



Economic Affairs Committee  
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October 28, 2014  
3:00 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
October 9, 2014**

The Economic Affairs Committee convened at 11:15 A.M.

**Economic Affairs Committee Members Present:** Arthur Lussi (Economic Affairs Committee Chair), Bradley Austin (DED), Karen Feldman, Dan Wilt, and Robert Stegemann (DEC).

**Other Members or Designees Present:** Leilani Ulrich (Agency Chairwoman,) Sherman Craig, Bill Thomas, Richard Booth, and Lynn Mahoney (DOS).

**Agency Staff Present:** Jim Townsend (Counsel), Dan Kelleher (Special Assistant-Economic Affairs), Kathy Regan, Deputy Director, Planning Division.

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

Committee Chair Lussi opened the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

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

Mr. Kelleher reported that the United States Environmental Protection Agency is at the J&L Steel site in St. Lawrence County removing oil from the 36-acres that were not remediated during DEC's 2013-2014 clean-up of the site.

The Champlain Power Express Project, the power cable anticipated to bring hydropower electricity to New York City through Lake Champlain and the Hudson River, received its final approvals in October. Mr. Kelleher reported that we are a party to the Governance Trust, which will allocate \$137 million in mitigation funding over 30 years to go for research and restoration projects on Lake Champlain, the Hudson River, and the East River. It is anticipated that the first \$2.8 million dollars will be distributed in the Trust in early 2015 with the money to be allocated to projects later that year.

Mr. Kelleher provided an overview of recent clean energy investments over the past year. In 2013 the North Country Regional Economic Development Council allocated \$3.4 million dollars for alternative energy in the Park. According to the NYS Department of Conservation

there are more than 52 large scale facilities in New York State using woody biomass, almost double from the previous year. There are several facilities in the Adirondack Park including Petrova Middle School in Saranac Lake, The Wild Center in Tupper Lake and the North Country School in Lake Placid. Mr. Kelleher noted that solar energy has also grown across the State with an increase of 68% over the last year. The Governor announced recently a new solar panel factory in Buffalo; it is expected to be the largest solar manufacturer in the western hemisphere employing over 3,000 people. He noted that within the Park, solar projects have been developed in the Town of Chester and in the Town of Warrensburg.

Presentation by John Culpepper, Director of Facilities at the North Country School/Camp Treetop.

Since 2005, Mr. Culpepper has been the Director of Facilities at the North Country School/Camp Treetops, an independent boarding school and summer camp located on 200 acres in Lake Placid, New York. With the help of their students/campers, the school/camp works a farm and green houses to produce food for the school.

Under Mr. Culpepper's direction, the school has established clean energy initiatives, achieved carbon dioxide emission reductions, instituted a sustainable forestry program, constructed an 8,000 square foot, net zero energy residence, and purchased an all-electric maintenance truck. Through the installation of pellet stoves and specialty gasification boilers, the school has been able to reduce fuel oil consumption by over 20,000 gallons per year.

Following a question and answer session, Mr. Culpepper was provided with a certificate of appreciation by Chairwoman Ulrich, Committee Chair Lussi, and Special Assistant for Economic Affairs Dan Kelleher.

Chairwoman Ulrich closed the meeting at 12:00 p.m.