



**ADIRONDACK
COUNCIL** PRESERVING WATER,
AIR AND WILDLANDS



Carl E. Heilman D

2024 MEMBERS' MEETING
Wednesday, July 10, 2024 (4:00 - 5:15pm)
Via Zoom Webinar

MEETING SCHEDULE



3:45 **EARLY ZOOM LOGIN**

4:00 **WELCOME AND THANK YOU**

- Staff Slide Show
- Message from Rocci Aguirre, *Executive Director*
 - FY 23-24 Accomplishments/Highlights

4:15 **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- Government Relations - Aimee Privitera, *Legislative Associate*
- Conservation - Jess Grant, *Conservation Associate* & Blake Neumann, *Clean Water Advocate*

4:30 **MEMBERS' MEETING**

- Call to Order & Opening Remarks - Sarah Collum Hatfield, *Board Chair*
- Presentation of the FY 23-24 Financial Report - Douglas Schultz, *Treasurer*
 - *Member Vote*
- Recognition of Outgoing Board Members - Sarah Collum Hatfield, *Board Chair*
- Presentation of Board Nominees and Election - Ann Carmel, *Board Governance & Development Committee*
 - *Member Vote*

5:00 **MEMBER Q&A**

- Rocci Aguirre, *Executive Director*, Jackie Bowen, *Director of Conservation* & Kevin Chlad, *Director of Government Relations*

5:10 **AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT**

- 2024 Conservationist of the Year - *Northeast Wilderness Trust*
- Special Recognition Award - *Benita Law-Diao*

5:15 **ADJOURN**

- Closing Comments - Rocci Aguirre, *Executive Director* & Sarah Collum Hatfield, *Board Chair*

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS | 2023-24 FISCAL YEAR

Success and progress toward goals achieved with partners, advocacy, and generous supporters.



Scientist with the AuSable River Association collects water samples as part of the SCALE data collection

CLEAN WATER & AIR:

Fighting for clean water and clean air; combating invasive species and climate change.



Clean Air: Adirondack Council advocates successfully encouraged the US Environmental Protection Agency to approve a new air quality standard that will decrease the harmful effects of soot pollution by 25% or more. The new health standard will cut current allowable levels significantly and may prevent up to 4,500 premature deaths and 290,000 lost workdays.







Survey of Climate and Adirondack Lake Ecosystems (SCALE): Since 2022, the Council has advocated for millions - \$2 million alone in 2024 and \$4.5 million total - to fund scientific monitoring that will help track how carbon cycling, dissolved oxygen, and harmful algal blooms respond to the changing climate. The data collected through SCALE will help us better understand how freshwater lakes combat climate change, and how we can better plan to protect them from climate change impacts.



Road Salt Reduction Council Legislation: Since the early 2000s, the Council has sounded the alarm on the hidden dangers of road salt for natural systems and people. The Council helped lead efforts to develop, introduce and pass legislation that would reduce the toxic impacts of road salt to lakes, ponds and well water through the excessive use of road salt. In 2024, we pushed for a statewide road salt reduction council and advisory committee to lead on this issue and make progress on the Adirondack Road Salt Task Force Report recommendations.

WILDERNESS:

Ensuring the wild character and ecological integrity of the Adirondack Park.

-  **Inaugural Visitor Use Management Study Underway:** World class recreation management is designed to enhance healthy ecosystems and economies. In 2023, the Council helped secure \$600,000 to fund a visitor use management study that will do just that. The Council is providing guidance to the state, along with other stakeholders, about data-informed management practices.
-  **\$400 million Environmental Protection Fund (EPF):** A fully-funded EPF means more money can be available to protect open space and support conservation easements across New York State. Working with statewide partners, the Council helped secure a \$400 million EPF that had faced significant reallocations and cuts.
-  **Wildlife Crossings Act (WCA) passed in Legislature:** The WCA passed the NYS Legislature thanks to successful Council advocacy. The WCA calls for the Department of Transportation to identify priority wildlife crossings to allow wild animals safe passage across major highways and protect against motor vehicle accidents.
-  **Dark Skies Advocacy:** The Adirondacks were a popular location to view the total solar eclipse. Thanks to communications efforts led by the Council and partners, the public was encouraged to stay off trails in the High Peaks and other sensitive, potentially dangerous locations. This proactive effort resulted in only one report of a mishap requiring Forest Ranger assistance.




