



**KAREN FELDMAN**  
Acting Chair

**TERRY MARTINO**  
Executive Director

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Terry Martino, Executive Director

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

**DATE:** March 6, 2019

**RE:** Economic Services Unit Activities for January and February 2019

**Town of Johnsborg - Economic Development Assistance**

Staff is assisting the Town of Johnsborg Local Development Corporation (LDC) with business recruitment and economic development planning. Staff attended an LDC meeting on February 20. Staff continues to work with the local government to attract new hotel investment as part of the Federal Opportunity Zone Program and will work with the LDC in early 2019 in developing a strategic plan for the organization.

**Age-Friendly Recreation Workgroup**

On January 9, staff attended a meeting organized by Mercy Care for the Adirondacks regarding age-friendly recreation options in the Adirondack Park. Staff from NYS DEC, NYS DOS, and NYS OFA (Office for Aging), as well as the Associate State Director from the AARP attended the meeting in Warrensburg, Warren County. The workgroup undertook preliminary discussions to scope out any work that will need to be assumed to move forward age-friendly recreation options in the Park. The group will also seek to connect such recreation opportunities to community development projects and age-friendly community planning.

**Public Outreach**

On February 14 staff spoke at the Town of Tupper Lake Board Meeting. Staff highlighted regional economic development success stories, programs offered by the Agency, and regional trends. Staff also sought feedback to adjust Agency services to tailor-suit local needs.

Throughout 2019 staff will be seeking to speak with local governing boards as well as regional organizations including lake associations, chambers of commerce, and economic development entities.

**North Country Center for Businesses in Transition**

Staff is working with a regional workgroup of economic development organizations on the North Country Center for Businesses in Transition (CBIT). Founded and hosted by the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA), the CBIT seeks to help business

owners exit out of their businesses by connecting them to either potential buyers or the resources to transition to employee ownership. Research performed by ANCA indicates that between 10,000 and 15,000 businesses in the North Country have owners who hope to retire and sell their businesses in the next five years. This indicates a critical need to connect sellers with buyers in order to retain jobs and businesses in the region. Staff attended meetings and webinars regarding the CBIT on January 14, January 15, January 17, January 18, January 31, and February 6.

### **Upstate Capital Association North Country Symposium**

Staff is collaborating with the Upstate Capital Association of New York to bring an angel investing and access-to-capital symposium to Lake Placid. The symposium would introduce potential investors to opportunities in the North Country and promote the region as a great place to do business. The event would tentatively occur at Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) facilities in the fall 2019.

### **Northern Border Regional Commission**

Staff is working with NYS DOS to promote a new round of Northern Border Regional Commission grants. This year, a new grant program with a focus on the forest economy has been introduced alongside the Commission's typical infrastructure, planning and economic development grants.

### **J&L Site Redevelopment**

On January 29 and February 26 staff participated in conference calls to discuss plans for the remediation and reuse of the J&L Steel property in the Town of Clifton. A workgroup of local economic development and government officials is pursuing site remediation, including the removal of existing buildings, infrastructure development, and reuse of the site.

### **Regulatory Programs Support**

Economic Services staff supported the Regulatory Programs Division on several projects including subdivisions in Oneida and Fulton Counties, a hospitality project in Franklin County, a mining project in Franklin County, energy projects in Essex County, and a hospitality project in Warren County.