

2015 Economic Services

The Economic Services Unit provides expertise in market and financial feasibility analysis, economic and fiscal impact analysis, and economic development planning to the Agency, State and local economic development organizations, and the region's business community. Staff assists project sponsors and economic developers in evaluating business locations and identifying other sources of help for business development. Staff also works with local governments and economic development entities in the development and implementation of sustainable economic growth strategies.

Project Permitting

During project review, Economic Services staff provides expertise in market and financial feasibility analysis as well as economic and fiscal impact analysis pursuant to the Agency's Section 809 mandate to take into account the potential benefits of a proposed project. Staff advised the Agency on the economic impacts of a variety of projects ranging from the F.R. Smith and Son boat storage facility in the Town of Bolton, to the Woodworth Lake subdivision in the Town of Bleecker, to eight timber harvesting permits spread throughout the Park. Staff also provided technical expertise related to the Agency's project review process to a range of large-scale and entrepreneurial ventures during the pre-application process. The below table provides the number of successful applications, total number of pre-applications, and the number of variances Economic Services staff were involved with in 2015:

Regulatory Programs Support				
Project Type	2015	2014	2013	2012
Pre-Application Meetings	5	6	6	8
Permits	12	7	11	11
Variances	0	0	0	4

Community Outreach

Staff provided support to local development initiatives by attending more than 57 public outreach, local and regional workgroup, and community development meetings spread throughout the region. Among Park-wide initiatives, staff attended meetings regarding the Common Ground Alliance, the Great South Woods recreation planning effort, agriculture development, and broadband expansion. Staff also provided presentations to civic groups in Ticonderoga, Essex County, Lyonsdale, Lewis County, and Northville/Northampton, Fulton County as well as to educational groups from Clarkson University, Stockton College, and Cornell University.

Regional Council Support

In 2015, the three Regional Economic Development Councils (REDC) representing the Adirondack Park: the Capital Region, Mohawk Valley, and North Country Councils, received more than \$283.5 million in grant and loan funding through Governor Cuomo's REDC competition to pursue key economic development projects. Among the projects

funded in the Adirondack Park are a Septic Initiative Program in the Town of Lake George that inspects septic systems in close proximity to the lake, a new hotel in the Village of Speculator, a new hotel in the Town of Schroon, and Main Street revitalization programs in the towns of Indian Lake and Ticonderoga as well as in the Village of Saranac Lake.

In 2015, Economic Services Unit staff assisted the North Country Regional Economic Development Council's Priority Project and Plan Implementation Committee and the Tourism and Community Centers Leadership Team to draft the Council's 2015 Progress Report and Upstate Revitalization Initiative proposal. Economic Staff is also a member of State Agency Resource Teams for the Capital Region, Mohawk Valley, and North Country Councils.

Economic Affairs Committee

The Agency's Economic Affairs Committee continued to highlight business development and critical infrastructure expansion in the Park. In 2015, the Committee received presentations from Jamie Rogers and Jennifer Monroe on energy efficiency and alternative energy programs administered by the Adirondack North Country Association, from Ollie Burgess on his wood products company, Specialty Wood Products, Inc., based in Bloomingdale, NY, and from Joe Hackett on his guide and location scouting business, Tahawus, Ltd., headquartered in Lake Placid, NY.

Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance Initiative.

In 2015, the Agency completed its first Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance (HEPA) Initiative project in the Village of Northville and Town of Northampton. In February, staff presented the final plan to the communities and both the Village Board and Town Board approved resolutions in support of the HEPA plan. As a continuing component of the HEPA process, staff assisted the region in community development efforts throughout the year.

Additionally in 2015, staff met with six municipalities about beginning the HEPA initiative. It is anticipated that some of these communities will participate in the full process in 2016. Through HEPA, the Agency seeks to build partnerships with local municipalities to help them achieve sustainable economic growth. The Agency works with communities to develop economic development plans for their commercial centers and then assists stakeholders in plan implementation.