Solar Eclipse Totality from Elk Lake
Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.




Cohorts of the Timbuctoo Climate Science and Careers Summer Institute visit the capitol in Albany, NY

VIBRANT COMMUNITIES & JOBS:

Fostering a more resilient, sustainable Adirondack Park with vibrant communities.

 **Green Jobs:** The Forever Adirondacks campaign helped secure an additional \$1.25 million in funds (\$5.45 million total over three years) for the Timbuctoo Climate Science and Careers Summer Institute. This multi-organization effort brings high school students from urban communities to the Adirondacks to learn about jobs in wilderness preservation, forest management, and clean energy.

 **Clean Water Infrastructure:** Due to Council advocacy, the cap on clean water infrastructure grants was raised from 25% to 50% of the total project cost. This can drastically reduce costs for small, rural communities to undertake essential water and sewer projects, like updating aging systems, to protect our Adirondack lakes and streams. Approximately \$140 million in clean water funding has been granted to Adirondack towns and villages since 2016, leveraging more than \$250 million in funding overall.



FARMS & FORESTS:

Preserving open space and supporting working forests and farms.

-  **Essex Farm Institute:** The Council awarded 16 micro-grants, totaling \$24,500, to farmers and value added food producers to support climate-friendly farming practices and energy efficient infrastructure projects in the Adirondack Park.
-  **Forest Management:** The Council has engaged forest ecologists, carbon experts, and timber management experts to chart the future course of landscape forest management in the Adirondacks, one that supports ecological health and the communities that rely on its revenue.
-  **Wildlife Management Plans:** The Council is supporting state-wide open space land conservation and wildlife action plans that protect and enhance habitat and biodiversity within and beyond the Adirondacks.

Coyote Photo: Larry Master, masterimages.org







Farm Advocate Dillon Klepetar (center) and Clarence Petty Farm Intern Martha DePoy (right) talk with the owner of the Norman Ridge Farmstead (left)



L-R: Director of Government Relations Kevin Chlad, Legislative Associate Aimee Privitera and Clarence Petty
Legislative Intern Safa Mammeri

LEADERSHIP & GOVERNMENT:

**Leading and advocating;
expanding and diversifying
the Park's constituency.**

-  **Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Bond Act:** The Council worked with partners to prioritize projects for funding for sections of the \$4.2 Billion Act that will benefit the Park through capital projects that curb greenhouse gases and combat climate change.
-  **Library of Congress:** Forever Adirondacks Campaign Director Aaron Mair was honored by the Library of Congress which included his professional papers as part of its new collection on Environmental Justice. He is the first honoree for this new collection.
-  **Legal Action When Necessary:** The Council participated in lawsuits to uphold the Adirondack Park Agency's (APA) duty to protect the Adirondack Park and its natural resources, including its ecologically significant lands and waters.
-  **General Permit for Telecommunications Infrastructure:** The Council supported the APA's streamlining of a telecommunications permitting process that allows applicants to co-locate future cell tower projects and infrastructure. This will lessen the permitting burden on communications companies while protecting the APA's role as a regulator to review communication tower projects that continually improve our connectivity and maintain the wild character of the Adirondack Park.

BOARD NOMINEES



Nominated for Re-Election



Diane Fish - Nominated for a 2nd 3-year term
Keene, NY

In February 2021 Diane retired from the staff of the Adirondack Council after 20 years in various roles including Senior Advisor, Deputy Director and Director of Fund Development. Diane's knowledge of Adirondack policy, programs, and processes, her institutional experience and relationships, and her skills related to organization management will continue to be a benefit to the Board and the Council. Diane is nominated for her second three-year term.



