



ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Terry Martino, Executive Director

FROM: Dan Kelleher, Special Assistant for Economic Affairs

DATE: July 8, 2021

RE: Economic Services Unit Activities for April, May, and June 2021

Municipal Planning Assistance

Staff is assisting the Village of Tupper Lake in the development of a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP). The community seeks to leverage its location on Tupper Lake, Lake Simon, and Raquette Pond to attract new visitors and businesses. The plan will focus on the downtown section of the Village within proximity to the waterfront, as well as the eastern gateway commercial district. Staff attended a digital meeting of the Village of Tupper Lake Waterfront Revitalization Planning committee on May 5.

Staff is assisting the Village of Northville in the development of its Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan. The Village received a grant from NYS Department of State (NYS DOS) to devise the revitalization strategy. The Village of Northville and Town of Northampton previously 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. Staff attended a digital meeting of the LWRP committee on May 19.

Agency staff is assisting the Town of North Elba and Village of Lake Placid in a review and update of the communities' joint zoning code. In May 2020, the Town and Village developed a 10-person committee to review the existing codes and recommend changes needed to sustainably accommodate affordable housing and continued commercial development. Staff participated in weekly meetings of the committee throughout April, May and June.

Community Engagement

On April 14, staff attended the North Country Transportation Industry Symposium hosted by the North Country Regional Chamber of Commerce and the North American Center of Excellence for Transportation Equipment (NAMTrans). Over 100 attendees learned about the growing transportation equipment manufacturing sector in the Plattsburgh region and participated in networking sessions.

On May 4, staff participated on a Lake Champlain Basin Program workgroup meeting evaluating the economic benefits of Lake Champlain. The Basin Program is seeking to

quantify the value of Lake Champlain's ecosystem services including fishing, tourism, and habitat preservation.

On May 19, staff attended a meeting the Northern Forest Center regarding a privately-funded strategy to attract new residents to the Adirondack Park. The plan identifies ways Adirondack communities can position themselves to attract the next generation of residents.

Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board (LCLGRP) Regional Recovery Plan

Staff is serving on a regional advisory workgroup to develop a Regional Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan for Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren and Washington Counties. The LCLGRP received a \$400,000 CARES Act grant through the federal Economic Development Administration to address economic distress as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. LCLGRP has retained consultants to manage public outreach and write the plan. Members of the advisory workgroup represent the five counties covered in the plan and include representatives from the North Country Regional Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton County, the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism, the North Country Regional Economic Development Council, the Washington County IDA, the Essex County IDA, and the Economic Development Corporation of Warren County.

North Country Regional Economic Development Council (NCREDC)

Staff continues to coordinate the work of the NCREDC's Innovation Workgroup and serve on the NCREDC's Writing Committee. The Council's 2021 plan was due on June 29 and on June 24, staff presented the Innovation Workgroup's 2021 report to the Council.

The workgroup is currently working to connect entrepreneurs to financing and developing strategies to recruit teleworkers in innovation sectors to the region. Staff attended digital events in support of this effort including the Cornell University Entrepreneurship Day and Cornell's E-Lab Demo Day. These events enable staff to learn about and meet entrepreneurs and businesses that may benefit from a North Country location.

Staff is also participating on a workgroup to establish innovation hubs in the Adirondacks and North Country, with an initial focus on St. Lawrence County. In the first phase of the project, the Center on Rural Innovation will evaluate strategic innovation resources in St. Lawrence County and the region beyond to determine potential gaps that can be filled by new innovation hubs.

Champlain Hudson Power Express Trust Governance Committee

On June 15, staff attended a video conference meeting of the Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) Trust Governance Committee. The CHPE project will likely

undergo a financial close in 2021, unlocking the first tranche of over \$117 million in environmental remediation funds to be distributed over the next 35 years.

North Country Center for Businesses in Transition

Staff continues to work with the North Country Center for Businesses in Transition (CBIT) in their ongoing work 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. Staff participated in workgroup meetings related to entrepreneur recruitment, infrastructure development, and marketing.

Regulatory Programs Support

Economic Services staff supported the Regulatory Programs Division on projects including residential projects in Franklin and Essex counties; infrastructure projects in Essex, Fulton, Herkimer, St. Lawrence, and Warren counties; an institutional project in Essex County; mines in St. Lawrence and Warren County; a commerce park expansion in Essex County; and a hospitality project in Essex County.