

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING
TOURISM/AGRICULTURE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 4, 2019**

ATTENDEES:

Legislators: Dale Weston, Ed Hollenbeck, Mike Roberts, Marte Sauerbrey

Staff: LeeAnn Tinney, Linda Sampson, Rita Hollenbeck

Guests: Barb Neal, Tioga County Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Mary Kate Wheeler, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Legislator Mullen was not in attendance.

Legislator Weston called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

MINUTES

- Approval of minutes from May 7, 2019 – Legislator Weston asked for approval of minutes from the May 7, 2019 committee meeting. Legislator Roberts made a motion to accept the May 7, 2019 minutes, seconded by Legislator Hollenbeck. All were in favor.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION (CCE) REPORT: Barb Neal & Mary Kate Wheeler - Ms. Neal, the Ag & Horticulture Educator for CCE, introduced herself and distributed an update of Program Impacts and a 2019 Tri-County Farm Tail Guide. Ms. Neal reported being very busy due to the interest in Hemp that became legal on December 20th, stating that 99% of the people want to grow CBD hemp which grows like a horticultural crop, not a field crop. At present, 14 farmers are signed up and permitted to grow hemp in Tioga County. Regulations are changing on a weekly basis. Every 2 weeks, on Friday morning, Ms. Neal is on a conference call with 20 other people for Cornell and Ag & Markets updates and any other updates from around the State. There is a concern that a lot of the farmers doing this are brand new at farming. Ms. Neal went on to review the distributed report.

Ms. Wheeler, with the South Central NY Dairy and Field Crops Team, is the Farm Business Management Specialist. Ms. Wheeler introduced herself and distributed the 2017 Census of Agriculture. As a team, the mission is to help people with improving profitability and achieving their family goals. There are 4 full time specialists on the team that put on programs throughout the winter season and do a lot of individual work, as well as facilitate Profit Teams that work as advisory groups for individual farms. They bring in bankers,

nutritionists and any advisors they might have to help them make better decisions and improve profitability. Ms. Wheeler reported on two updates:

1. A blog has been created. They've gone digital posting newsletter articles, success stories and any press releases. Ms. Wheeler invited everyone to subscribe to the blog.
2. Annually, in May, the team gets out and monitors the height of alfalfa plants in farmer's fields in the six county region. Ms. Wheeler measured the 30 fields in Tioga County. This is a great opportunity to visit the farms and helps predict the optimal date for the first cutting.

Ms. Tinney reported the following; agenda previously emailed:

1. Outreach

- Director (L Tinney)
 - Visits
 - North Avenue Business Owners Group – Ms. Tinney and Ms. Woodburn met with this group on May 30th. The group is looking for support and wanted to discuss ideas for improvement. Legislator Sauerbrey was also in attendance.
 - Meetings
 - Southern Tier 4th Wave Coalition – Partnering with a group of the 8 counties in our region putting together an initiative regarding battery technology; battery storage, battery use, implementation and strategies. A possible opportunity for the Southern Tier was discussed.
 - Finger Lakes Wine Country Tourism Marketing Association – Attended the regular meeting.
 - Finger Lakes Wine Country Tourism Marketing Association – Attended a roundtable event; looking at tourism across the region.
 - STEAM 21 Steering Committee - Owego Apalachin Central School District working on promoting a community alliance around STEAM. A press conference was held at the Boys and Girls Club Friday, May 31st. ED&P is working with the school and looking to access funding.
 - Valerie White, Executive Director, MWBE office – This meeting was brought about because of a letter Ms. Tinney wrote to the Governor's Office to consider reducing the MWBE requirement for our DRI. It was a good meeting with Ms. White and she will be taking the information to the Governor's Office to see what can be done.
 - Regional Council, Advanced Mfg. Work Group – Meeting attended.
 - Regional Council Board – Meeting attended and reported on the status of our DRI.
 - Other
 - TCIDA - Board vacancy – Kevin Dougherty is resigning because his work is making it difficult for him to attend the meetings. The IDA Board has interviewed 2 candidates to make recommendations to the Legislature for appointment. Resumes were distributed for Christine Lester and Eric Knolles. The IDA Board meets Wednesday night and will make an official