Michale Glennon, Ph.D. - Nominated for a 2nd 3-year term
Ray Brook, NY

Michale Glennon, Ph.D. is a Senior Research Scientist for the Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute and was previously the Science Director for the Wildlife Conservation Society Adirondack Program. She lives in Ray Brook with her husband Scott van Laer (retired New York State Forest Ranger and director of the Paul Smith's College Visitor Interpretive Center) and two children. She has 25+ years of experience conducting ecological research in the Adirondack Park and a lifetime of experience as a resident. She has an MS and PhD from SUNY-ESF and serves on several technical advisory boards. She is also the ringleader of a collaborative data art project called Wool and Water which blends fiber art with scientific data to create visual representations of changing water quality conditions in the Adirondacks and the Lake Champlain Basin.



Noah Shaw - Nominated for a 2nd 3-year term
Saranac Lake, NY & Ballston Spa, NY

Noah Shaw grew up in the Adirondacks and lives in Ballston Spa, NY. He is currently a partner in the Energy and Climate Practice at the law firm Foley Hoag, LLP. Prior to that, he served as general counsel and secretary of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), a public benefit corporation that advances innovative energy solutions to improve New York State's economy and environment.

Nominated for Election



Etienne Boillot - Nominated for a 1st 3-year term
Mamaroneck & Blue Mountain Lake, NY

Etienne has longstanding family ties to Blue Mountain Lake. Etienne retired from a 40-year career in the investment industry in 2021. From 1999 to 2009 he served on the Board of the Adirondack Council (where he was Treasurer and vice-Chairman). From 2002 to 2012 he also served on the board of the Adirondack Experience in Blue Mountain Lake. He and his wife Lisa (who served on the board of Paul Smith's college for many years) have three children (of which two are forty-sixers).



Ellen Kraly - Nominated for a 1st 3-year term

Hamilton & Eagle Bay, NY

Ellen Percy Kraly lives with her husband, Scott, in Hamilton, NY and retreats to a cabin deep in the woods on Twitchell Lake in the Adirondacks. Recently retired, she thrived at Colgate University during her professional career teaching demography and environmental studies, serving in the Dean's office and directing Colgate's Upstate Institute. She remains active in demography, chairing the Scientific Panel on International Migration of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, and more regionally serving as president of board of The Center in Utica which resettles US refugees.



Martha MacGregor - Nominated for a 1st 3-year term

Saratoga Springs & Lake Clear, NY

In her career as an art director, Martha MacGregor has worked in marketing and publishing, crafting strategies for a wide range of businesses and nonprofits to get their messages across in ways that are memorable and effective. She lives in Saratoga Springs, NY where she previously served on the board of directors of the Children's Museum at Saratoga and volunteers her time with various community organizations. Martha and her family spend as much time as they can enjoying the Adirondacks, particularly in Lake Clear, where she has multi-generational ties.



Karen Mintzer - Nominated for a 1st 3-year term

Brooklyn, NY

Karen Mintzer is a founding partner of the environmental, land use and real estate law firm, Mintzer Mauch PLLC. She previously served as general counsel for the New York State Office of Park, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and as regional attorney for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Karen's service at Parks and the DEC deepened her appreciation for the natural resources of New York State. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband and teenage son. Her eldest son attends college just south of the Adirondack Park, where he leads new student orientation adventures.



Karen Sammon - Nominated for a 1st 3-year term

Hamilton & Raquette Lake, NY

Karen Sammon's career as a high-level business executive and non-profit trustee has focused on digital and cultural transformation, board and business strategy, governance and conscious leadership. She looks forward to utilizing her skills to guide the Council's strategies to protect the wild places, clean water and to support the communities of the Adirondacks. Karen spends time in her Adirondack community of Raquette Lake.

