



**D R A F T**

**MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
February 14, 2012**

The Economic Affairs Committee convened at 2:00 p.m.

**Economic Affairs Committee Members Present:** Leilani Ulrich (Agency Chairwoman) Arthur Lussi (Economic Affairs Committee Chair), Patrick Hooker (DED), Frank Mezzano, Robert Stegemann (DEC), William Thomas

**Other Members or Designees Present:** Richard Booth, Sherman Craig, Dierdre Scozzafava (DOS), William Valentino, Cecil Wray

**Agency Staff Present:** Terry Martino (Executive Director), Jim Townsend (Counsel), Dan Kelleher (Special Assistant-Economic Affairs)

**Others Present:** Frederick Monroe (Executive Director, Local Government Review Board)

Chairman Lussi opened the meeting at 2:00 pm.

Dan Kelleher provided the following update:

Mr. Kelleher reported that Economic Services and Local Government Programs staff are working to meet with the Park's smaller local economic development groups. He said staff is also supporting the Adirondack Partnership Recreation Planning Workgroup by providing expertise on State land planning and economic development.

Mr. Kelleher highlighted that the North Country Regional Sustainability Plan supports biomass heating as a means to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, create local jobs, retain money in the local economy and decrease heating costs. Mr. Kelleher said the Plan supports a strategy to invest in large and small clean energy technology businesses, including biomass.

Wood Pellet Boiler Heating Systems

Mr. Kelleher introduced Dan Bower, Assistant Superintendent of Business, and Lee Daunais, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds from Saranac Lake Central School. He also introduced Dave Dungate, President of ACT Bioenergy in Schenectady, NY. These gentlemen discussed replacing fuel oil heating with the installation of a high-efficiency wood pellet boiler at Petrova Elementary School.

Mr. Dungate stated that biomass is environmentally friendlier than oil because of the use of low value wood, encouragement of better managed forests, reduction of carbon emissions. Additionally biomass is a local business (transporting is cost prohibitive) that creates jobs. Mr. Dungate said his business creates only commercial scale boilers for sites such as The Wild Center, SUNY-ESF, Clarkson and Petrova Elementary.

Mr. Bower presented the budgetary process of installing the biomass boiler. He said the project was possible with a grant from NYSERDA and state aid.

He stated that the savings in just the month of December between 2011 and 2012 was \$13,000.

Mr. Daunais reported the pellets come from a plant in Massena, NY, cutting transportation costs. He said the boiler used approximately 1.3 tons of pellets per day, a saving of up to \$300 per day or \$30,000 per year.

Chairwoman Ulrich presented Mr. Dungate, Mr. Bower, and Mr. Daunais with awards for their contributions to the Park and thanked them for their presentation. Chairwoman Ulrich said the Agency is looking into this technology.

The meeting ended at 3:00 pm.