

TECHNOLOGY & STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
MARIETTA, FRAZIER, CLARK, MCCARTY, LAPIN
May 2, 2019

Absent: Representatives Frazier, Clark, and McCarty

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION- DON SMYERS

Don Smyers discussed Cornell Cooperative Extension's work plan noting the following including but not limited to:

- Ag Commodity Areas (Milk/Beef)
- Dairy is important but it is challenged in this County- it is changing- strong alternatives include beef, lamb, goat
- Decreasing numbers of dairy producers- smaller number of larger farms
- The hilly topography and cool climate make it a good County for forages/grasses so producers can remain strategically strong in conversion of products
- Youth Development- 4-H- huge piece in Otsego County, science, technology, math, gives youth the opportunity for confidence building, healthy lifestyles, and character development
- Need to develop a entrepreneurial spirit among young farmers and find a market for beef
- No Ag Educator for this County but there is the Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crop Team- strong need to leverage what the team brings
- Successful market calf auction sale based on the West Virginia Model- attract buyers from greater distances
- Ag Implementation Specialist- working with other Ag organizations including CADE, Soil and Water, OCCA, Otsego 2000, one stop shop for Ag Community, creating new opportunities for economic development
- Need to work more closely with the Otsego Now on grant opportunities
- Ag Tourism- there is a financial/economic connection and it strengthens the County and the value of Agriculture

OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING- PENNY SEEGER

Penny Seeger discussed the OET department's work plan noting the following including but not limited to:

- Workforce funding has decreased, so has staff
- Currently 3 County employees at the office including herself
- Alice Savino from Oneida County is the PT Director
- Potential for more funding next year
- Team effort- integral part of the career center, work closely with the Department of Labor
- Workforce Investment money pays for salaries of staff, training dollars and services for the customers

- Working closely with Otsego County Chamber and reaching out to the employers in the County
- There is lack of accessible training in Otsego County
- no local community college which is a large barrier
- 3 groups of individuals served: Adults- 18+ looking for jobs/training, Dislocated Workers- 18+ that have been let go at a job or their employer closed, Out of School Youth- individuals that are looking for High school diploma or GED
- the main focus is employment, training and job placement
- Grants: Disability Employment Initiative- Round 8, Otsego County 1 of 3 Counties in NY that was awarded money- educational type grant for Disabled Youth, helps with coordination and how to best serve people with disabilities
- Youth Program: 16-24 year olds, eligible based on certain barriers such as homeless, pregnant, high school drop out, there is a need to get individuals trained in manufacturing and energy fields
- Drop out reasons for youth are different than 25 years ago, now it is more a social thing (bullying), anxiety, agoraphobia, and addiction in some cases
- Summer Youth Program: income eligible program, the intent was for larger cities to get kids off the streets and get them working, it is a great opportunity for youth to work in the summer here, average is about 90-95 kids per year (about 50% are in Oneonta)
- OET works with many other agencies including Access VR (used to be VESID), A4TD- program for 55 and older- training and work experience, StaffWorks, DOL
- CDO Workforce.org website explains the services available with links to other pages
- Workforce Investment Board- quarterly meetings, made up of 3 Counties

Representative Marietta stated that Penny Seeger should work with Personnel and the Highway Superintendent as the County is having a hard time recruiting workers.

The committee discussed having Alice Savino present at an upcoming full Board Meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the committee adjourned.