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MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
September 12, 2013

The Economic Affairs Committee convened at 1:30 PM

**Economic Affairs Committee Members Present:** Leilani Ulrich (Agency Chairwoman) Arthur Lussi (Economic Affairs Committee Chair), Bradley Austin (DED), 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 1:30 PM. On motion by Bob Stegemann, and seconded by Bill Thomas, the August 9, 2013 minutes were approved unanimously.

Special Assistant for Economic Affairs Dan Kelleher provided the following update:

Mr. Kelleher reported that on August 28, 2013, he attended a "construction celebration" for the Adirondack Meat Company's processing facility in Ticonderoga, Essex County. The Agency permitted the project in June 2012 and the project was deemed a priority project by the North Country Regional Economic Development Council. The facility should be open by Spring 2014.

Mr. Kelleher reported that the Champlain-Hudson Power Express Project (CHPE) Environmental Trust Governance Committee recently selected the Hudson River Fund as the third Party Trust Administrator to be overseen by the Governance Committee. The Trust is responsible for managing \$117 million over the next 35 years as mitigation for CHPE construction.

Presentation: A Review of Conservation Development Ordinances in the Northeast and an Examination of Case Study Communities by Heidi Kretser and Leslie Karasin of the Wildlife Conservation Society

Ms. Kretser began the presentation by reporting that the study examined New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. She explained that conservation subdivisions on private lands are important because connectivity of private and state land is essential for wildlife. Ms. Kretser stated that most Conservation Development ordinances have been developed in the last 15 years but that most of these ordinances are developed with input by volunteer Planning Boards lacking expertise. The study highlighted the importance of consulting with expert biologists and ecologists prior to the placement of development on the land. Ms. Kretser stated that a study of the Agency's regulations that used keyword tracking techniques implied an overall lack of conservation subdivision provisions in the law. Member Booth questioned whether a review of keywords was an accurate way to measure the success of the APA Act in protecting open space and suggested that much of what the land use plan does is channel development into places best suited for it.

Ms. Karasin presented case studies from the data collected. Ms. Karasin provided three criteria to think about while creating successful conservation subdivision ordinances: is at least half of the land protected as open space, does the plan include guidance for the protection of land, and which environmental resources are emphasized regarding the location of development?

Ms. Karasin conducted hundreds of hours of interviews in numerous municipalities across the study area. She found common themes in the many interviews such as the need for strong leadership from planning boards and planning departments and that a common motivation for conservation subdivisions is the desire to use land in the most efficient manner.

Ms. Karasin noted that the next steps in this project will be to further analyze the interviews and to find a way to widely distribute the report.

Ms. Karasin concluded that the goals of the report are to help communities meet their needs, learn from peers, realize that revision is healthy, and encourage the use of science for policy. She said that the Agency plays a supporting role through events such as Local Government Day.

There was a question and answer session. Ms. Kretser and Ms. Karasin were each presented certificates of appreciation.

The meeting ended at 2:45 PM.