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**MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
August 9, 2013**

The Economic Affairs Committee convened at 11:05 a.m.

**Economic Affairs Committee Members Present:** Leilani Ulrich (Agency Chairwoman) Arthur Lussi (Economic Affairs Committee Chair), Bradley Austin (DED), Judy Drabicki for Robert Stegemann (DEC), William Thomas.

**Other Members or Designees Present:** Richard Booth, Sherman Craig, Karen Feldmen, Dierdre Scozzafava (DOS), Bill Valentino, Dan Wilt.

**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 11:05 am.

Dan Kelleher provided the following update:

Mr. Kelleher started by welcoming Bradley Austin to the Economic Affairs Committee.

Mr. Kelleher reported that the Agency sent out two letters of support for Consolidated Funding Applications: one in support of converting the Hollywood Movie Theater in AuSable, NY to a digital projection format and one in support of the Adirondack Teleworks Project to train the local workforce on how to use the internet. A third letter of support was written in support of the NYS DEC's Request for Removal Action of the buildings at the J & L Steel Site in Clifton, St. Lawrence County. The letter was written to the United State Environmental Protection Agency.

Mr. Kelleher introduced Town of Fine Supervisor, Mark Hall; Regional Director, Region 6, Judy Drabicki; and Director of Engineering, Development Authority of the North Country, Carrie Tuttle.

**Presentation on J&L Steel Site:**

Town of Fine Supervisor, Mark Hall, NYS DEC Region 6 Director Judy Drabicki, and Director of Engineering Carrie Tuttle of the Development Authority of the North Country discussed the remediation of the J&L Steel site in the Town of Clifton, St. Lawrence County.

Supervisor Hall introduced himself as a member of the Clifton Fine Economic Development Corporation along with two members of the audience, Christopher Westbrook and Susan Avery. He said that by collaborating with many stakeholders such as the DEC, APA, different development corporations, the Adirondack Council, and the Adirondack Mountain Club, the group was finally able to bring awareness to the site.

Supervisor Hall gave a brief history of the site. He said at one time, J & L Steel was the largest open pit magnetic mine in the world and employed one thousand employees at its peak. Once the pit was closed, the Clifton-Fine school district went from twelve hundred to three hundred students. In 1987 the DEC reported a million gallon oil spill which was subsequently remediated.

Supervisor Hall reported that the Newton Falls paper mill, which once employed six to eight hundred employees, is now defunct as of 2012.

Judy Drabicki, DEC, noted that the immediate goal is to return the J&L Steel site to productivity. She said the focus has been on the eighteen acres that can be remediated. She was pleased to report that in March 2013, a Record of Decision from the DEC was issued allowing the area to be used for commercial/industrial development. Additionally, the Attorney General's office offered the County a release from liability allowing St. Lawrence County to take ownership of the property; this will allow for subdivisions and ensuing development.

Carrie Tuttle, engineer, said the future priority is building demolition. She said work is being done to estimate the cost of building demolition so that external funding (ie: development corporations and EPA) can be sought and the buildings removed. She explained that in the long term, the regional economy must change from manufacturing to tourism and that removing the buildings will help greatly. She explained that the towns are working to consolidate services such as wastewater treatment in order to maintain current service levels.

The Board congratulated all present for their unwavering dedication and current and continued success.

Chairwoman Ulrich presented the group with a certificate of appreciation.

The meeting closed at 11:50am.