

St. Lawrence County Public and Private Lands  
Recreational Advisory Board Meeting

Draft Minutes for July 15, 2008

**Present:** Roger Bennett, Dawn Howard, Steve Papson, Bob Dowman, Pat Whalen, Bill Dashnaw, Aaron Earl, Judy Wendt, Stan Hewlett, Marshall Weekes, Warren Irwin, Walt Paul, Bill Lutz, and Alex MacKinnon.

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Chairman Roger Bennett.

Bob Dowman approved the minutes from the last meeting. Judy Wendt seconded and all were in favor.

**Hearings and Comments:**

1. Pat Whalen – He is back in SLC as the DEC Forester. Looking at Brasher UMP which has been sitting for 7 years. Group is glad Pat is here. There was a question about revisions to Part 190 and also current DEC policies and history. State Forest lands probably will stay closed. There may be an opportunity on easements. Discussion ensued on communication and other issues.

Acceptance of Order of Business. Items for Old and New Business:

**Committee Reports:**

1. **Executive Committee** – Roger Bennett
  - Thanked the group for the work day turn out.
  - He had a question on the new Ethics Law status. Alex M. said there is a public hearing August 13 at 5 PM at the County Courthouse.
2. **Trail Oversight** – Tom Ortmeier was not present so Bill Lutz reported.
  - There has been no meeting, just trail work.
3. **Mapping** – Aaron Earl
  - No new news to report.
  - Question on trail flagging from Bill Lutz.
  - Question from Judy W. on trail tweaks i.e. Benson Rd. Also discussion from ATV Association about enlarging printing and having maps to hand out.
  - Warren I. asked about using flat bed trucks for bridges. Bill D. didn't recommend this because of weight i.e. groomers and rails. Better to use steel from old bridges with light beams and planking.
4. **Finance** – Dawn Howard
  - No meeting.
  - Dawn asked if everyone had used time sheets. Deb C. has them from the workday. Judy W. said forms are not usable. Marshal W. suggested logbooks. Bill D. talked about having a list of what need so don't forget anything. Judy W. will redo form and send to Dawn.

**5. Education and Enforcement Committee** – Laura Perry was not present.

- No meetings.

**6. BOL** – Alex MacKinnon

- \$100,000 went from County contingency fund into Bill's Highway budget. Money is very tight.
- SEQR – Resolutions all passed.
- Parishville – Local laws need to be redone. Attorney did not like format. (re SEQR signature) 7/23 is next meeting. Also typo on one road name corrected.
- SEQR – Last piece is starting. Judy W. worked with John Manson to use Lewis County document. Request for Proposals and list of engineers to send to is done. Bill D. has a short list of 5 engineers and an RFP does not have to be done if through the county. Need timeline and contact person from the board. Judy W. will use 10 day time frame used by Lewis County and Sept. grant deadline. Judy suggested Planning be the contact. *Alex M. made a motion that the Board agrees to have the grant committee work with Planning and Highway Department to continue the SEQR process to secure a consultant. Marshal W. seconded and all were in favor.*
- St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Lewis and Oneida Counties all met regarding a possible lawsuit against DEC regarding designation of truck trails as motor vehicle roads. If truck trail, DEC can close. If roads, then request can be made to access road to travel from one piece to another. Can petition DEC to open segment to ATV traffic.
  - Discussion on impact to SLC. Group consensus was to work with DEC and not do a lawsuit. Alex M. will instruct County Attorney.
- Adopt a Natural Resource Policy – Dawn H. told the Board that the County Attorney had approved.
- Work on trail to get open. Get club members out there, Judy W. is working on.
- Kiosk – Kermit is working on it. Judy W. asked about picnic tables. Dawn H. related concerns about garbage at picnic sites. Judy W. asked about trail signs. Aaron E. has them. YCC is also doing brushing and cleaning.
- Alex M. - political part done. Need a ribbon cutting.
- Alex M. and Bill D. explained that when money goes into the Highway Department budget then there is a need to budget expenses or need a county resolution to spend. Usually 6 weeks minimum to get a resolution to the table. Special BOL meeting coming up. Can do SEQR consultant then. Alex M. asked Judy about John Manson and Jon M. and accounts so can spend money from IDA grant. Make sure don't need anything more.

**7. Grant Committee** – Judy W. had nothing else.

**Old Business:**

- Parishville – Done previously in the meeting.
- General Obligations Law – County is covered. Alex M. and County Administrator talked to County attorney. There was a question on charging fees. Judy W. said no coverage if charge a fee.
- Adopt a Trail – Attorney approved agreement. Judy W. suggested changes. Alex M. reported agreement still has to go to BOL for approval. Judy W. and Dawn H. will send both versions to Roger to send to group to tweak and go back to attorney.

- Coordinator – Judy W. asked about chances of getting one in the county budget. Alex M. related budget woes.
- Brochures and Rules – No comments back to Dawn H. Judy W. threw out her brochure and took original list and expanded. Will send out. Asked about the county printing. Print rules on back of map. Bill D. suggested working with County Chamber. Judy W. said I Love NY also. SUNY Potsdam and ARC were also suggested.

**New Business:**

None

**Announcements:**

Stan H. – Part of Fort Drum will be opened to ATVs soon.

Next Board meeting was scheduled for August 19, 2008 at 7 PM at SWCD.

Motion to adjourn by Bob D., Marshal W. seconded and all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Minutes by Dawn Howard