

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MARCH 9, 2015
SPECIAL MEETING**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: K. Graves, N. Ungermann, C. Crandall (Absent: D. Fanton, A. McGraw, T. O'Grady)

Others Present: H. Budinger, P. Curran, D. Decker, D. Healy, T. Hopkins, C. Jessup, T. Miner, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Resource Management Committee Chairman Karl Graves.

Bioprocessing Education Research & Development Center (BERDC)

A brief discussion of the benefits of entering into a contract with Seneca Trail Resource Conservation and Development Council to have that entity assist Allegany County with management of the County's resources occurred. [The information that follows in brackets is adapted from the Allegany County Committee of the Whole, January 12, 2015. It seems that because of mill closures and contractions, a new forest economy becomes necessary. This is an alternative approach, re-establishing the heritage supply chain of 100 years ago into a modern context, reclaiming underutilized sites and mills. The biorefinery would utilize a different segment of the same market that the paper industry thrived on. "The New Forest Economy" process consists of extracting chemicals from wood chips to create a wide variety of products. The extraction process removes chemicals, sugars, cellulose, and other products from wood chips. One product produced in this manner is a wood pellet that is able to reject water. These wood pellets wouldn't have to be packaged as they currently are in plastic bags. Additionally, the burning of the pellets is more efficient as they burn hotter and produce less ash. Electricity and heat would also be created during the process which could be used to heat greenhouses, villages, industrial parks, or subdivisions. The Wellsville Campus of Alfred State was chosen as a site to develop the research facility because it can serve as a research facility, offer educational opportunities, and promote industrial tourism.]

Chairman Crandall indicated that Allegany County will be one of many partners in this venture and that our contribution, although it will not make or break the operation, will certainly help keep the studies on track. He reminded the Committee that Cattaraugus County had already entered into an agreement with Seneca Trails. Allegany County is proposing entering into an agreement with Seneca Trails for a period of three years, with \$25,000 to be paid to Seneca Trails for each of the three years. Although the 2016 and 2017 payments can be budgeted, the payment for 2015 must come out of Contingency.

Legislator Ungermann remarked that the EPA has new regulations on outdoor wood boilers, and a lot of that firewood is not marketable timber. He feels something has to be done with that wood because he would hate to see it go to waste. He noted he is in favor of anything we can do to make us a little greener. Legislator Graves noted that Senator Young is supportive of this initiative.

County Attorney Tom Miner indicated that the contract provides for Seneca Trails to assist Allegany County to enter into the new forest economy. A resolution authorizing a three-year contract with the Seneca Trail Resource Conservation and Development group and authorizing a transfer of \$25,000 from A1990.429 (Contingency) to A8710.499 (County

Reforestation-Contractual) to finance the agreement was supported on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Ungermann, and carried. The resolution will come off the floor at today's Board meeting. **Prepare Resolution**

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Ungermann, seconded by Legislator Crandall, and carried

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators