



10:00 – 10:10

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Co-Chairs Larry Gilroy & Robert Geer opened the meeting.

10:10 – 10:20

Welcome & Remarks by SUNY Cobleskill President

Dr. Debra Thatcher, President welcomed the MVREDC to Cobleskill, and provided an overview of the College and its unique attributes.

- Ranked in the top 20% nationally for return on investment
- Designated as a Military-Friendly school
- First school in the state to develop a Food Systems curriculum
- Have an operational meat laboratory & 200-head dairy farm
- Have classes on hydroponics, aquaponics, culinary arts
- Periodically have Farm-to-Table meals on campus
- Host and sponsor Schoharie Fresh online farmers' market

10:20 – 10:50

Committee & Workgroup Reports

- Education & Workforce – Dr. Dustin Swanger & Carolyn Lewis presented concept of Presidents' Roundtable to be held on May 28th at FMCC and an educational partners summit on June 18th; how the E&W Committee is planning on hosting a Regional Development Workshop in the fall; and supporting development of STEM programs in Otsego County.
- Outreach & Communications – Mark Kilmer outlined outreach activities and presentations over the past month and planned, replicable activities for the future. Dr. Renee Shevat indicated that we should focus some outreach and communications efforts on NY-RISING communities.
- Project Development – Mike Reese & Steve DiMeo discussed activities of the committee over the past two months, highlighting the HCR Round and procedures for the MV Community Investment Fund following the CFA. Made a call for applications.
- Summit De-brief – Larry Gilroy delivered a recap of the Regional Summit held at Arkell Museum on April 30th; Summit Co-Chair Todd Hutton noted that observations and feedback indicate that the summit exceeded all expectations.

10:50 – 11:10

CFA ROUND IV Timeline & Action Plan Concepts

- Larry Gilroy outlined the timeline, and indicated that CFA project applicants should explore non-traditional sources for funding regionally-significant projects.
- Robert Geer announced a Global MV Export Workshop coming up on June 5th at SUNY IT, added that the Council is working on a Veteran workforce skills project with a local company, and noted that we should scrutinize CFA applications for global components.

11:10 – 11:20

Presentation: NYS Taxation & Finance Business Assistance

Mwisa Chisunka, Director of Business Tax Services and Education provided an overview of business assistance resources available in the Mohawk Valley. She noted that the Ombudswoman position was conceived and dedicated to providing transparency, outreach, and education on taxes and credits, for example:

- The availability and utilization of manufacturing, energy, green, and veterans tax credits
- Workshops on how to deal with old tax debt, transaction advice, free tax services for distressed communities, business clinics
- Assistance with complicated tax issues
- To gather input and suggestions for improving the business climate in NY

Larry Gilroy remarked that the Council will certainly be reaching out to Mwisa to host local workshops for businesses and industries in the Mohawk Valley.

11:20 – 11:40

Presentation: NY RISING Communities and Resiliency in the Mohawk Valley

Sarah Crowell, Revitalization Specialist for the Department of State, provided an update on the recently-completed NY Rising Community Reconstruction Plans in the Mohawk Valley. The \$60 Billion Federal appropriation is being deployed for:

- Homeowners affected by flooding
- Small business recovery
- Infrastructure reconstruction
- Municipal assistance

For perennially-vulnerable communities, the plans call for activities to raise buildings, raise utilities and mechanical systems, in addition to diversion, redirection, and infiltration of stormwater. Planning process is complete for the first round of NY-RISING communities. MVREDC should expect a number of NY Rising projects in the CFA.

Assemblyman Lopez discussed the \$4M sewer project in Esperance, the reconstruction of State Route 145, and that the CFA might be an opportunity to leverage more infrastructure work in these communities.

11:40 – 11:55

Project Concepts: MOOOhawk Valley

Jason Evans, Assistant Professor of Agribusiness, and Barry Gell, Director of Research and Sponsored Programs, discussed how SUNY Cobleskill is forming a public private partnership to construct and outfit a complete dairy processing training facility – the first and only of its kind in New York – to enable the expansion of dairy & gourmet food industry clusters in the Mohawk Valley and New York State. Jason noted the need for the campus to re-connect to the agriculture community and that direct field assistance to farms is important. Regarding the project:

- An entire generation of plant managers are retiring; we have not yet prepared a new workforce for the dairy industry.
- The dairy lab meets pent-up demand for workers and products

- Local farms need shared processing space for production – training can be used as currency (the entrepreneurs train the students in return for access to equipment/space.
- Partnership with Hudson Valley for technical assistance
- This project advances the concept of Cobleskill as having a high value and return on educational investment.
- The students will be work-ready; the programs are demand-driven
- Private industry and dairy producers are excited for this project to take place
- CADE has a great program; looking for a shared facility

11:55 – 11:59

Other Business

CFA Workshops & Technical Assistance opportunities

- Workshop @ SUNY Cobleskill following REDC Meeting
- Workshop @ FMCC next tuesday
- Global Export Workshop @ SUNY IT

12:00

Adjourn