



ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Terry Martino, Executive Director

FROM: Dan Kelleher, Special Assistant for Economic Affairs

DATE: February 5, 2020

RE: Economic Services Unit Activities for November and December 2019

Village of Northville Waterfront Revitalization Strategy

On November 4, staff participated in a Village of Northville Waterfront Revitalization planning meeting. 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 the plan for its waterfront and to open a new funding stream for Village projects.

Champlain-Hudson Power Express Governance Committee

On November 15, staff attended a video conference meeting of the Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) Trust Governance Committee. The Trust is responsible for managing \$117 million in Champlain Hudson Power Express project mitigation funds over the next 35 years. During the meeting, the developer of CHPE, Transmission Developers Inc., outlined an expected route change amendment for their original Public Service Commission (PSC) certificate. The Agency is a regulatory party to the original certificate for the project and as such will review the amendment to the certificate. The proposed change may result in additional public comment on the project.

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 participated in LDC meetings on November 20 and December 18. Staff continues to work with the local government to attract new hotel investment as part of the Federal Opportunity Zone Program.

Indian Lake "Commons"

On November 15, staff attended a public Design Workshop for the 7.7-acre "Townsend Property" in downtown Indian Lake. The Town purchased the property with funds from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York in 2018. The current planning process

is funded by the New York State Department of State with funds provided under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund, which the Town was awarded through the NYS Consolidated Funding Application Process. Ideas for the property include a community center, retail gallery, and farmer's market.

Town of Keene Planning

On December 13, staff met with Town of Keene leadership to discuss planning and economic development initiatives. The community is seeking to leverage its location and natural resources to expand its commercial and municipal services.

Essex County Farmland Planning

On December 19, staff attended the kickoff meeting for the Essex County Strategic Plan for Farming, Food Systems and Forestry in Elizabethtown, Essex County. The planning effort is being led by the Essex County Farmland Protection Board. Public meetings will be held throughout 2020 to advance sustainable agriculture in the county.

Nanocellulose Research and Commercialization

On November 26, staff participated in a meeting with University of Maine and Clarkson University officials to scope out a potential nanocellulose research and commercialization initiative. The goal is to research and commercialize woody biomass-derived nanomaterials that are good for the environment, sourced locally, and more structurally advanced than today's composite materials.

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.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification for the Olympic Region

On December 6, staff attended a presentation related to the Lake Placid Olympic Region being recognized as a leader of sustainability. The region received a LEED Gold certification through the LEED for Cities and Communities rating system. The Lake Placid Olympic Region is the first Olympic destination to achieve certification under the LEED for Cities and Communities rating system. The rating system evaluates communities and regions on nine priority areas including natural systems and ecology, transportation and land use, water efficiency, energy and greenhouse gas emissions, materials and resources, quality of life, and innovation.

Pulp and Paper Workgroup

Staff is collaborating with a workgroup, led by Clarkson University and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), to develop content for a webinar series targeted to pulp and paper manufacturers. The webinar series seeks to provide information to sector leaders related to the unique business challenges the industry faces. The October 2019 webinar highlighted opportunities related to workforce development.

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) On December 5, staff attended a presentation by SUNY ESF students on the potential for an eco-industrial park on the currently delineated industrial park owned by the Franklin County Industrial Development Agency (IDA). The IDA, in coordination with the Town of Tupper Lake, has served as the “client” for the students’ research. Additional emphasis related to the project includes the exploration of opportunities to advance mass timber construction in New York State.

North Country Regional Economic Development Council (NCREDC)

On November 19, staff served as part of the North Country Regional Economic Development Council’s presentation group to Governor Cuomo’s Strategic Implementation Assessment Team. The team presented the NCREDC’s 2019 Progress Report to various State agency commissioners and legislators. 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. After a realignment of NCREDC committees, staff has been asked to serve on two of the Council’s five workgroups. Throughout November and December, staff attended bi-weekly conference calls with the Council’s Co-Chairs and coordinated the work of the Innovation Workgroup.

In 2019, the three Regional Economic Development Councils (REDC) representing the Adirondack Park, the Capital Region, Mohawk Valley, and North Country Councils, received a combined \$234.7 million in grant and loan funding through Governor Cuomo’s REDC competition to pursue key economic development projects. The Mohawk Valley and Capital Regions were identified as Top Performers and the North Country council was awarded \$67.9 million.

Regulatory Programs Support

Economic Services staff supported the Regulatory Programs Division on several projects including a hospitality project in Saratoga County, a food processing facility in Saratoga County, energy projects in Essex County, and a hospitality project in Warren County.