

## MINUTES

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, July 6, 2022 10:05 a.m.**

Present: Supervisors Johnson, Groat, Chatfield, Robusto, Lasher, Brady and Eygnor, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Brian Sams, Tourism Director Christine Worth, Economic Development/Planning Department Representatives Brian Pincelli and Kathleen Bronson and Cornell Cooperative Extension Wayne County Office Representatives Elizabeth Claypoole and Robert Hadad.

Minutes from the June 8<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting were approved as written.

Ms. Claypoole distributed this week's Lake Ontario Fruit Program Newsletter. The newsletter focused on the spotted wing drosophila that is harming fruit such as raspberries, blackberries cherries, blueberries, peaches and thin-skinned grapes. There are cultural and chemical practices that can be put in place to manage the spotted wing drosophila. The oriental fruit moth and coding moth have been in the area and are causing damage to fruit. Their presence is not always visual, if scabs, lesions or bitter rot are determined the fruit cannot be processed.

Ms. Claypoole noted the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) became a Federal regulation in 2011. The Extension Office continues to work with local growers to help them comply with this program. Cornell Vegetable Specialist Robert Hadad addressed the Committee regarding FSMA. He noted farm food safety begins with good agricultural practices to provide safe fruit and vegetables. Farmers need to take steps to minimize contamination during production and harvest of their fresh produce. A growing number of retailers are requiring farmers to have independent third-party inspections of farms, certifying that their fruits and vegetables are being grown, harvested and packaged using good agricultural practices. Cornell offers food safety education and outreach programs by working with stakeholders to increase technical assistance to producers, increase food safety training opportunity to farms, and provide additional resources, training, and consulting opportunities for producers. Long term program goals are to increase the number of producers with food safety knowledge, increase food safety training and workshop participants, increase the number of producers with food safety plans and increase the number of producers participating in the New York State Grown and Certified Program. The end result will be an increase in retail and wholesale markets for producers, while preventing foodborne illnesses, protecting public health and providing access to safe and nutritious food.

Mr. Hadad noted there are many risks that can affect water quality; however, Food and Drug Administration regulations on the matter are very difficult to understand. Most growers have ponds and streams on their property they draw water from; it would be a large task to have all the water sources tested regularly. The Extension Fruit Team is reviewing both current and past regulations and other water resource programs, as they are detailed. They are working with each grower individually, as each one's circumstances are different for the potential of water

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contamination. Growers are being taught how to take proper water samples and the need to have samples tested within six hours of being collected. It was noted there are not enough water testing labs in the State to meet the needs of all growers.

Mr. Hadad said the Food and Drug Administration is requiring traceability on where crops are grown and where they are going to and coming from. At this time he does not know how this program will be implemented; as he acquires more information he will share it with farmers. Extension is also helping local growers with low cost solutions, or investments in the farms, to eliminate contamination inside their facilities.

Ms. Claypoole reminded Supervisors of the July 29<sup>th</sup> Ag. Tour. The event will begin at the Extension Building in Newark with breakfast at 7:50 a.m. and a visit to Smith Packing and Lake Breeze Fruit Farms.

The monthly activities report for the Tourism Department was included with the agenda. It included a list of events and meetings attended by Mrs. Worth and staff. She met with the sales and marketing group for Microtel Hotel that is being constructed in Macedon. The hotel will open in 2023. She noted the hospitality group has a lot of success with hotel growth. Mrs. Worth reported she had a great meeting with photographer John Kucko about how he can assist with the bicentennial celebration next year. Staff continue with advertising efforts, the Apple Tasting Tour brochure, app, and website are in the process of being updated. The 24<sup>th</sup> Erie Canal Bike Tour is scheduled from July 10<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>; the tour travels through Wayne County on July 12<sup>th</sup>, local business along the route have been notified of the event. New staff are becoming familiar with the Department and learning about County tourism assets. Mrs. Worth continues to participate on the County's Bicentennial Committee; she is working with a travel writer who will be visiting later this month. The Outdoor Recreation Coordinator continues to provide weekly fishing updates on-line, via phone message and e-mail. He also provided Clyde assistance with their children's fishing day and will be involved in the upcoming Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District Youth Fishing Contest.

The following transmittals were presented for the Tourism Department:

--Authorization to create the position of full-time Account Clerk and abolish the positions of part-time Outdoor Recreation Coordinator and part-time Account Clerk as of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023, when the Outdoor Recreation Coordinator retires. Mrs. Worth said the position will be filled by the current part-time Account Clerk in the Department and that part-time position eliminated. She said having an additional full-time staff member will be to the best advantage of the Office. The change is reflected in Mrs. Worth's 2023 budget submission. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to accept the bid for 2022 Visitor Guide printing and authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a contract with Eastwood Litho Inc. for printing of 35,000 Guides for a price of \$19,583. Mrs. Worth stated printing costs are about 20% higher than the previous printing; resulting in less Visitor Guides being printing this year. Approved 5-0.

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The following transmittals were presented for the Economic Development/Planning Department:

--Authorization to amend the budget and refund the Brownfield Assessment Account \$464,153. Mr. Pincelli noted this is a continuation of the \$600,000 Brownfield Assessment Grant awarded in 2021. Funding is being used to conduct site assessments and develop clean-up plans. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to release Requests for Proposals for procuring services of a Brownfield consultant for State and Federal grant programs and authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign necessary agreements related to this request. The Department plans to work with the selected consultant to continue the Brownfield Program. Approved 5-0.

An out of state travel request was presented for Mr. Pincelli and Planner Thomas Lyons to attend an Economic Development and Planning National Conference in Oklahoma City from August 16 to 19 for a cost of \$3,926. Mr. Pincelli noted the conference will be paid for with grant funds. Approved.

Mr. Pincelli reviewed ongoing efforts to prepare shovel ready sites, including an assessment of existing conditions at business parks across the County utilizing a grant provided by Empire State Development. This assessment will be utilized in preparation of seeking funding under the \$200 million FAST NY Shovel Ready Grant Program.

Mr. Pincelli also noted Senator Schumer was in Sodus on Tuesday to announce the upcoming availability of STORM Act financing to provide access to capital for resiliency projects. New York State is waiting for pending FEMA guidelines and will act as an administrator of the program.

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m. The next meeting of the Economic Development/Planning Committee is scheduled for [Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 a.m.](#)