

St. Lawrence County
Board of Legislators
Planning and Economic Development Committee Meeting
April 24, 2008

Present: Brad Mintener, Mark Bellardini, Wade Davis, Ron Frank, Ray Fountain, Karen St. Hilaire, Tim Redmond, Ray Fountain, Jason Clark, Fred Morrill, Sam Burns

Guest: Greg Hart, Workforce Development Institute

Greg Hart from the Workforce Development Institute (WDI) gave a presentation. His office is in Massena. WDI is new in Massena, but not new to New York State. The WDI mission is to improve the lives of working families across NY State by providing workforce intelligence and programs in economic development, education and training, cultural enrichment, family support, and disabled and dislocated worker services. WDI completes community audits of the workforce. He distributed the last one completed for our area by RMS in 2005. As an example of their successful efforts is a certificate program they helped to develop at Clinton Community College in wind turbine technology.

Four Lane Highway - we discussed the capital corridor and the possible effects of it upon our 4 lane highway efforts.

Essential Air Service (EAS) – Cape Air will begin service to Watertown, Ogdensburg, and Massena on September 16, 2008. We discussed the Bush administrations efforts to reduce EAS subsidies. Efforts to expand service in Massena may require a runway expansion at Massena airport.

Race Track – public hearings will be held in Brasher on May 8 and 12.

BION – the Bion task force of April 8, 2008 was discussed. OBPA is having ongoing negotiations concerning Port of Ogdensburg use and infrastructure.

CEDS – Fred and Sam will meet with the CEDS committee May 15.

OBPA – May 22 OBPA is hosting a US/Canada Cross Border Seminar. Wind turbine components from Europe are expected to start arriving at the port around May 1.

Next committee meeting is scheduled for 6 P.M. on Thursday, May 29th, in the Board Room.

The meeting concluded at 8:00 P.M.