FINANCIALS



Adirondack Council
Preliminary Operating Statement
Unaudited FY24 compared to Audited FY22 and FY23

	Audited FY 2021-2022 End of Year	Audited FY 2022-2023 End of Year	Projected FY 2023-2024 End of Year
OPERATING REVENUES			
Foundation/Corporate	269,500	284,500	299,561
Individuals 250+	1,356,884	1,964,933	1,167,000
Membership	334,445	319,327	286,000
Adirondack Vision	227,000	0	0
Cool Farms/Healthy Park	1,640	710	1,010
Operating Interest	1,454	32,790	26,000
Marketing	18,906	19,070	17,000
Events	500	8,878	11,600
Lease	20,620	21,300	20,220
Miscellaneous Income	20	59	0
Sub-Total	2,230,969	2,651,567	1,828,391
Forever Wild Fund Transfer	330,000	383,000	409,000
Forever Wild Fund Transfer Nonrecurring Expenses			200,000
FY21 Deferred Forever Wild Fund Transfer	294,000		
Net Available Operating Funds	2,854,969	3,034,567	2,437,391

OPERATING EXPENSES

Salaries	1,371,097	1,552,155	1,414,000
Benefits	446,585	463,319	442,000
Professional Fees	370,387	213,873	271,000
Telecommunications	15,190	14,316	16,000
Travel	58,741	84,475	72,000
Postage/Mailings	131,035	145,674	108,000
Printing	80,748	113,428	85,000
Office Supplies	9,420	5,847	6,000
Public Relations	180,451	110,174	126,000
Community and Farm Grants	32,000	39,679	24,500
Gift Incentives/Marketing	17,280	18,628	16,000
Office Space (E'town, Saranac Lake, Keene)	72,275	70,861	77,000
Equipment	78,763	71,117	105,000
Dues/Fees	21,757	22,214	23,000
Bank/Credit Card Charges	14,173	13,867	14,000
Events	13,621	31,703	25,000
General Legal Fees	14,160	27,559	20,000
Anticipated expenses not yet booked			10,000
Total Operating Expenses	2,927,683	2,998,889	2,854,500
Audit Adjustments			
Depreciation	9,262	11,063	
Investment Management Fees	9,015	10,610	
Total Net	2,945,960	3,020,562	2,854,500
	(90,991)	14,005	(417,109)

The Adirondack Council
Forever Wild Fund Investments
(unaudited)

	Balance June 30, 2023		Balance June 30, 2024	
Schwab				
Money Market Fund	\$3,145	0%	\$78,941	1%
ETF Investments	\$7,719,753	91%	\$8,563,647	90%
	\$7,722,898		\$8,642,588	
Pan Funds	\$3,028	0%	\$3,028	0%
Adirondack Foundation		9%		9%
Petty Intern Fund	\$507,959		\$557,948	
Adirondack Council Fund	\$282,228		\$303,103	
			(6/30/24 account estimates)	
Total Forever Wild Fund	\$8,516,113	100%	\$9,506,667	100%

Contributions

Petty Intern Fund	\$15,500
Adirondack Council Fund	\$5,000
Bequests	\$237,094
New FWF Gifts	\$3,486
Total Contributions	\$261,080
Board -Approved Transfers to Operating	\$609,000

2023 MEETING MINUTES



The Adirondack Council
Minutes of the 49th Annual Members' Meeting
VIRTUAL 2023 MEMBERS' MEETING
July 12, 2023
12:00 – 1:15 pm

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Pastore

Director of Fund Development Debbie Pastore welcomed the members for joining the meeting and their continued support throughout the year. Adirondack Council staff were introduced to attendees and gave a message thanking supporters and advocating for the continued work that will be done in the future. While discussing initiatives from the past year, the Survey of Climate and Adirondack Lake Ecosystems (SCALE) initiative was mentioned because it received \$2 million in funding following our work and advocacy.

Introduction of Rocci Aguirre, Newly Installed Executive Director

Pastore/Aguirre

Pastore introduced newly appointed Executive Director Rocci Aguirre to the membership and highlighted the long history Rocci had working with the Council as Conservation Director and Deputy Director.

