



Economic Affairs Committee
Draft ap
June 12, 2015, 2015
11:00 a.m.

**MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
June 12, 2015**

The Economic Affairs Committee convened at 9:00 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), Dan Kelleher, (Special Assistant-Economic Affairs), Kathy Regan, (Deputy Director, Planning Division), Keith McKeever, (Public Information Director), Ed Snizek, (Supervisor, Natural Resource Analysis), Rick Weber, (Deputy Director, Regulatory Programs), George Hare, (Maintenance Supervisor), Kyle Martin, (Cleaner), Laurie Bullis, (Secretary), Mary Reardon, (Secretary) and Annemarie Peer (Keyboard Specialist).

Committee Chair Lussi opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

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

On May 4, 2015 Mr. Kelleher attended the Lake George Waterkeeper's Annual Low Impact Development Conference in Lake George. This year, the Waterkeeper unveiled its new Low Impact Development Certification System, which will be available to property owners in the summer 2015. The certification system will act as an incentive for property owners to develop their land in a more ecologically sensitive manner.

On June 10, Mr. Kelleher attended and spoke at the New York State Broadband Conference. Mr. Kelleher was on a panel with several national policy attorneys where they discussed such issues as permitting, universal broadband access, and federal government assistance programs. Mr. Kelleher also reported that the Governor's new broadband initiative will use \$500 million dollars of state money and leverage \$500 million of private funding to provide broadband across New York State by 2019.

Mr. Kelleher also reported on the newly-formed Tri-Lakes Young Professional Group which operates in Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake. The goal of the group is to connect “young professionals,” loosely defined as workers between the ages of 21 and 40, to leadership opportunities in their communities. Mr. Kelleher noted that attendance at the group’s first two events was significant with over 80 people attending the most recent networking function.

Presentation by Ollie Burgess, President and Owner of Specialty Wood Products Inc.

Ollie Burgess, assisted by his daughter, Molly, provided an overview of Specialty Wood Products Inc., which is located in Bloomingdale, NY. The company provides wood materials to contractors, architects, furniture makers, interior designers, and craftspeople. The company currently has 12 employees, eight full-time and four part-time.

Specialty Wood Products Inc. harvests trees from private land owners and uses every part of a tree for a variety of items from logs and sidings to furniture. Mr. Burgess noted that the company relies primarily on word-of-mouth and does not maintain a marketing budget. The market range for the business is nation-wide but the company uses suppliers within a 40 mile radius.

Mr. Burgess reported that the two largest challenges to the business are the seasonality of sales due to the harsh winters and the cost and lack of availability of adequate exporting transportation. He noted that his business has always operated in the Adirondack Park and proves that strict regulations and commercial success are not mutually exclusive. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to present to the Board.

After a brief question and answer session, Mr. Burgess was 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 9:50 a.m.