

NEWS RELEASE



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**ADIRONDACK COUNCIL TRUSTEES HIRE WILLIAM C. JANEWAY
AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PARK'S TOP ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION**
*Janeway Current Reg'l Director for NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation in Hudson
Valley/Catskill Region, also Worked for the Nature Conservancy and Adk. Mt. Club*

ELIZABETHTOWN, N.Y. – The Adirondack Council’s Board of Directors today announced that William (Willie) C. Janeway will become the organization’s next executive director. Janeway has since 2007 been Regional Director for the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation Hudson Valley/Catskill Region.

The Adirondack Council is a non-partisan, not-for-profit environmental research, education and advocacy organization whose mission is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of New York’s Adirondack Park. The Council was established in 1975 and is known as a thoughtful, outspoken advocate for environmental protection, with a membership spanning all 50 United States.

Because the enormous Adirondack Park (9,300-square-miles) contains three million acres of private land (about half of the park) and 130 small villages and hamlets, the Council also focuses its efforts on conservation-minded, sustainable, community planning and development. The Park has 130,000 year-round residents, another 100,000 seasonal residents and hosts nearly nine million annual visitors.



Janeway

“We are thrilled to bring Willie Janeway on board as executive director,” said Adirondack Council Chairwoman Ann Carmel.

“He is an accomplished conservationist with extensive experience in the Adirondack Park. We think he is the perfect person to lead our outstanding team, whose job is to help the Adirondack Park and its communities successfully face a wide range of challenges.

“The Adirondack Council is advancing strategies to combat acid rain, climate change, water pollution, the spread of invasive species and sprawling, poorly planned development,”

Carmel said. “We must inspire communities and nature to thrive together, improve management of public lands, increase incentives for stewardship of private lands and better support the Adirondack Park’s ecological integrity, wild character and resource-based economy. Willie’s talents and expertise are well suited to those challenges.”

Janeway said he was motivated to get started. “These are exciting times for the Adirondacks and the Adirondack Council,” Janeway said. “The challenges we face guarantee that our work, and the efforts of our partners and Park stakeholders, will be critically important, as decisions are made that will impact the Adirondacks for generations to come. I am confident that working with others we will make opportunities out of these challenges and ensure that the future of the Adirondack Park is bright.

“It has been an honor and privilege to work for Governor Cuomo and DEC Commissioner Joe Martens and help them advance their goals of a healthy environment and a revitalized New York economy” Janeway said. “As the Council’s executive director, I look forward to working with partners and helping leaders at all levels of government advance an Adirondack agenda that benefits clean water, clean air, wild lands, working farms and forests, and vibrant and economically strong local communities.

“As a long time advocate for environmental conservation, after six rewarding years as the DEC Regional Director, and as a former resident of the Adirondacks, I am excited about bringing my family and focus back to the North Country,” Janeway said.

Janeway will begin work in May, taking the reins from Acting Executive Director Diane W. Fish, who was appointed to the interim post in October, following the resignation of Brian Houseal who had led the organization since 2002. Fish will return to her job as Deputy Director.

Janeway graduated from St. Lawrence University in 1985 with a bachelor’s degree in Economics and Environmental Studies. He served as trails coordinator and director of North Country operations for the Adirondack Mountain Club (1985-1994); Executive Director for the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission (1994-2000); and Governor Pataki’s Executive Director of the Hudson River Greenway (2000-2001). He was director of government relations for The Nature Conservancy from 2001 to 2007 and co-founded and co-chaired the Friends of New York’s Environment. This coalition of more than 200 environmental, conservation, parks, environmental justice, farming and other community organizations led the effort that expanded the Environmental Protection Fund from \$125 million/year to over \$250 million/year. Janeway was working for The Nature Conservancy when he was hired by DEC to run its 7-county regional office for the southern Catskill Park and Lower Hudson Valley.

During Janeway’s supervision of DEC’s regional programs the department became both greener and pro-business, improving on-time permit decision making significantly. Permits became more protective of the environment and the total number of permits issued increased from 1,300 in 2007 to over 1,900 in 2012. Recommendations for reform of State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) processes were developed, and implementation initiated. Over 5,000 additional acres of open space were protected by the State -- more by partners -- and DEC completed and updated multiple unit management plans, including a new Catskill State Land Master Plan.

Fair and effective enforcement of conservation law improved. More than 500 consent orders were signed, guiding facilities to achieve environmental compliance. Climate Smart Communities and environmental justice initiatives started, and a new LEED certified Regional Headquarters in New Paltz was built. Support improved for a toxic free future for New Yorkers

with expanded recycling, landfill closures, brownfield remediation, cleanup of over 21,000 oil spills and oversight of mining, pesticide and air programs.

Janeway is an Adirondack 46er, having climbed the 46 major High Peaks, and won the Adirondack Life "Adirondacker Award" for his early work building partnerships and protecting the Adirondacks.

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