

**Meeting Summary**  
**High Peaks Strategic Planning Advisory Group**  
Main Conference Room, DEC Region 5 Headquarters Ray Brook  
10 am, Thursday, December 5, 2019

Attendees:

1. Joe Pete Wilson, Supervisor, Town of Keene
2. Shaun Gilliland, Chair, Essex County Board of Supervisors
3. James McKenna, Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism
4. Rocci Aguirre, Adirondack Council
5. Pete Nelson, Adirondack Wilderness Advocates
6. Dr. Jill Weiss, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
7. Charlie Wise, The Mountaineer
8. Seth Jones, Adirondack Mountain Club
9. Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Rock and River Guide Service and Lodge
10. Sandi Allen, Retired DEC Counsel
11. Judy Drabicki, DEC Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner (by phone)
12. Rob Davies, DEC Director of Division of Lands and Forests
13. Bob Stegemann, DEC Region 5 Director
14. Karyn Richards, DEC Special Assistant to the Commissioner (staff)
15. David Winchell, DEC Public Participation Specialist (staff)
16. Mary Roy, DEC Strategic Planning/Performance Management Office Director (facilitator)
17. Terri Martino, APA Executive Director
18. Rick Weber, APA Deputy Director
19. Pat Barnes, DOT Region 1 Director
20. Mike Pratt, ORDA President and CEO
21. Andy Fyfe, OPRHP Deputy Assistant Commissioner

I. Purpose of Meeting

An introductory organizational meeting of the High Peaks Strategic Planning Advisory Group (HPAG) to:

- a. Allow members to meet each other
- b. Outline goals to be achieved
- c. Review charge to the HPAG
- d. Discuss roles, functions, and processes

II. Goals for Managing Public Use in the High Peaks Region

- a. Ensure public safety within communities, along roadways, at trailheads, and in interior areas
- b. Protect natural resources and recreation infrastructure
- c. Provide a quality recreation experience
- d. Supporting local economic vitality
- e. Make decisions based on science using the best available data

### III. Charge for the HPAG

Undertake a collaborative process to provide a strategic framework to address public use in the High Peaks Region of the Adirondack Park which will:

- a. Include short, medium and long-term recommendations (strategies, actions and tactics) to achieve the goals of the initiative
- b. Incorporate, expand, and/or modify recommendations made to date
- c. Identify additional data necessary to inform the HPAG recommendations
- d. Identify priorities for the implementation of recommendations

### IV. HPAG Process and Considerations

Agreed upon by the HPAG:

- a. DEC will assist in facilitating discussions, however, the outcome of the effort belongs to the HPAG
- b. Outcome will address short, medium and long-term management needs for the High Peaks region and should consider a framework for a flexible, adaptive approach for long-term planning and management of use across the Adirondack Park (perhaps the federal Visitor Use Management framework; to be discussed more)
- c. HPAG discussions and parallel local planning efforts should inform each other
- d. Process must be as transparent as possible, while still allowing for the open and free discussion among members of the advisory group
- e. Main points of meeting discussions will be shared with the public
- f. There will be periodic public interactions to report out and receive feedback
- g. Meetings will be every two weeks, alternating between in person and video-conferencing; the group seeks to meet in person as often as possible
- h. Recommendations are due June 2020

### V. Roles

#### a. HPAG

- i. Serve as an advisory group to DEC
- ii. Charged with developing the strategic planning framework

#### b. State Agency Members:

- i. Provide advice, experience, expertise regarding legal or practical limitations
- ii. HPAG indicated appreciation for various State Agencies present and the expertise they bring
- iii. HPAG requested that State Agency representatives be at the table with the Advisory Group members

#### c. DEC Team:

- i. Judy Drabicki: Guides process
- ii. Bob Stegemann and Rob Davies: Process leaders and represent DEC
- iii. Mary Roy: Meeting and process facilitator and moderator

iv. Karyn Richards and Dave Winchell: provide staff support

VI. Shared Documents

- a. High Peaks Strategic Planning Advisory Group 12/5/19 Meeting Agenda
- b. DEC RECOMMENDATIONS: Managing Public Use in the High Peaks Region of the Adirondack Park
- c. High Peaks Route 73 Stakeholder Meeting Summary
- d. 2019-20 Schedule of High Peaks Strategic Planning Advisory Group Meetings
- e. Visitor Use Framework: A Guide to Providing Sustainable Outdoor Recreation, Edition 1

VII. Assignments for Next Meeting

- a. Members
  - i. Review the five goals
  - ii. Identify top priority issue(s) each member wants to be addressed in the short-term
  - iii. Review information about Visitor Use Management
- b. DEC
  - i. Provide summary of meeting
  - ii. Provide a list of contacts information for all members, DEC staff, and state representatives

VIII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- a. Analyze and define issues to be addressed within the 5 goals
- b. Preliminarily address additional matters to be addressed or recognized outside the established goals
- c. Define available data related to the 5 goals and identified issues
- d. Make initial determination of potential additional data needed