- recommendation and, due to timing, Ms. Tinney would like to bring forward the resolution for appointment at worksession on Thursday.
 - ST8 Ag Summit – All day event attended, over 200 in attendance. Nice event, great speakers.
 - Racker Annual Breakfast – Event held at Tioga Downs. TEAM Tioga was invited and DRI efforts were acknowledged; nice event.
- Economic Development (B Woodburn)
 - Visits
 - ENSCO Avionics
 - Raymond Hadley – Site visit on May 28th.
 - Meetings
 - USDA – Ms. Woodburn & Ms. Tinney met with James Walfrand on May 16th.
 - REAP Board Meeting attended on May 8th.
 - Small business owners – Met with two.
 - SUNY Broome – Met on the Owego Campus Center on May 22nd.
 - Grants
 - Village of Owego – Assisting with EPA grant for improvements to the fire and police stations.
 - Provided input on 4th Wave Renewable Energy and Storage and assisted 3 Rivers Development with application to the Tioga Downs Foundation - Award anticipated in July.
 - Outreach to major businesses on CFA grants:
 - ◆ Village of Owego – Assisting with NY Main Street Grant
 - ◆ Tioga Downs – Opportunity Zone/URI Grant possibility
 - Owego Apalachin Central School District – Assisting with Workforce Development Initiative Funding.
 - Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) for Strategic Planning - Application written and funding awarded for REAP. Tioga County selected as a REDI awardee on May 24th.
 - Code Enforcement Feasibility Study I (REAP) - USDA application submitted; funding award anticipated in August.
 - Workforce Development Pipeline Strategy Phase II - USDA application submitted; funding award anticipated in August.
 - Village of Owego Police Station improvements – Assisted with application for Tioga Downs funding; award anticipated in July.
- Planning (E Jardine)
 - Meetings
 - Village of Nichols Board of Trustees Meeting on May 20th.
 - Village of Owego – Site visit at Evergreen Cemetery regarding application for Cultural Landscape Report.
 - 2020 Census Complete Count Committee – Continue to work on.
 - Held municipal training session on Agricultural Farmland Protection and Viability – 40+ attendees.

- BMTS Long Range Plan Steering Committee – Meeting attended.
- Grants
 - Village of Owego – Assisting with OPRHP EPF Historic Preservation; CFA grant.
 - Applied Technology Manufacturing Corporation – Assisting with CFA grant.
- Plans
 - Village of Waverly – Assisting with Comprehensive Plan.
 - County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – Nearing completion; asking the County and municipalities for approval resolutions in July and August.
- 239 Reviews
 - 2019-006NA: Village of Owego, Rezoning Nobelletti property 128.16-1-8 from Residential 3 to Industrial, TCPB waived their recommendation as the Board had recommended approval of this identical action/request in a previous referral from the Village.
 - 2019-007: Village of Waverly, PUD Special Permit and Site Plan Review, Soprano's Family Deli. Applicant wishes to install a digital sign. Staff recommended approval and the TCPB unanimously carried the vote.
- Other
 - Village of Waverly – Continue with Waverly Glen Park improvement projects.
 - Town of Richford – Final Building Condition Assessment for the Richford Graded School complete; next steps are to confirm priorities and secure funding from local foundations for building restoration.
 - Town of Berkshire – Assisting with Sidewalk TAP 2020, engineering firms to make proposal presentations to Town Board.
 - Continued work on the Consolidated Code Enforcement Services initiative.
- Agricultural Development (Z Baker)
 - Visits
 - Jeff Barton – Farmer with interest in selling land in Apalachin for development.
 - Meetings
 - Municipal Agricultural Land Use Training – Information on working with the Amish; Ag District Realty Disclosure Law.
 - Delta Engineers – Provided information on local Ag districts for solar projects in Town of Nichols and Town of Tioga.
 - Grants
 - Candor Farmers Market – Assisting with application for Farm Credit East \$1,000 grant.
 - Administration of NYS OPRHP Snowmobile Grant.
 - NY Grown & Certified application reviews – Two farms, in Tompkins and Chenango counties, were funded in Round 3.
 - Other
 - Facebook posts – Advertising for local events and resources for farmers.

