



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council

49½ Court Street

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MEETING Minutes

Wednesday June 21, 2022 at 6:00 PM

2nd-Floor Conference Room, Public Safety Complex

49½ Court Street, Canton, NY

And via ZOOM

Notes: by Samuel Joseph

1. **Call to Order** Chair Sue Rau called the meeting to order 6:10 pm
2. **Land Acknowledgement:** Sue Rau read a Land Acknowledgement, provided by Tony David, Director of the SRMT Environment Division, and used with his permission:

“As we meet today, let us first give thanks and acknowledge that the land upon which we are gathered is part of traditional indigenous territories, including the Rotinonshionni (Low-dee-no-SHOO-nee), the People of the Longhouse, also known as the Iroquois Confederacy; and the Kanienkehaka (Ga-nyun-geh-HA-gah), the People of the Land of Flint, also known as the Mohawk Nation.”

3. **Comments from the Public / Speaker:** No comments from the public.

The speaker, Peter D’Luhosch, Head of the Easement Program at the Potsdam sub-office for NYS DEC Region 6, talked about DEC’s plans for a recreation management plan for the Conifer-Emporium Tract Conservation Easement in the towns of Clifton, Colton, and Piercefield. Unit Management Plans (UMP) are developed for lands that the State own out right, whereas Recreational Management Plans (RMP) are plans for conservation easements which the state owns rights on such access to recreation and conservation, while allowing continued private forest management.

The tract consists of 8 separate parcels, approximately 20 thousand acres working forest owned by Molpus, Woodlands Group (MWF). The public has the right to enter the property by non-motorized means for hiking, hunting, fishing, camping, and other activities. The Recreational Management Plan will establish benefits to stakeholders while maintaining obligations to the terms of the easement. The process consist of engaging the public to see what stakeholders would like to see happen happen. Draft out now, gathering public input, next step is incorporate any viable, legal, and rational suggestions.

The proposed plan for public recreational access includes: 3 additional miles for motor vehicles, continued snowmobile use with an additional trail, gates and barriers to prevent unauthorized motor vehicle access, informational kiosks, 5.6 miles of additional non-motorized trails for total of 54 miles of trails, 6 camping sites with additional backcountry camping with same regulation as state forests, water access points for hand launch boats, a rock climbing spot and hunting trapping, and fishing. Plans to accommodate Americans with Disabilities Act in

EMC: Everybody Must Care!

water access and 2 campsites. Peter proceeded to discuss in more depth the individual parcels and the potential uses and plans. The plan has a project implementation timeline based on order of events. The current draft plan has been deemed not to contain any significant environmental impact, but further review will assess any incorporated changes. Discussion on timelines, funding sources, enforcement of rules, land owner motivation, and maintenance. The draft is open to the public for comment.

Website: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/34715.html>

Draft Plan:

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/coniferemporiumdraftmp.pdf

Presentation:

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/coniferemporiumpublicpresentation.pdf

Survey:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=6rhs9AB5EE2M64Dowcge5yCdvze5DKxMprwshuNkOI9UNjIDSzUwQTk4UFdVSE44WFU4MFk3QkdINC4u>

For additional questions contact:

Peter D'Luhosch
Potsdam DEC Sub-Office
315-265-3090
peter.dluhosch@dec.ny.gov

Comments to plan in writing to:

Potsdam DEC Sub-Office,
190 Outer Main Street,
Suite 103,
Potsdam, NY 13676;
By email to: R6.UMP@dec.ny.gov

A User's Guide to the Adirondacks in St. Lawrence County:

<https://stlawco.org/sites/default/files/Planning/A%20User's%20Guide%20to%20the%20Adirondacks%20in%20SLC%20-%20FINAL%20PDF.pdf>

A 5 min break then Sue Rau called the meeting back to order at 7 pm

4. **Roll Call, Determination of Quorum**

Members present: Catherine Bennett, *Secretary*; Herb Bullock; Richard Marshall; Adam Pearson; Sue Rau, *Chair*; Brian Washburn, *Vice-Chair*; Neil Woodworth. **A QUORUM WAS NOT OBTAINED.**

Members absent: Sean Cunningham (excused); Lucas Hanss; Shannon Hurlbut; Lance Rudiger; Nicole Terminelli, *BOL Liaison* (excused).

Recent resignations: Tiernan Smith; William Stephens III. 4 positions vacant.

