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Green Energy for the Taking

In June 2009, the Town of Barnstead was awarded a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant to support the renovation and adaptive reuse of the former TIMCO plant, a former white pine sawmill located at 27 Depot Road in Barnstead. Over the ensuing months, Lakes Region Pellets has been working at top speed to convert the property to a start-up wood pellet manufacturing facility. Now operational and bagging premium wood pellets, Lakes Region Pellets hopes to recommission a five megawatt Wellons boiler, fueled by waste pellets, to provide heat to the entire pellet manufacturing facility. Gregg True, Executive Vice President and COO of Lakes Region Pellets, LLC, believes there will be an abundance of excess energy which could be dissipated into a district heating system for the Town of Barnstead. A district heating system requires a low-cost heat source and a hot water distribution system designed to serve a defined geographic area.

Michael Kowalski of the Barnstead Development Group and Barnstead Selectman Gordon Preston were joined in October by Dr. Morris A. Pierce, Energy Manager of the University of Rochester, and Jennifer Boulanger, BCEDC, on a tour of the Barnstead neighborhoods near Lakes Region Pellets which could benefit from a district heating system. Dr. Pierce confirmed that the boiler offers a sufficient source of renewable energy and the validity of the concept. Kowalski and Preston will continue to work to define the geographic boundaries within which it would be cost effective to establish a district heating system; further, they will consider the merits of the distribution medium, either hot water or steam. It

is hoped that Barnstead Center and Barnstead Parade schools, businesses, homes, and municipal buildings would be heated and cooled by the heat loop.

District heating networks, heat-only boiler stations, and cogeneration plants require high initial capital expenditure and financing. A district heating system requires a long-term commitment and provides a long-term return on investment. Benefits to the community are many and include the avoidance of energy costs, through the use of otherwise wasted heat energy, and reduced investment in individual household heating equipment.

District energy systems are common in Europe. In New Hampshire, community heating systems are already used in Concord, on several college campuses, and at Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center. Communities in several northeastern states are interested in developing new district energy systems using renewable resources such as biomass, solar and waste heat where available. According to its web site, the non-profit group, Northeast District Energy Corporation, "has been assembled to develop and build new community-wide district energy systems in New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire. The initial goal is to establish at least one new system in each state to gain experience with specific regulatory and financing requirements in each of those jurisdictions." Currently being evaluated for a district heating system is Groveton, New Hampshire.

Barnstead's green energy objectives make economic sense for our times.



New Alton Business Springs Up

Chamberlain Springs LLC, a natural spring water bottling company, has sprung up as Alton's newest business. Located at the beautiful Sunny Slope Farm, the bottling operation is situated in an historic barn on Old Wolfboro Road on 282 acres of pristine farmland, abundant with natural springs. Deanna O'Shaughnessy and Fae Kontje-Gibbs, the owners of Sunny Slope Farm, along with Deanna's partner Timothy Morgan, have worked since 2003 to finalize the approval and permit process and, most recently, to finance the purchase of equipment to begin bottling water from the property's natural springs for sale to a local niche market.

Having observed a shift by major water bottlers away from natural spring water to the treatment and bottling of tap

water, CEO Deanna O'Shaughnessy and COO Tim Morgan saw an opportunity to provide locally grown and harvested spring water to New Hampshire consumers by bottling it themselves from their own protected source on their family farm in Alton.

"Spring water" is a federal designation and must be determined by extensive analytical and hydrological testing. Chamberlain Springs spent four years and more than \$1 million achieving their large groundwater extraction permit for spring water and, at this point in time, continues to be the last company to be granted such a permit by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. Chamberlain Springs' spring water will be tested weekly so that it can be held to the highest standards for purity established by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as well as state standards.

"Nh2o, real New Hampshire spring water" will be bottled in 750 mL bottles, which will be available in glass and 100% recyclable PET to the restaurants, stores, and people of New Hampshire. There will be a self-serve fill/refill station located at the water barn on Sunny Slope Farm where "Nh2o" bottles or larger containers can be filled with spring water. Chamberlain Springs will also be providing private label bottling of their spring water for events, businesses, hotels and restaurants, as well as for organizations.

Profile Bank has provided primary funding for the start-up operation, while Belknap County Economic Development Council was able to help with gap financing to allow the purchase of bottling equipment. For more information about Chamberlain Springs or to purchase Nh2o, please visit <http://www.ChamberlainSpringsNh2o.com> or call 603-875-7562.



Fae Kontje-Gibbs, Deanna O'Shaughnessy, and Tim Morgan of Chamberlain Springs, LLC with BCEDC's Jennifer Boulanger, Melissa Gulbrandsen, Esq., and John Hall, Profile Bank.

Make a difference...

Since 1992, the Belknap County Economic Development Council has helped businesses survive and grow, assisting aspiring entrepreneurs, bringing new companies to the area, and striving for a healthy economy and business-friendly climate. Serving the municipalities of Alton, Barnstead, Belmont, Center Harbor, Gilford, Gilmanton, Laconia, Meredith, New Hampton, Sanbornton, and Tilton, the BCEDC of one of 10 regional development corporations providing economic development resources in the State of New Hampshire. BCEDC's free services include technical assistance, expansion/relocation assistance, workforce development, community and regional information, as well as a revolving loan fund and business information center.

Supporting the work of the BCEDC means supporting sustainable economic growth and the preservation and creation of quality jobs, insuring not only opportunities for all residents but also the success of your own business. Membership is a tangible way of investing in opportunities for our region. Consider becoming a member. Together we make a difference.