Aguirre thanked former Executive Director Willie Janeway for his work and commitment to the Adirondack Council. Staff, Board Members, collaborators, and members were thanked for the work they do throughout the year. Aguirre highlighted that over 100 people from around the state joined us in Albany for Lobby Day 2023 advocating for SCALE funding for the essential data collection to study over 400 lakes and rivers within the park on how climate change has impacted the waterways. Another success from 2023 Lobby Day was the \$2.1 million allocated for the Timbuctoo Summer Climate and Careers Institute which will bring high school students from New York City to the Adirondacks to explore careers in science while experiencing the Park. Kevin Chlad and Aaron Mair were thanked for their work regarding the Timbuctoo initiative. Aguirre also discussed the \$420,000 Adirondack Diversity Initiative, which supports work for a safe, welcoming, and accessible Adirondack Park for residents and visitors. All of these wins came from collaboration and working with groups to tackle the threats facing the Adirondack Park.

The Council's 2050 VISION Report, published in 2021, is an analysis of the long-range opportunities that can be taken to safeguard the Park and includes three pillars, 18 pathways forward, and over 264 unique recommendations. Over 115 interviews were conducted with business owners, teachers, scientists, local and state government officials, environmental organizations, and stakeholders to compile the VISION report. This work will help improve our priorities and serve as a guideline as we move forward in our work.

Conservation Highlights from the Year

Bowen

Director of Conservation, Jackie Bowen, highlighted two successes from the Conservation Team this year. Bowen discussed how SCALE will be used moving forward with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and other government groups to help implement change in the future. Data created through the SCALE initiative will allow actions to track algae blooms, monitor acid rain, and other environmental factors in the future. All data collected will be accessible to the public.

The DEC announced that OTEK an environmental consulting firm won the bid to run a visitor use management effort for the Catskills region and the High Peaks in the Adirondacks. Prior to this, the

Council commissioned OTEK to collect data regarding visitor use levels at specific trail heads and parking lots at trailheads in the High Peaks. The final report from the DEC commissioned bid will serve as a blueprint for future visitor use management moving forward.

Bowen answered questions posed in the chat.

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Hatfield

Board Chair Sarah Collum-Hatfield called the meeting to order at 12:23 PM and welcomed attendees. Hatfield thanked Willie Janeway for his service and the board's excitement for what is to come with a new Executive Director. Contributions for the year were over \$3 million, and Hatfield thanked everyone who took part in the Tad and Nancy Jeffrey challenge match and thanked the Jeffrey family for inspiring giving.

FY 22-23 Financial Report and Approval of July 8, 2022, Members' Meeting Minutes

Schultz

Douglas Schultz, Treasurer, was introduced to present the financial report for the past year. Schultz reported that finances remain strong for the fiscal year ending on June 30 with \$9.4 million in assets on the balance sheet compared to \$8.9 million at the same time last year. There was \$3 million in funds available from members and donors, and other miscellaneous income, and \$168,000 in bequests and gifts to the Forever Wild Fund. These contributions supported \$3 million in conservation and advocacy work. Annual program funding for the previous year was \$2.8 million. The Forever Wild Fund stands at \$8.5 million up from \$7.5 million in 2022.

Schultz moved to accept the fiscal year 2023 Financial Report and the minutes of the July 8, 2022 Members Meeting. Secretary Ethan Winter seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

Hatfield

Hatfield recognized outgoing board members Charlie Canham, Liza Cowan, Bob Kafin, Douglas Stewart and Curt Welling thanking them for their combined 88 years of service on the Adirondack Council board.

Presentation of FY 23/24 Board of Directors Nominees

Carmel

Chair of the Board Governance and Development Committee Ann Carmel was introduced to present and move a motion to approve the election of this year's candidates. Carmel confirmed the slate of nominees for Re-Election to the Board of Directors (Class of 2026)

Class of 2026

For re-election to a third term:

David Bronston

For election to a second term:

Mary Bijur

Rush Holt

Eric Lawson

Jerry Page

Carmel concluded the Board Development report. No additional nominations were made. Carmel motioned to accept the full slate of candidates. Secretary Ethan Winter seconded. A poll was launched for the membership to vote upon. Hatfield declared the candidates as elected to the Board of Directors and thanked everyone for their votes and for the 131 proxies submitted.

Q/A with Executive Director**Aguirre**

Aguirre thanked Board Chair Sarah Hatfield and the board for their service and their dedication and commitment to the organization; and answered questions regarding legislative priorities in the next year and the progress towards buying the Whitney property.

