



Economic Affairs Committee
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3:00 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
November 13, 2014**

The Economic Affairs Committee convened at 10:51 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 Dede Scozzafava.

Agency Staff Present: Terry Martino, (Executive Director), Jim Townsend (Counsel), Dan Kelleher (Special Assistant-Economic Affairs), Kathy Regan, (Deputy Director, Planning Division), Ariel Lynch (Environmental Program Specialist 2), Rick Weber (Deputy Director, Regulatory Program Division), Sarah Reynolds (Associate Counsel), and Annemarie Peer (Keyboard Specialist).

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

Committee Chair Lussi opened the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

On motion by Karen Feldman, seconded by Bradley Austin, the Board unanimously approved the October 9, 2014 minutes.

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

Mr. Kelleher reported that third quarter sales tax revenue for the six largest counties in the Park increased year-over-year.

On October 17, Mr. Kelleher attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Darrin Fresh Water Institute Data Visualization Laboratory in Bolton, Warren County. The Data Visualization Laboratory was built to support the Jefferson Project at Lake George, a collaborative project between Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, IBM, and the FUND for Lake George.

Mr. Kelleher also reported that staff will present the first draft of the economic plan for the hamlet areas of the Village of Northville

and the Town of Northampton to the communities on November 20th in Northville, NY.

Presentation by Maura Adams, Northern Forest Center (NFC) Program Director and Leslie Karasin, Adirondack Project Manager of the Adirondack Model Neighborhood Wood Heat Initiative.

Ms. Adams and Ms. Karasin provided an overview of the Adirondack Model Neighborhood Wood Heat Initiative. The initiative will provide incentives to home and building owners to install wood pellet boilers. Ms. Adams noted that the North Country spends over \$200 million on oil heating every year with a majority of this spending leaving the area. A solution for this problem is wood biomass heating from locally-derived sources. Through this project, the NFC proposes to install biomass heating systems in 20 residences, 10 municipal facilities, and in five other non-residential buildings clustered around Saranac Lake, Saranac, and Tupper Lake. The center would offer incentives of up to \$10,000 to \$15,000 dollars to each individual user to induce the adoption of this technology.

Ms. Adams asserted that modern systems are fully automatic and highly efficient; the systems require minimal cleaning and allow for bulk delivery. Ms. Adams also noted that the Northern Forest Center considers woody biomass heating to be carbon neutral since the carbon produced is recaptured in the growth of the replacement plants. The projected twenty-five year results from the program are anticipated to include the replacement of 1.4 million gallons of fuel oil and the inducement of \$8.6 million in total economic impact in the region.

Property owners in the target communities are eligible to apply for the program on the NFC's website. The application process includes an energy audit, quotes from installers, and alternatives analysis.

Ms. Adams and Ms. Karasin were presented with a certificate of appreciation by Chairwoman Ulrich, Executive Director Martino, Committee Chair Lussi, and Special Assistant Kelleher.

Chairwoman Ulrich closed the meeting at 12:05 p.m.