

**Thousand Island Regional Assessment Project (TIRAP)  
Project Advisory Board Meeting with Consultants  
March 28, 2014  
9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Antique Boat Museum  
Clayton, NY**

This meeting served as the second gathering of the advisors for the TIRAP. The meeting commenced at 9:00 am after check in and a continental breakfast. A total of 56 participants (attendees and presenters) attended the meeting. (see attached contact list). The conference room in the Antique Boat Museum served as the meeting location. Town of Hammond Supervisor Ron Bertram called the meeting to order at 9:00 am, and over the course of the following four hours, the agenda was followed with Bertram, New York State Department of State (DOS) representative Barbara Kendall, consultants Harry Dodson, Nate Burgess and Jaclyn Hakes, providing information in each of the agenda items.

Bertram welcomed participants and each attendee was asked to identify themselves and the organization they represented. A brief history of the SASS program and the application and award for the TIRAP was described by Bertram. Bertram discussed the importance of the Thousand Island Region and its potential for growth in tourism. He discussed the importance of a SASS designation for increasing awareness of the region and in assisting with visions of the region's economic development. He mentioned that with all towns working together, that grant opportunities will be enhanced.

Handouts were distributed and explained by project consultant Valerie Johnson. The structure and responsibilities of the Project Advisory Committee was explained to the group. Handouts regarding tasks of the volunteers were distributed. Forms for documenting the in kind hours were distributed and explained. Johnson described the proposed time table: April-September inventory; public meeting in the summer; first draft report in the fall; second public meeting late fall; final report next winter and a final public meeting March 2015.

Kendall, the DOS project manager, discussed her background and experience. Kendall explained that her office was re-named Office of Planning and Development. She described the process and methodology in doing a visual assessment for the state of NY by using a power point. Kendall explained the federal and state legislation that oversees the SASS program. See: <http://www.dos.ny.gov/opd/programs/consistency/scenicass.html> for information about previous SASS projects. The Federal government first passed the legislation in 1970s that recognized the value of the coastal resources. Kendall provided maps of the current coastal boundaries and how the boundary could be amended to include scenic resources. The interactive map found on the website is particularly helpful in seeing the coastal boundaries within the Thousand Island region: [http://appext20.dos.ny.gov/coastal\\_map\\_public/map.aspx](http://appext20.dos.ny.gov/coastal_map_public/map.aspx)

Kendall explained the criteria for designation, the goals of the program and the processes for application. She explained the grant requirements and the products needed for each of the tasks. She also discussed the “methodology” of the assessment that Dodson was instrumental in developing. It was mentioned that a takeoff point to amend the coastal boundary can be the comprehensive plan, setbacks, or land use regulations. There can be multiple SASS designations.

Dodson provided a background of his experience and his company. He has worked with both government entities and land owners. He explained his method of scenic analysis- including view shed analysis. After using GIS with ARCmap, the collected data will need to be field tested. He explained how the project at East Hampton was conducted, including the notation of historical, agricultural and coastal characteristics. After the collection of objective sights, it is then necessary to connect values to these scenes.

Burgess described his background and experience. He described the proposed project area and requested comments and input about the boundary and proposed study area. He began with the coastal boundary but wanted to incorporate more information. The metric they chose used topographical graphs examining high points. They then followed physical features to help make the boundaries. The project area should be large enough to take in the whole area.

Burgess described view shed analysis using GIS techniques. He will be the point person for getting the GIS data. He would like help from the communities to update GIS data and fill in any missing information. He displayed a map of the view shed for review. The average distance for the study area is about 1.5 mile from river. He provided a large map of the proposed study area for attendees to review and comment on. Right now, the boundary for the study area is fluid, as more information will be gleaned during the field trips over the next several months.

Hakes explained her background and training and her role on the project as a part of MJ Engineering. Her role will be as a resource person for community planning and project implementation. In order for her to have an understanding of what has been done in communities regarding planning or zoning, she took a survey of each of the communities as to their current comprehensive plans, zoning laws, land use laws, site plans, LWRPs. She will be in contact with the community planning staff who can help her obtain copies of necessary documents.

There was discussion about a planned website that will both present information about the area analyses as well as contain a survey for the residents of the region to incorporate their opinions about the scenic areas of interest. Ways of publicizing the website were discussed, including print advertising, email lists and facebook links.

There was discussion about how having a SASS designation can help the communities by giving the towns “points” when applying for a grant. Interfacing with the Regional Economic Development Councils and having coordination with their strategic plans is an

example of how the SASS can be an engine for funding. There was some discussion about adding layers of regulation by a SASS designation. Kendall explained that SASS criteria (via the consistency unit) is not evoked unless it is a project that has state or federal funding or permitting. Projects that only trigger local land use controls will still be under the purview of the individual town.

There were several members in the audience who volunteered a variety of services, as well as suggestions of additional potential stakeholders to contact. Attendees were asked to fill out a stakeholder survey at the end of the meeting with the resources they could bring to bear in helping to achieve our in-kind contribution. These surveys will be important in assisting with the documentation of scenic areas.

Participants will be emailed the contact list for the attendees and stakeholders will be updated on the progress of the project. Next steps were discussed, including the consultants to return to the Thousand Island area to inventory the landscape and take photographs. This will occur in a couple of months when the seaway has thawed. The website will be launched over the summer with information provided on it, as well as a survey for the public to complete as part of the evaluation process.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm at which time attendees were provided lunch and met together in small groups to plan for future coordination with the consultants.

Respectfully submitted on April 1, 2014

Valerie Johnson

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