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Group Calls for Reforms at Land Use Agency

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PLATTSBURGH, NY (WAMC) - In the wake of the Adirondack Park Agency's multi-year review of the largest development project to come before the regulatory board, the Adirondack Council says changes are needed at the agency. Council spokesman John Sheehan says the Adirondack Club and Resort project highlights the need for changes.

The Council is calling for streamlining the application process and enhancing the authority of the APA staff and commissioners, along with other reforms that have been on their docket for several years.

The Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board has been working with the Adirondack Park Agency to craft internal reforms. Board Executive Director Fred Monroe has not seen all of the Council's proposals, but agrees that changes are needed at the land use agency.

Other reforms the Council is presenting to the Governor and Legislature include development of a water classification system for lakes and rivers, reinstatement of enforcement staff that were reassigned due to budget cuts and access to funds to allow the Adirondack Park Agency to help communities complete local land-use plans.

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