



Regional Economic Development Council - WNY Meeting Summary

Introductory Information:

Date and Time Meeting Commenced: Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 9:33 am

Location: SUNY Fredonia Williams Center, 280 Central Ave, Fredonia, NY 14063

Council Members Present: Co-Chair Jeff Belt, Co-Chair Dr. Virginia Horvath, Deanna Alterio-Brennen, Dr. Rosa Gonzalez, Michael Metzger, Stephen Tucker, and Dr. Katherine Conway-Turner.

Ex-Officio: Chautauqua County Executive George Borrello, Jamestown Mayor Sam Teresi, Designee of the Cattaraugus County Chair Crystal Abers, and Michael Casale for Niagara County Legislature Chair.

Council Members Substitutes: Tom DeSantis for Mayor Paul Dyster, Jenna Kavanaugh for Tom Kucharski, Tuona Batchelor for Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, and Julie Barry for Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz.

State Agency/Local Government: ESD-WNY Staff: Nancy Burkhardt, Chanel Maddigan, Laura Magee, Karen Mahony, Lynn Marinelli, Amanda Mays, Janet Murray, Angela Rossi, Mo Sumbundu. DOS: Christopher Bauer. DOT: Jim Cuzzo. Parks: Mark Mistretta. HCR: Leonard Skrill. Labor: Cesar Cabrera and Tim Glass. NYPA: Rich Smith and Carol Sampson. NYSEDA: Lori Borowiak.

Special Guests: Athanasia Landis, Fredonia Mayor; Rebecca Yanus, Dunkirk Director of Development; Mark Guise, Executive Director Chautauqua County IDA; Laura Quebral and Christina Farrell, University of Buffalo Regional Institute (UBRI).

Time Adjourned: 11:18 am

Call to Order: read by Amanda Mays, Regional Director, Empire State Development, WNY

☒ Preamble requesting disclosure of any conflicts of interest read.

☐ Conflicts noted: (Please List)

☒ Recusals noted: (Please List)

☒ No conflicts noted.

☐ The record of recusals was noted and acknowledged at the meeting.

Reports/Discussions/Motions:

Welcome and Remarks: Jeff Belt and Dr. Virginia Horvath, Co-Chairs, WNY Regional Economic Development Council

Dr. Horvath, President of SUNY-Fredonia, welcomed the REDC and guests to the campus

Executive Director's Report: Amanda Mays, Executive Director, WNY Regional Economic Development Council

- WNY Regional Office updates since the April 8, 2019 REDC meeting:
 - o Governor Cuomo announced the completion of construction and dedication of the new \$29 million Explore & More - The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Children's Museum at Canalside;
 - o Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul broke ground on the Better Buffalo Fund project at 1585 Hertel Avenue, a \$7 million, 5-story mixed-use building located in Buffalo's Hertel Avenue Business District;
 - o The Dunkirk Pier improvement project broke ground in April. Execution of incentives for business expansions to Steuben Foods Inc. and Rand Machine Products, Inc.
- WNY Talent Attraction and Retention working group will meet on May 20. An update will be provided at the next REDC meeting.
- Opportunity Zones work session with Bruce Katz will take place on May 22.
- Invitation from NYS Canal Corps for the Erie Canal Bicentennial Forum on Building the Empire State Trail on June 5th

Welcoming Remarks: Hon. George Borrello, County Executive, Chautauqua County.

Round 4 - Downtown Revitalization Initiative

Christopher Bauer, Brownfield Opportunity Areas Coordinator, NYS Department of State

East Side Corridor Economic Development Fund Overview Laura Quebral, Executive Director, UBRI

- Power point presentation

WNY Economic Development Priorities John Maggiore, Senior Advisor to the Governor for Upstate Economic Development

Workforce Development Initiative Madhuri Kommareddi, Director, NYS Workforce Development Office

- Power point presentation

Round 9 - Regional Economic Development Council Competition Alison Walsh, Vice President, Regional Economic Development

- Power point presentation

Childcare Strategy Update Monique Owens, Empire State Fellow, Executive Chamber; Beth Starks, Executive Director, Chautauqua Lake Child Care Center; Emily Badalamente, Excelsior Fellow

- Power point presentation

Closing Remarks & Adjourn Jeff Belt presented outgoing member and co-chair Dr. Virginia Horvath with flowers and a gift