



ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Terry Martino, Executive Director

FROM: Dan Kelleher, Special Assistant for Economic Affairs

DATE: June 5, 2019

RE: Economic Services Unit Activities for March, April and May 2019

Village of Northville Waterfront Revitalization Strategy

On March 11 and May 6, staff participated in the Village of Northville Waterfront Revitalization planning meetings. The Village received a grant from New York State Department of State (NYS DOS) in 2019 to devise a revitalization strategy. Staff has been invited to assist the community as it develops its plan. The Village of Northville and Town of Northampton participated in the Agency's Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance program in 2014. Through this project, both the Town and Village developed and adopted a plan for economic development in the communities. The Village is now seeking to use the NYS DOS Waterfront Revitalization Program to refine its plan for its waterfront and to open a new funding stream for Village projects.

Town of Johnsbury - Economic Development Assistance

Staff is assisting the Town of Johnsbury Local Development Corporation (LDC) with business recruitment, hospitality asset development, and economic development planning. Staff attended LDC meetings on March 3 and April 17. 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 throughout 2019 to develop and implement a strategic plan for the organization.

Public Outreach

On March 20, staff spoke at the Warren County Chamber of Chambers meeting in Stony Creek, Warren County. Representatives from three chambers, two local governments, and over eight local businesses attended. Staff discussed economic development success stories in the Park and opportunities for collaboration between the Agency and local economic development agencies.

On March 26, staff attended a community meeting of the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism to learn about the organizations 2019 marketing efforts for Lake Placid as well as other regions of the Park.

On March 27 and April 11 staff spoke at the Town of Dannemora and Town of Hadley Board Meetings respectively. 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.

On May 21, staff spoke at the Empire State Forest Products Association meeting in Harrietstown, Franklin County. Staff spoke about upcoming permitting process improvements, telecommunications infrastructure improvements, and economic development.

On May 22, staff attended a public outreach meeting of the New York State Complete Count Commission (CCC). At the request of New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), the Agency provided its conference room for a CCC roundtable on May 22. Staff from the Department of Labor, Department of State, HCR, and the US Census discussed planned and potential outreach to ensure high public participations levels in the 2020 U.S. Census. It is expected that State agencies will be asked to assist in public outreach.

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 Regional Economic Development Council (NCREDC)

Staff is serving as a member of the NCREDC's Writing and Innovation Workgroups. Over the past five years, staff has assisted the NCREDC by serving on several committees including the Tourism Committee and the Priority Project Planning and Implementation Committee. This year, after a realignment of NCREDC committees, staff has been asked to serve on two of the Council's five workgroups. Throughout April and May staff has been attending bi-weekly conference calls with the Council's Co-Chairs and has been coordinating the work of the Innovation Workgroup. Staff attended NCREDC meetings on April 11 and May 30.

Pulp and Paper Workgroup and Workgroup and Symposium

On May 2nd, staff attended a symposium on innovation in the pulp and paper industry at Clarkson University in Potsdam, St. Lawrence County. The symposium highlighted technology and workforce development support for the region's pulp and paper manufacturers. Over 20 representatives from more than 15 individual pulp and paper firms attended. Agency staff has worked with a workgroup since January 2019 to develop content for the symposium and will continue to assist the workgroup as it develops a workplan based upon common challenges identified by the industry representatives.

North Country Lodging Task Force

Staff is serving as a member of the North Country Lodging Task Force. The Task Force is seeking to attract new, diverse hospitality development to underserved markets in the Region. The Task Force will develop pitch decks to present to identified hospitality developers. Staff participated in meetings of the Task Force on April 5 and May 17.

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.

On May 15, members of the CBIT met at the Agency's offices in Ray Brook to discuss outreach to local colleges to highlight entrepreneurial and business succession opportunities in the region.

2019 Local Government Day Conference

Staff assisted the Planning Division in the management and implementation of the 2019 Adirondack Park Local Government Day Conference on April 3 and 4. This year over 320 stakeholders gathered in Lake Placid to learn about local planning, economic development, invasive species, and other topics critical to a vibrant Adirondack Park.

Champlain-Hudson Power Express Trust Governance Committee

On March 21, 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 the fourth quarter of 2021.

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, broadband projects throughout the Park, recreational facilities in Essex County, a housing project in Essex County, energy projects in Essex County, and a hospitality project in Warren County.