



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: June 17, 2014

OCCA taps Lapin for planner position

COOPERSTOWN – Danny Lapin has been hired by the Otsego County Conservation Association to fill the organization’s environmental planner position.

Lapin earned his bachelor’s degree in environmental sciences from the University of California, Riverside in 2010 and his master’s degree in environmental policy this spring from the Bard College Center for Environmental Policy. His research experience focused on strengthening the connection between land-use planning and water management in rural communities in Eastern California. Lapin’s career has included environmental planning positions in the Sierra Nevada region of California and a groundwater management post in Southern California.

“My dream has been to integrate strong environmental protections with sustainable economic development in an area as beautiful as Otsego County. Doing my part to ensure that social, economic and environmental principles are incorporated into land-use planning is a top priority,” Lapin said.

Now living in Springfield, Lapin seeks to apply his knowledge and experience to assist communities in Otsego County with their land-use planning needs. He will focus his initial efforts with OCCA on review of the proposed Edic-to-Fraser AC transmission line, facilitating OCCA’s Circuit Rider Planner Program, and on assisting communities with environmentally mindful planning initiatives.

Lapin’s planning background is both multifaceted and extensive, as he has experience in the academic sector through his research on regional water management at Bard College, at the state level through his work with the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, at the regional level working for the Sierra Nevada Alliance, and at the community level through his experience with the League to Save Lake Tahoe. Lapin has worked on a broad range of issues including the preservation of agricultural lands, the review of transmission line projects, SEQR review, and on California’s Integrated Regional Water Management Program.

“Danny’s education and his overall body of work make him such a good fit for the organization,” said OCCA Executive Director Darla M. Youngs. “He’s a great addition to our team, and we can’t wait for him to get started.”

The position of environmental planner was created by OCCA to help bring environmental concerns to the forefront of community planning decisions, and to work with Otsego County communities on issues relative to them, ranging from comprehensive planning and regulations to environmental reviews.

Lapin’s responsibilities will also entail public outreach on planning issues, research on various environmental issues, grant writing, and fundraising.

“I am honored to be working with OCCA, its partners, and area communities and will work hard to be a strong asset to communities throughout Otsego County,” Lapin said.

In addition to his new role at OCCA, Lapin will continue to serve as a researcher at Bard College and plans on joining the American Planning Association Upstate New York Chapter.