SAVE THE DATE

March 24, 2010

**BCEDC
Annual Meeting
& Awards
Presentation**

Economic Impact One Worker at a Time

When a local manufacturer was forced to close a few years ago, it was discovered that a significant number of the plant's longtime employees did not possess a high school diploma. In response, the Adult Success Program was established to provide scholarship assistance through the Laconia Adult Education Program to adults seeking a high school diploma or GED Certificate but lacking the basic funds to enroll.

The program offers core classes required for a high school diploma, granted through Laconia Academy, GED preparation, basic mathematics and reading, and English as a Second Language. Additionally, participants receive assistance in job search and placement, access to employment counselors, and, as necessary, transportation reimbursement. With a diploma or GED, workers have qualified for increased employment opportunities, earned job promotions and pay increases, and unlocked opportunities for furthering their education through college level coursework or technical training.

Conceived by the Laconia office of New Hampshire Employment Security and the Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce, the initiative was undertaken in partnership with Southern New Hampshire University, Lakes Region Community College, Laconia Adult Education, and the Laconia School District. Since its inception, the program

has been funded primarily through grants provided by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation with additional scholarship assistance provided through Laconia Savings Bank. Now, due to the downturn in the Lakes Region economy, more funding sources are needed to support the Adult Success Program.

To demonstrate support of an effective program that truly makes an economic impact one worker at a time, the BCEDC recently entered into partnership with the Adult Success Program, providing financial support as part of its commitment to workforce development. The financial support of other community partners is encouraged to insure the continuation of this important educational initiative.

"The Adult Success Program empowers workers to increase their economic capacity and offers the opportunity for greater self-sufficiency," said Don Morrissey, of the ASP Committee. "It is a wise investment in the quality of life for all Lakes Region residents, and especially for those seeking a more productive life."

For information on how you can partner with and/or benefit from the Adult Success Program, please call Peggy Selig, Director, Laconia Adult Education, at 603-524-5712 or www.laconia.k12.nh.us/adulted for more information.

Incorporator Chris Williams AIA Honored

At its annual celebration, held at Laconia's Historic Belknap Mill, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation presented BCEDC Investor/Incorporator Christopher P. Williams AIA with the 2009 Lakes Region Community Leadership Award.

Williams was recognized for his contributions over the last 25 years to the betterment not only of his home community of Meredith but also of the greater Lakes Region. In his professional capacity as architect and managing principal of Christopher P. Williams Architects PLLC, which specializes in energy efficient, sustainable building practices, Williams has been instrumental in pulling together and directing the forces needed to preserve and enhance community character. Involved in the restoration and reuse of historic homes and buildings throughout New Hampshire, Williams played a key role in the award-winning restoration of the fire damaged historic Belmont Mill (ca. 1833) and its transformation into a multi-use facility. Recently he was involved in organizing a charrette in Alton to address and resolve the needs of homeowners and the town to test preliminary criteria and concepts to rebuild 43 dwelling units lost to the Easter Fire of 2009. Williams has been active on many boards throughout the Lakes Region and has always been willing to donate time, money, expertise, and support to preserve the cultural values and enhance the environment of the region. He is an alumnus of the Leadership Lakes Region Class of 2002.

This was the second year that the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation Lakes Region has teamed up with Leadership Lakes Region to honor an individual who has made a significant impact in his/her community and who has contributed significantly to the quality of life in the Lakes Region. The Charitable Foundation and Leadership Lakes Region offer this award to recognize the efforts of local leaders who have gone above and beyond in creating a better community and to encourage the involvement and philanthropy of others. For more information about Leadership Lakes Region programs, please call 524-6791 or visit www.leadershiplakesregion.org.

Presenting the Lakes Region Community Leadership Award to Chris Williams (center) were Margaret Franckhauser, chair of the Lakes Region Advisory Board, and Don Morrissey, Leadership Lakes Region board chair.





BELKNAP COUNTY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Lakes Venture Resource Center at SNHU - Laconia Center
2 Airport Road | Gilford, NH 03249 | www.bcedc.org

Together we make a difference

SCORE

SCORE Lakes Region Chapter No. 172 has ramped up its fall and winter workshop schedule. Topics and subject matter experts were selected based on the needs of the aspiring and existing small business owners within the region. With the support of local sponsors, SCORE is able to offer these events for a nominal donation.

Mark your calendar for the next three workshops:

December 8, 2009, SNHU, Gilford NH
“How To Start or Grow a Small Business”
sponsored by Meredith Village Savings Bank

February 9, 2010, SNHU, Gilford NH
“Small Business Taxes”
sponsored by Franklin Savings Bank

April 8, 2010, Plymouth NH
“Small Business Taxes”
sponsored by Meredith Village Savings Bank

For additional information, please call 524-3057 or visit www.scorelakesregion.org.

TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE

The Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) recently awarded \$250,000 to the NH Alliance of Regional Development Corporations; BCEDC is one of the ten members of that organization that provide business lending to expand or retain employment opportunities for low- and middle-income workers. BCEDC is grateful to Laconia Savings Bank for its purchase of tax credits in 2008.

The CDFA also awarded Kidworks Learning Center, Inc. of Meredith \$303,125 in tax credit funds to install energy efficient lighting, replace electric hot water heaters with gas, install heating zones, re-grade the site to address drainage problems, purchase new play equipment, and retire existing debt in order to continue to provide quality and affordable child care.

For more information on how to support these nonprofits by purchasing the tax credits, please call 524-3057 or email info@bcedc.org.

