



**LEILANI CRAFTS ULRICH**  
Chairwoman

**TERRY MARTINO**  
Executive Director

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Terry Martino, Executive Director

**FROM:** Dan Kelleher, Special Assistant for Economic Affairs

**DATE:** April 8, 2015

**RE:** Economic Services Unit Activities for February and March, 2015.

Unit activities were as follows:

### **Public Outreach**

On 2/20/2015, staff spoke with students from Clarkson University's Adirondack Semester about the Agency, the Adirondack Park, and the Adirondack Park's economy. This semester's Adirondack program consists of seven students from across New York State.

On 2/27/2015, staff presented at Cornell University's College of Architecture, Art, & Planning's planning colloquium about the Adirondack Park Agency, the Adirondack Park, and economic development. Mr. Kelleher presented as part of a panel of recent Cornell graduates from the University's Master of Regional Planning Program.

### **Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance**

On 2/23/2015, staff presented to the public the final Hamlet economic development plan for the Town of Northampton and Village of Northville at the Northville Village offices. On 1/21/2015, the Town of Northampton and Village of Northville passed a resolution in support of the plan. Agency staff will now assist the communities with implementing the plan.

### **Great South Woods Initiative**

On 2/25/2015, staff attended a planning meeting of the Great South Woods (GSW) State land planning initiative in Old Forge, Herkimer County. The GSW is a community-based planning initiative to enhance and diversify public access to the Forest Preserve and Conservation Easement lands in the southern Adirondack Park. The initiative is being led by SUNY-ESF in collaboration with Hamilton County, NYSAPA, and NYSDEC. The final product is anticipated to include a plan for additional recreation opportunities on Forest Preserve lands in the southern Adirondacks.

### **North Country Food Hubs**

On 3/11/2015, staff attended a meeting on the potential development of food hubs in the Adirondack North Country. The meeting, administered by Essex County Cornell Cooperative Extension with assistance from Cornell University's Department of Applied Economics, was undertaken with the goal of linking farmers with buyers to improve the agricultural economy of the North Country. The meeting provided an overview of an exhaustive survey undertaken by Cornell that found a demand for such a facility that would include cold storage, shared transportation opportunities, and potentially processing equipment. This study builds upon a 2011 Cornell study that found significant room for expansion in the Adirondack agricultural sector but that distance to markets and processing facilities is limiting the ability of farmers to produce profitably. A food hub would help to reduce these costs.

### **Champlain-Hudson Power Express Trust Governance Committee**

On 3/24/2015, staff attended a video conference meeting of the Champlain Hudson Power Express Trust Governance Committee. The Trust is responsible for managing \$117 million in Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) project mitigation funds over the next 35 years. Based upon revised CHPE permitting timelines, it is not expected that the funds will begin to be dispersed until September 2016.

### **Adirondack Park Smart Growth Grant Program**

Staff from the Agency's Economic Affairs Unit is serving on the review team (including staff from NYS DEC and NYS DOS) for the Adirondack Park Smart Growth Grant Awards program. This year's program is expected to award up to \$400,000 in funding for projects that link environmental protection, economic development, and community livability with the special conditions of the Park. The awards are expected to be announced at the Adirondack Local Government Day in April.

### **Regulatory Programs Support**

Economic Services staff is supporting the Regulatory Programs Division on several projects including two hotels in Essex County, a campground in Essex County, a commercial use in Saratoga County, a commercial use in Essex County, a subdivision in Essex County, a mixed commercial and residential use in Franklin County, a subdivision in Saratoga County, and a marina in Franklin County.

### **Planning Division Support**

Staff is assisting the Planning Division in its preliminary review of two Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map amendments in Essex County. Staff is supporting the State Lands Division in the Agency's review of the Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor Unit Management Plan.