Awards & FWD Invitation**Gotham/Davis/Chlad**

Assistant Director of Development Nicholle Gotham was introduced and spoke about the upcoming Forever Wild Day event on July 12. Rewilding Advocate John Davis was introduced and spoke about Special Award Recipient Chris Maron and Champlain Area Trails.

Conservationist of the Year remarks were given by Director of Government Relations Kevin Chlad to recognize the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Legislative Caucus as this year's recipient. Chlad highlighted the work of the 76-member caucus of the NY state legislature that have used their political power to promote the Adirondacks as a highlight for their policy agenda.

Adjournment**Aguirre/Hatfield**

Aguirre thanked all the members for attending and for lending their voice throughout the year.

Hatfield declared the meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.

Adirondack Council
Preliminary Operating Statement
Unaudited FY23 compared to Audited FY21 and FY22

OPERATING REVENUES	Audited FY 2020-2021 End of Year	Audited FY 2021-2022 End of Year	Projected FY 2022-2023 End of Year
Foundation/Corporate	307,800	269,500	284,500
Individuals 250+	1,895,335	1,356,884	1,965,000
Membership	329,171	334,445	320,000
Adirondack Vision	80,993	227,000	0
Cool Farms/Healthy Park	825	1,640	1,000
Operating Interest	279	1,454	32,000
Marketing	29,851	18,906	19,000
Events	0	500	8,778
Lease	19,900	20,620	21,300
Miscellaneous Income	1,312	20	50
Sub-Total	2,665,466	2,230,969	2,651,628
Forever Wild Fund Transfer		330,000	383,000
Federal PPP (forgiven Jan 2021)	266,000	0	
FY21 Deferred Forever Wild Fund Transfer		294,000	
Net Available Operating Funds	2,931,466	2,854,969	3,034,628

OPERATING EXPENSES			
Salaries	1,192,303	1,371,097	1,540,000
Benefits	403,800	446,585	480,000
Professional Fees	244,655	370,387	205,000
Telecommunications	16,736	15,190	14,000
Travel	22,224	58,741	85,000
Postage/Mailings	133,887	131,035	145,000
Printing	84,316	80,748	115,000
Office Supplies	6,494	9,420	6,000
Public Relations	121,557	180,451	110,000
Community and Farm Grants	31,101	32,000	40,000
Gift Incentives/Marketing	41,291	17,280	25,000
Office Space (E'town, Saranac Lake, Keene)	73,951	72,275	90,000
Equipment	93,232	78,763	80,000
Dues/Fees	16,161	21,757	25,000
Bank/Credit Card Charges	14,131	14,173	15,000
Events	0	13,621	32,000
General Legal Fees	61,041	14,160	28,000
Anticipated expenses not yet booked			20,000
Total Operating Expenses	2,556,880	2,927,683	3,055,000
Audit Adjustments			
Depreciation	10,082	9,262	
Investment Management Fees	7,273	9,015	
Bad Debt Expense	45,000		
Total Net	312,231	(90,991)	(20,372)

The Adirondack Council
Forever Wild Fund Investments
(unaudited)

	Balance June 30, 2022		Balance June 30, 2023	
Schwab				
Money Market Fund	\$103,560	1%	\$3,145	0%
ETF Investments	\$6,685,458	89%	\$7,719,753	91%
	\$6,789,018		\$7,722,898	
Pan Funds				
	\$3,028	0%	\$3,028	0%
Adirondack Foundation				
Petty Intern Fund	\$459,034	10%	\$492,013	9%
Adirondack Council Fund	\$270,280		\$289,836	
			(6/30/23 account estimates)	
Total Forever Wild Fund	\$7,521,360	100%	\$8,507,775	100%

Contributions

Petty Intern Fund	\$18,797
Bequests	\$140,212
New FWF Gifts	\$8,731
Total Contributions	\$167,740
Board -Approved Transfers to Operating	\$383,000



ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

PRESERVING WATER, AIR AND WILDLANDS

THANK YOU MEMBERS!