

DRAFT MINUTES

Economic Affairs
November 13, 2015 Meeting
DFK:ap
December 1, 2015 4:00 p.m.

**Adirondack
Park Agency**

LEILANI CRAFTS ULRICH
Chairwoman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

**Economic Affairs Committee
November 13, 2015**

The Economic Affairs Committee convened at 10:00 a.m.

Economic Affairs Committee Members Present:

Arthur Lussi, Chair, Karen Feldman, Dan Wilt, Bradley Austin, DED, Robert Stegemann, DEC

Other Members and Designees Present:

Leilani Ulrich, Chairwoman, William Thomas, Sherman Craig, Richard Booth, Dierdre Scozzafava (DOS)

Local Government Review Board:

Frederick Monroe, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present:

Terry Martino, Executive Director, James Townsend, Counsel, Kate-Lyn Knight, Environmental Program Specialist 1, Mary Reardon, Secretary, Rick Weber, Deputy Director, Sarah Reynolds, Associate Counsel, Keith McKeever, Public Information Director, Annemarie Peer, Office Assistant 1

Economic Affairs Report:

Special Assistant Dan Kelleher reported that the Staff continues to market the Agency's Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance Initiative. Prior to the November elections four towns had expressed interest in participating in the initiative; these communities represented Hamilton County, Herkimer County, Essex County and Warren County. Mr. Kelleher also reported that the Adirondack Park counties taxable goods expenditures are better than surrounding counties with a 5.7% year-over-year increase for Hamilton County and relatively stable expenditure changes in Essex and Warren Counties.

Tahawus, Ltd. (Joe Hackett):

Joe Hackett, founder and owner of licensed guide service Tahawus, Ltd., presented on his Lake Placid-based company. Mr. Hackett's background includes a lifetime of outdoor experience in the Adirondacks as well as a Master's degree in education. Mr. Hackett has also served as an adventure training instructor for both the U.S. and British Armed Forces.

Tahawus, Ltd.'s primary business is guiding hunting and fishing trips. Similar to other guides, Mr. Hackett works for several families teaching generations of children the enjoyment of the outdoors as well as traditional backcountry skills. Mr. Hackett noted that his company also works with corporate groups and team training programs.

Speaking on the overall guide industry, Mr. Hackett reported that industry remains strong with 25,000 licensed guides in the State of New York. Mr. Hackett is a founder of the New York State Outdoor Guides Association and has worked to ensure that New York guides achieve the minimum qualifications and certifications necessary to enhance professionalization in the industry. Mr. Hackett believes that the guiding profession will continue to mature as specialization within the field increases.

In addition to guiding, Mr. Hackett serves as a location scout and authenticity consultant for movies, documentaries, commercials, and catalogs. Some of his clients have included the Discovery Channel, LL Bean, and New York State. Much of his work in the location scout business is through word-of-mouth advertising in the tightly-knit film and production industry. Mr. Hackett believes there is additional room for growth for the industry in the Adirondacks as producers learn about the unique wild and cultural assets that are available in the region.

After a brief question and answer period Mr. Hackett was presented with a certificate of appreciation by Chairwoman Ulrich, Executive Director Martino, Committee Chair Lussi, and Mr. Kelleher.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Mr. Lussi closed the meeting at 10:50 a.m.