

Watertown Daily Times
MARCH 2, 2012

Adirondack Council offers five-point protection plan

The Adirondack Council has issued a plan recommending changes to the rules for private land use and development in the Adirondack Park.

“The current rules for development are too weak and outdated to protect the park’s pure waters, wildlife and unbroken forests,” Executive Director Brian L. Houseal said in a release.

“Conservation science and smart growth principles have advanced a great deal since 1971. Unfortunately, the Adirondack Park Agency’s regulations have not.”

Mr. Houseal pointed to the APA board’s inability to have a developer scale back the Adirondack Club and Resort proposal for Tupper Lake as an example of why rules should be amended.

The council’s key points included better protection of the park’s wildest lands; a classification system to protect water; making the park a single region for state agencies; reinstatement of APA enforcement staff and bolstering of its authority and providing money and expertise to complete local land-use plans.