

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

JANUARY 10, 2007 – 3:30 P.M.

Present: Chairman A. Johnson; Supervisors Daly, Gutheil, Janik and Peck; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Shelby Schneider, SEDC; Jason Kemper, Planning; George Hodgson, Environmental Services; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Jack Murray, County Auditor; Press.

Chairman A. Johnson called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Peck the minutes of the December 11, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.

Chairman A. Johnson appointed Mr. Peck as Vice Chairman. Mr. Peck accepted the appointment.

Mr. Johnson said over the past several years the County has contracted with SEDC to administer the Saratoga County Zones Program. A copy of the contract was distributed to all committee members for their review.

A motion was made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Ms. Daly to approve the Empire Zone Administration Contract in the amount of \$60,000. Unanimous.

Mr. Johnson said this past year, five new designated zone areas were approved by the State, with the Zone Development Program currently under review.

Mr. Johnson said there are emergency regulations that DEC is going to pass regarding additional testing for hatcheries with time sensitive responses that need to be made.

Mr. Hodgson said this is a disease that has recently been identified in the United States, VHS, (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia), which poses significant threat to both the wild and cultured fisheries resources of the State. This was identified in New York waters in May of this year, at which time the Federal Government initiated a new rule restricting the interstate transfer of fish in all of the Great Lakes.

New York State DEC is proposing some rules and requiring nine different tests to be done in an effort to control the disease identified in private hatcheries. The tests run approximately \$1,600 per lot of fish (60 fish) and need to be done annually.

DEC is currently paying for the first of the nine tests that are required in the private hatcheries, he said.

Mr. Hodgson said the stocking of private hatchery fish throughout Saratoga County for public sport fishing is responsible for generating many millions of dollars annually to Saratoga County's local economy.

Mr. Hodgson is requesting a resolution to assure the long term protection and viability of the State's sport fishing industry, and assume all costs for the testing of fish raised at privately owned fish hatcheries within New York State which will be required pursuant to the proposed emergency changes to control the fish disease VHS.

A motion was made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Gutheil to approve a resolution recommending New York State conduct responsible and cost effective fish monitoring for the Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) disease in private New York State fish hatcheries. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Ms. Daly the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom