



## Adirondack Park Agency

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

TERRY MARTINO  
Executive Director

### **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Terry Martino, Executive Director

FROM: Dan Kelleher, Special Assistant for Economic Affairs

DATE: March 12, 2020

RE: Economic Services Unit Activities for January and February 2020

#### **Local Government Outreach**

Staff has begun outreach to newly elected supervisors in the Adirondack Park. On February 10 staff met with Supervisor Roy Holzer of the Town of Wilmington and on February 27 staff met with Supervisor Clayton Barber of the Town of Chesterfield. The purpose of the meetings is to introduce Agency services to the government officials and seek opportunities for collaboration. Staff will continue to set up introductory meetings with the Park's 14 newly elected supervisors over the next several months.

#### **Community Outreach**

On January 23, staff attended the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism's (ROOST) Annual Meeting in Saranac Lake, Franklin County. ROOST is the destination marketing organization for Essex and Hamilton Counties and is also involved in many community initiatives. ROOST is coordinating the 2023 World University Games to be held in Lake Placid, Essex County.

On February 24, staff attended the grand opening of Northwood School's "Innovation Hub" in Lake Placid, Essex County. The facility will offer after-school, weekend, and summer programs, guest lectures and professional development seminars. At the facility, Northwood School will offer coursework in robotics, rocketry, innovation and design, and entrepreneurial studies.

On February 24, staff attended a local business training in Lake Placid, Essex County hosted by the SUNY Canton Small Business Development Center and CITEC Business Solutions. Over 30 business owners attended a workshop to learn about strategic business planning.

#### **Adirondack Housing**

On January 22, staff attended a special joint Town of North Elba and Village of Lake Placid Board meeting in Lake Placid, Essex County. The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate a draft community housing needs assessment report for the community. The report also includes a workforce housing strategy. Additionally, on February 25, staff

attended a public hearing on proposed short-term rental regulations in the Town and Village.

On January 22, staff attended Housing and Lodging Roundtable for the Town of Ticonderoga led by the Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance. The roundtable is anticipated to be the first of a series of meetings to address Ticonderoga's lack of lodging options as well as evaluate the community's needs for workforce housing.

### **Nanocellulose Research and Commercialization**

Staff is collaborating 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. It is anticipated that the team will seek grant funding throughout 2020 for such a project.

### **North Country Center for Businesses in Transition**

Staff attended the 2020 kick-off meeting of 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.

### **Pulp and Paper Workgroup**

Staff is collaborating with a workgroup, led by Clarkson University and Rennselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), to develop content for a webinar series targeted to pulp and paper manufacturers. The webinar series provides information to sector leaders related to the unique business challenges the industry faces. The first webinar of 2020 will be on March 12 and the topic will be nanocellulose commercialization.

### **North Country Regional Economic Development Council (NCREDC)**

On February 26 staff attended a meeting of the North Country Regional Economic Development Council. Staff provided the Council with updates of the Innovation Workgroup's activities over the past six months including the development of a teleworker incentive program, the scheduling of a second investor conference, and the pursuit of a nanocellulose commercialization facility.

As a member of the NCREDC's Innovation Workgroup, staff has been working with regional partners to develop and implement a teleworker incentive program marketed to workers in innovative industries. On February 5, the workgroup, through Adirondack angel investing cooperative Point Positive, Inc. with assistance from Agency staff, submitted a grant proposal to the Adirondack Foundation for initial funding. Similar to the Tulsa Remote and Vermont Remote Worker Grant Programs, this proposed

program would provide cash awards to teleworkers who relocate into designated communities.

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

On January 28 and February 25 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.

### **2020 Local Government Day Conference**

Staff is assisting the Planning Division in the management and implementation of the 2020 Adirondack Park Local Government Day Conference on April 29 and 30. This year's conference highlights timely Adirondack issues including housing, short-term rentals, federal funding, and Adirondack-scale wastewater treatment systems.

### **Regulatory Programs Support**

Economic Services staff supported the Regulatory Programs Division on several projects including a hospitality project in Saratoga County, a subdivision in Fulton County, a subdivision in St. Lawrence County, energy projects in Essex County, and a hospitality project in Warren County.