

**North Country Regional Economic Development Council  
Meeting Summary  
The Commons at Fort Drum  
April 11, 2013**

**Open Session**

**Attendance:** Lt. Gov Duffy, Tony Collins, Garry Douglas, John Donoghue, Addie Russell, Betty Little, John Ettling, Kate Fish, Carolyn Fitzpatrick, Jeff Graham, Paul Grasso, Hugh Hill, Billy Jones, Cheryl Mayforth, Jim McKenna, Carl McLaughlin, Bill Murray, Mark Tryniski, Eric Virkler, Donna Wadsworth, Daniel Wilt, James Wright

**Also Present:** Andrew Kennedy, Sen. Dick Ashlaw (Sen. Griffo), Sarah Compo (Sen. Ritchie), and Roseanne Murphy.

**Absent:** Ken Blankenbush, Janet Duprey, Joseph Griffo, Patty Ritchie, Cali Brooks, Randy Douglas, Bridget-Ann Hart, Bill Farber, Donald Kasprzak, James Langley, Anne Merrill, Jon Putney, Marie Regan, David Tomberlin, Lisa Weber

Garry Douglas opened the session at 1:37 p.m.

Garry Douglas welcomed everyone and highlighted the council's work during today's meeting, including:

- Finalized the application process for the Infrastructure Fund for water and sewer projects that are ready to go this year. Every local government will be notified.
- Endorsed a general permit process before the APA for sustainably managed forests.
- Heard about status of many of the projects in year 1 and 2.
- Announcement of a third year competition, but waiting for information. CFA applications may be submitted up to a month earlier. Scoring may be done over the summer, with announcements by end of the year.

Garry Douglas said the council discussed apprenticeship opportunities in the region and its desire to see them used. Lt. Gov. will return to Albany and bring back guidance.

Public Comments.

None

Final Announcements:

Next council meeting will be held in June. Date: TBA.

Working groups should continue their efforts.

Carl McLaughlin – The Federal budget has been released. The Department of Defense announced possibly two more rounds of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). While closure of Fort Drum is not a primary concern, DOD is going through a programmatic review on future force strength with 125,000 soldiers in play. DOD stated a need to reduce from 21 installations and 80,000 soldiers nationwide. There are two options, and Ft. Drum could end up with more soldiers under Option 2. DOD is considering adding three battalions (up to 3,000 more soldiers) to Fort Drum. The post's economic impact study has been done. The Army has announced that Tuesday, April 23, will be a listening date at

Case High School in Watertown for community to respond to the practical impact of what would happen to Ft. Drum if BRAC and reduction of soldier strength occurred.

Important dates:

- 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium, St. Lawrence University, Canton – Monday, April 15
- 16th Annual Adirondack Park Local Government Day Conference, Crown Plaza Resort, Lake Placid– April 24-25
- Adirondack Day, NYS Legislative Office Building, Albany – Monday, April 29
- ReEnergy Black River Biomass Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Ft. Drum – Friday, May 31
- No. Country Clean Energy Conference, Lake Placid Conference Center – June 5-7

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.