



# WHAT IS GOING ON AT THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY?

Ampersand Bay/"Annex"



Ampersand Bay, Lower Saranac Lake, where the marina intersects with value 1 wetlands. Image courtesy of the APA.

This year the APA lost in court because the agency failed to properly value the wetlands in Ampersand Bay, Lower Saranac Lake, where a private marina is under development. APA should have known, said the court, that these wetlands had a value rating of 1, the most valuable and protected.

According to APA regulations, all development in such wetlands must preserve the entire wetland and not result in loss of any part. To quote APA's website, the Agency has "stricter standards for activities in high value wetlands... development is generally prohibited in wetlands with a value rating of 1."

Not so in Ampersand Bay. In June, APA staff simply decided that no wetland permit was needed and ignored the project's impact upon the most sensitive wetland class in the Adirondack Park.

## Our questions to the APA and concerns:

- What about those strict standards for highest value 1 wetlands? Vanished.
- What about the court's ruling? Ignored.
- Where were the APA's wetland scientists? Silent.
- How many agency members questioned or voted against the staff decision? Few and none.
- By setting this precedent, are other high value wetlands in the Adirondack Park under threat? Yes.

## What you can do:

Call or write to Governor Kathy Hochul:

- Ask her whether she knows what is going on at the APA.
- Ask her when she will insist the APA restore its legally required standards to protect Park resources.
- Ask her to appoint new members of the APA who will insist on applying APA law and regulation to protect the Park.

**Governor Kathy Hochul's phone: 518-474-8390**

Contact form: [www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form](http://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form)

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## WE CAN'T DO THIS WORK WITHOUT YOU!

For a FREE copy of our report, *The Adirondack Park at a Crossroad: A Road Map for Action* or our guidebook, *Pathways to a Connected Adirondack Park: Practical Steps to Better Land Use Decisions*, please visit our website, [www.adirondackwild.org](http://www.adirondackwild.org), and download them from the main menu under: Media/Publications.

While you're there, we also invite you to make a donation to become a member and to sign up for our award-winning eNewsletter, *Dialogue for the Wild*.



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