

Workgroup 8: Bill Farber

Infrastructure funding: waste/storm water

Community groups, land and lake-owner associations, NGOs and the State collaborate to protect water quality.

Our core vision is of interdependent yet self-reliant communities that:

- *Protect waters and forests* from degradation and overuse by working cooperatively with NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Park Agency (APA)
- *Upgrade public utility infrastructure, including sewer, broadband, roads, etc.*

As further trust and good communication is developed among the key constituencies, more strategic actions are possible, including:

- An amendment process that:
 - Enables counties and town roads to be updated to handle climate change
 - Supports community infrastructure development (e.g., broadband, sewer, etc.)

The next twenty five years will be a period of painful change in global and American society. An aging population, accelerating climate change, environmental disasters -- the list goes on. Our response is to protect our Adirondack resources; the value of the Park's ecosystem services (clean air, clean water, and open space) inexorably rises for both humans and the environment. We do more to protect our Adirondack waters by investing in limiting spread of invasive species, waste water treatment, storm water and farm runoff, and inspections of private septic systems. Our air is vulnerable to pollution and warming outside of our control. The quality of our water is largely in our hands, and we protect it.

Today, our protected landscape is our prime asset and it will remain a major part of our vision throughout.

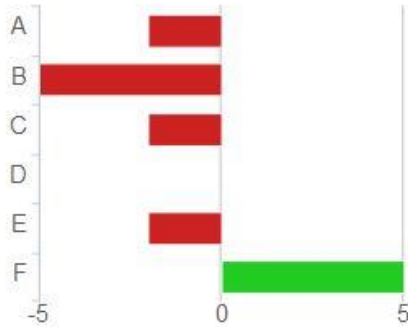
Events

- #104 Regular Severe Weather Events Stress the Park
- #15 Amendment Allows Use of Roadways for Community Utilities
- #58 Amendment Creates Community Small Project Land Bank
- #102 Municipalities with Public Sewer Systems Double
- #62 New Stricter Water Quality Regulations Implemented

Regular Severe Weather Events Stress The Park

Climate change has put more water vapor in the atmosphere and caused more precipitation. There are now regular heavy floods in winter and spring. Severe and violent thunderstorms cause blowdowns and fires, and there are more frequent power and communications outages. They regularly tear up roads and destroy bridges which are increasingly difficult to repair before the next disaster. All this puts pressure on Federal Disaster relief, local government and local emergency services.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

State Adds \$3m to Keene and Jay Flood Resilience Budget

The 2 towns had been promise \$6m if they created a credible plan. Many NYS towns were part of the same program. The plan produced by Keene and Jay won a state-wide award that resulted in an added \$3m for a total of \$9m.

Read the news story here.

125 New Weather Stations Coming to NYS

Buyouts of Flooded Homes in Essex County Completed

Numerous Rt 73 Flood Damaged Bridges to be Replaced

DEC Decides to Remove Storm Damaged Marcy Dam

FEMA Flood Plain Mapping Near Completion

State Puts \$6m Into Keene and Jay Flood Work

Tropical Storm Irene in August 2011

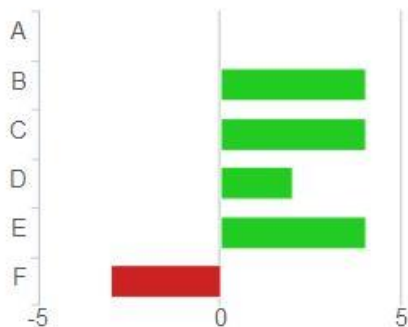
Lake Champlain reaches record levels and floods

June 2013 flooding

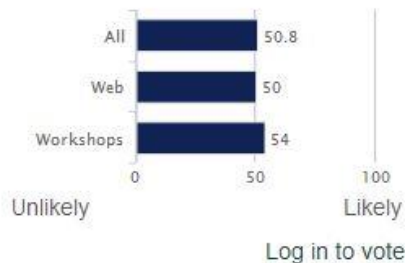
Amendment Allows Use of Roadways for Community Utilities

Most of the State highways that run through the Park travel over land that is part of the Forest Preserve. This means that telecom, water or sewer systems can not be put under the roadbed, which is the obvious corridor for installing new utility infrastructure. This amendment solves this problem once and for all. If you want to bury something under an existing State or County highway to meet a community need, it is now allowable. (Town roads not included)

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

CGA Group Offers White Paper on Utility Amendment

The CGA Amendment Working Group released a white paper offering a proposal to allow buried utilities under roads as part of a larger proposal.