- Working on brochure for Ag District Realty Disclosure Law to provide to local realtors.
- Updating agricultural property database – Ongoing.
- Researching Right-to-Farm Laws (Ag & Farmland Protection Plan) – Looking to promote adoption of Right-to-Farm by Tioga County municipalities.
- Wrote article on results of USDA Census of Agriculture for CCE Farm & Garden Newsletter
- Community Development (A Hendrickson)
 - Abbey Hendrickson start date June 24th.

2. Project/Plan Updates

- Southern Tier Child Care NOW (Tinney) – Participating in a regional proposal addressing childcare in rural communities.
- Workforce Development Pipeline Strategy Study (Woodburn)
 - Phase I completed May 10th.
 - Anticipate hearing about USDA funding award for Phase II in August 2019.
 - Ongoing grant administration
- Restore NY
 - Village of Owego Project (Woodburn)
 - ◆ Grant Development Agreement signed and submitted to ESD.
 - ◆ Briggs – Demolition work continuing.
 - ◆ Awad – Construction in process; framing completed on second and third floors, windows installed, exterior painting anticipated to begin in June.
 - Village of Waverly Project – Ms. Woodburn taking over this project from Ms. Saraceno and is working on the following:
 - ◆ National Parks Service (NPS) review ongoing.
 - ◆ Working with property owner to identify new contractor.
- DRI (TEAM Tioga)
 - Continuing to review and organize projects in anticipation of project announcements in July/August 2019.
 - TEAM Tioga working on creating RFP's and establish committees for public projects we anticipate being funded.
- Housing Study - Phase II (Woodburn/Hendrickson)
 - Strategic investment model identified by full task force (public-private partnership).
 - Phase II plan anticipated to be completed in June 2019.
 - On-going administration of grant; more information to follow.
- Land Bank (Saraceno)
 - Preconstruction meeting held May 22nd regarding properties the County turned over to the Land Bank.
 - Tentative start date for demolitions is June 17th; 3 in Owego, 6 in Waverly.
 - Demolitions must be finalized by July 27th.

- Upstate Machinery, LLC is the demolition contractor and must supply the following:
 - ◆ Mandatory insurances.
 - ◆ Executed demolition contract.
- 2nd Quarter 2019 – Funding disbursement request has been submitted.
- All invoices received to date are paid.
- Board of Directors – 2 appointments needed in July.

3. Other

- Zack Baker resignation – Mr. Baker has accepted a full fellowship to receive his masters at Florida State University and will be relocating.
 - Last day 6/14
 - New hire – While Mr. Baker’s position with Ag emphasis, began as temporary and that the IDA makes a contribution to his salary, Ms. Tinney brought forward to this committee the desire to hire a fulltime person to replace Mr. Baker. After a short discussion, the committee asked Ms. Tinney to provide back up to justify her request and bring to the next committee meeting for discussion.
- Budget
 - Economic Development – The Land Bank funding grant administrative fees above Ms. Saraceno’s salary have been added to the Economic Development Budget.
 - Planning - Budget is on track.

Resolution – the following resolution was presented and approved:

- F06 - Authorize to Submit Application and Administer 2019 NYMS North Ave Revitalization Program

ADJOURNMENT – With no further topics of discussion or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Linda Sampson
 Administrative Assistant to Economic Development & Planning