Staff: John Tenbusch, Planner II, Samuel Joseph Planner II, Preston Santimaw Planner I.

Guests: Peter D'Luhosch, Beth D'Luhosch

5. **Acceptance of Order of Business, Items for New Business, Items for Unfinished Business**

Because there is not a quorum the meeting will proceed through consensus.

New staff were introduced Sam Joseph and Preston Santimaw

6. **Approval of the Minutes of the May 2023 EMC Meeting**

Cannot approve minutes due to lack of quorum. Sue noted some small errors and so staff will address.

7. Report by Nicole Terminelli, Representative of the Board of Legislators

No report.

8. Report of the Committees

a. Ad Hoc Committee on Vision Statement

- i. Reviewed old visioning statement. Looked good and relevant. Updated it and changed a few things
- ii. Added a second part to emphasize working as a facilitator to the network of environmental groups already doing this work rather than EMC doing everything. Keep a list of who is doing what and we can act as a connector.
- iii. Try to be helpful for the public in addition the Board of Legislators
- iv. Ensure that the EMC's goals and objectives make progress toward fulfilling its stated vision and are SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Time-oriented). Help both main committees and smaller ad-hoc committees stay focused.
- v. Overall not huge changes and maintained similar mindset
- vi. Hoping to get this approved by next meeting. Staff will share information on SMART goals. See attached for vision document and about SMART goals.

b. Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws revision

- i. More complex and more changes.
- ii. Timeline: 30 days notice and a final draft 10 days before next meeting.
- iii. A lot of housekeeping such as changed the language for communication through digital means rather than physical paper through mail. Function of staff. Reduced capacity than when previously written. State no longer funding the EMC. Responsibilities of EMC members.
- iv. Definition of a quorum. Proposed change is one more member than 50% of the number of members currently serving, not the potential number of seats.
- v. Discussion on process to change the bylaws by following rules of current bylaws including how to vote, polling, in person discussion, number required to pass.
- vi. Discussion on challenges of getting this passed by next meeting in July which might have low attendance.
- vii. Discussion on making it clear on what was changed in the bylaws. Proposed way to address this is have a copy of old by laws, copy with all the changes tracked with strikethroughs and highlighted additions, and a version of new by-laws.
- viii. There was not consensus on changing the bylaws by next month. It was suggested to wait until September. To give more chance for people comment and allow more discussion. Plan is to have the ad hoc committee work done before John's departure at end of July, but vote delayed until September.
- ix. Biggest challenge is reaching quorum, and so consensus is we can wait until September but do not want to push back too much longer.
- x. Discussion on member attendance issues

9. Report of the Staff: No report.

10. Unfinished Business

- a. Activities for 2023
 - i. Did not participate in Hazardous waste collection in May
 - 1. 250 cars came through this spring
 - 2. Cars backed up on the road over the railroad tracks. Hour+ wait time.
 - 3. Suggestion on having two lines
 - ii. Everyone needs to brainstorm ideas
 - 1. Take a look at things we were doing Dakota was still active
 - 2. Salt on road impact
 - 3. Madrid Dam
 - 4. Solar projects
 - 5. Black Lake
 - 6. SLC trails (Deb Christie)
 - 7. Soil and Water Conservation
 - 8. Methane Digesters
 - 9. DEC regional 6 director
 - 10. Thompkins County EMC
- b. Discussion of NYS Soil Health and Climate Resiliency Act (Senate Bill S.4722A)
 - i. Has not been submitted for vote.
 - ii. Run into problems with farm bureau, tax implications, so never introduced the bill

11. New Business

- a. Request for ad hoc committee: To review the DEC draft recreation management plan from today's presentation.
 - i. Neil suggested that he has thoroughly reviewed it. Will take a more in depth look and report back to the whole committee rather than forming an ad hoc committee July 10th
 - ii. Discussion on accessibility especially with gates and barriers to prevent motorized vehicles, but also prevents wheel chair access.
 - iii. Consider asking Peter back to specifically address accessibility in these recreation management plans

12. Announcements: None

13. Adjournment by consensus at 8:21 pm

14. To do:

- a. Staff:
 - i. Email committee members with staff email addresses and phone numbers
 - ii. Share Jon Montan's report on recreation in ADK
 - iii. Share info on SMART goals
 - iv. Bylaw updates
- b. Neil: review DEC RMP and submit a summary July 10