Johnsbury.

Ms. Feldman thanked Mr. Pratt for his presentation.

Draft Guidelines for Implementing Best Management Practices to Control Invasive Species on DEC Administered Lands of the Adirondack Park

Mr. Frank gave an overview of the guidelines for controlling invasive species. He noted that this is the third revision to the guidelines presented to the Board.

Mr. Frank said the 2018 amendment includes: treatment for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, addition of management practices for listed terrestrial species, management practices for control of aquatic invasive plants, and establishment of a 10-acre threshold for early detection and rapid response of forest pests.

Mr. Snizek discussed the aquatic management practices which are: hand harvesting and Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH), benthic mats and biological controls, the latter of which requires an APA General Permit. He said that DEC requires site-specific work plans for any aquatic invasive species work on DEC administered lands.

Mr. Frank said with Board approval the public comment period would run through February 16, 2018 and the guidelines are available for the public to review on the DEC website. Following the comment period staff will make revisions, if necessary, based on the public comments and return to the Agency to request approval of the guidelines.

Mr. Craig asked if there was a break-out of invasive species on State Land would these Best Management Practices apply. Mr. Frank said this would apply as they are guidelines per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Agency and Department.

Mr. Craig asked how a private landowner would protect their trees if they became infested from adjacent Forest Preserve land, and if the landowner would be expected to share the cost. Jason Denham (DEC) said the DEC has implemented control measures for landowners at no charge. He noted that having cooperation by the landowner for early detection is critical.

Mr. Thomas asked if the landowner refuses to cooperate can the DEC go on their property. Mr. Denham said the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) does give the DEC the authority to access private property, but they prefer to do it cooperatively.

Ms. Mahoney asked if accessing private land would have to be done through the court system. Mr. Denham said they would have to notify the landowner, and that decision would have to be made by the legal experts.

Ms. Feldman asked what DEC would do in the event of an infestation of a species not on the list. Mr. Frank said the guidance can be updated by a letter of agreement between the DEC and APA, especially if there are no substantial changes.

Mr. Monroe asked if there was any evaluation on the effectiveness of the control of milfoil for DASH. Mr. Snizek said that they can clear an area faster with the DASH Unit and it seems somewhat more efficient than hand harvesting.

Ms. Feldman thanked staff for their presentation and said that it has been a collaborative effort between DEC and APA staff. If the guidelines come back to the Board in March for approval it will be in time to start Spring treatments that may be required.

Ms. Feldman asked the committee for a motion to approve simultaneous public comment for the guidelines. By motion of Dr. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Stegemann, all were in favor.

Old Business

Dr. Dawson expressed his hope that the Board has time to review and discuss the Boreas Classification prior to voting.

New Business

None

Karen Feldman, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 3:10 pm.