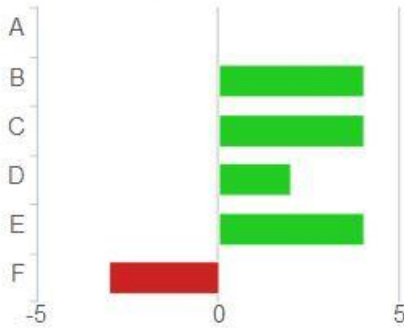
The paper and data can be found here.

Log in to add evidence

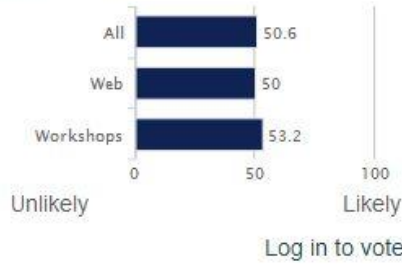
Amendment Creates Community Small Project Land Bank

The new land bank facilitates small swaps of Forest Preserve land for community needs like water wells, power lines, broadband fiber, inter-village bike paths, etc. Formerly, each of these small things required a lengthy and costly constitutional amendment process. This is modeled on an existing Transportation Land Bank that gives DOT the flexibility to maintain roads in wilderness areas. There are strict guidelines for approval of projects and there are a fixed number of relatively few acres (e.g., 500) in the bank.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

CGA Group Releases White Paper Describing a New Land Bank

The CGA Amendment Working Group released a white paper describing an approach to a land bank for town and county roads and community projects.

The details can be found here.

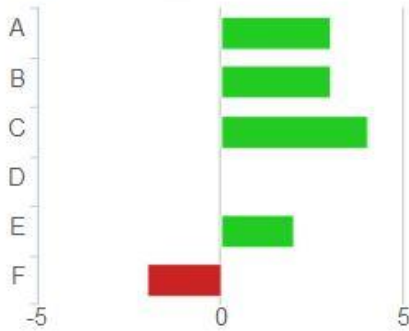
DEC and Rq Lake Finalize 7yo Land Swap for Water Wells

[Log in to add evidence](#)

Municipalities with Public Sewer Systems Double

The more successful hamlets are now big enough, or close enough to recreational or protected water resources, that State and Federal funds become available for public sewers and treatment systems. The number of municipalities with treatment systems increased from roughly one-third in 2009 to two-thirds in 2027.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Log in to vote

Evidence

▼ **Taylor Pond Dam to be Raised to Store Added Stormwater**

\$1m will be spent to raise and update the Taylor Pond Dam.

Read the news item here.

▶ **Whitehall Gets \$2.74m for Sewer Upgrade**

▶ **Willsboro, Keeseville, Lake Placid, Warrensburg and Saranac Lake all Get Sewer Engineering Grants**

▶ **Ticonderoga Gets \$539k to Address Sewer Overflows and Stormwater**

▶ **Town of Moriah Gets \$30k Grant to Plan System Upgrades**

▶ **Inlet sewer construction underway**

▶ **State Approves \$10m for Existing Sewer Improvements**

▶ **Essex sewage plant wins design award**

▶ **Lake Placid lets a \$3m sewer project contract**

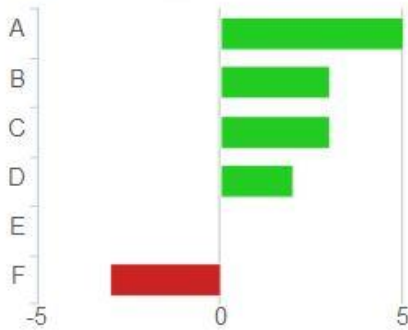
▶ **Port Henry sewer enhancements, \$600,000**

Log in to add evidence

New Stricter Water Quality Regulations Implemented

A suite of new rules require septic inspections and reconstruction. All flood plain construction is stopped. A minimum of 100 foot buffers (were 50 foot buffers in 2012) are created between water front and any human activity including homes, farms, grazing, etc. Even larger buffers are created in obvious drainages. Septic systems in hamlets and on waterfront are major targets of the new rules. Waterfront is defined to include small brooks and streams as well as rivers and lakes. The new rules enjoy widespread support among residents who have been noticing declines in water quality.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

LG Bans Fertilizer Within 50 Feet of the Water

Lake George has banned use of fertilizer and lawn chemicals closer than 50 feet to the lake - the same rule are neighboring Queensbury.

[Read the news story here.](#)

▶ [Cross-State Pollution Rule Revived](#)

▶ [Contaminated Drinking Water in Dannemora, for 2 years...](#)

▶ [New Water Withdrawal Regulations from DEC](#)

▶ [New Water System for Ticonderoga](#)

▶ [Town of Lake George to Inspect Septic Systems](#)

▶ [Tupper Lake Needs New Water Source, Saranac too](#)

▶ [Essex and Washington Counties pass anti-invasives laws](#)