



D R A F T

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

The Economic Affairs Committee convened at 4:00 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), Cecil Wray. Bill Valentino was absent.

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 4:00 pm. On motion by Frank Mezzano, and seconded by Patrick Hooker, the February 14, 2013 minutes were approved unanimously.

Dan Kelleher provided the following update:

Mr. Kelleher reported on the Proposed Remedial Action Plan for a portion of the J&L Steel site. The remedies for the site include restricting future use to commercial by placing an environmental easement on the property; restricting groundwater use; maintaining site cover that allows for commercial use; and the implementation of a Site Management Plan. The DEC is currently accepting public input on the proposed plan until March 29, 2013.

Mr. Kelleher also reported draft site investigation reports are being developed for the two Superfund Potential Sites. The reports are expected to be complete in mid-2013 and he will update the Agency Board when they are completed.

Chairwoman Ulrich asked if there was anything the Agency could do to support the efforts. Mr. Kelleher said once the property is released, Economic Services would contribute to help identify potential tenants for the site.

Mr. Kelleher updated the Board about Regional Council activities for 2013 and the ConnectNY Broadband Initiative Awardees. \$5.48 million

in grants were awarded to North Country Projects, reaching over 3,300 Adirondack households.

Mr. Kelleher reported that all 2011 and 2012 Consolidated Funding Application awardees were sent letters encouraging them to submit JIF forms in order to make possible timely project review and offering to facilitate pre-application meetings if a project was deemed jurisdictional.

A Comparison of Land Use and Home Sales in Conservation and Conventional Development Projects

Mr. Kelleher introduced Sarah Reed, an Associate Conservation Scientist with the North America Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society and an Affiliate Faculty member in the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Conservation Biology at Colorado State University.

Ms. Reed discussed conservation development projects and approaches to the design, construction and management of development property that protects or restores biodiversity, ecosystem services, and conservation values.

Ms. Reed explained that this research of conservation developments provides a land use planning tool to protect natural resources and provide economic benefits to communities. She said the two main criteria for this type of subdivision are 1. To leave a large part of the area as open space and 2. To have an ecological site analysis of the area by a biological expert to determine the best area to place the home sites while conserving wildlife and ecology.

Ms. Reed acknowledged that some improvements are still necessary to protect the environment. Such recommendations included more widespread use of biological experts during site analysis and design.

Ms. Reed was presented a certificate of appreciation.

The meeting closed at 5:00 pm.