

Final – Adopted 11.04.2021

**MHREDC Public Meeting  
Thursday, July 8, 2021**

**Introductory Information:**

Date and Time Meeting Commenced:

Thursday, July 8, 2021 – Public Session: 1:05 PM

Location:

Virtual Meeting held on Zoom

Council Members Present: Thomas Scaglione; Donald Christian; Thomas Carey; Jonathan Drapkin; Aleida Frederico; Susan Gerry; Marsha Gordon; Maureen Halahan; Wiley Harrison; Sabrina HoSang Jordan; Kimberlie Jacobs; Joseph Kenner; Jacqueline Leventoff; Robin Rosenberg; Al Samuels; Ned Sullivan; James Taylor, Jr.; Kristine Young;

Council Members Substitutes: Ronald Hicks (Rep. Molinaro); Harry Porr (Rep. Neuhaus); William Fioravanti (Rep. Neuhaus); Barbara Barosa (Rep. Odell); Lucy Redzeposki (Rep. Day); Freda Eisenberg (Rep. Doherty); Bridget Gibbons (Rep. Latimer);

State Agency/Local Government/ESD Staff: Monique Le Gendre (ESD); Linda Malave (ESD); Eric Warren (ESD); James Kostenblatt (ESD); Catherine Kamp (ESD); Alison Walsh (ESD); Stephanie Mossey (DEC); Ashley McCloskey (ESD); Kelly Turturro (DEC); Lance MacMillan (DOT); Dan Jeanson (Hudson River Valley Greenway); Amber Sisson (NYPA); Erin Drost (Parks); NYS Assemblymember Chris Burdick; NYS Assemblymember Sandy Galef; Ethan Pine (Rep. MoA Barrett); Heather Mieko Lackey (Rep. MoA Burdick); Iris Weintraub Lachaud (Rep. MoA Burdick); Andrew Leibert (Rep. MoA Galef); Julie Shiroishi (Rep. MoA Jacobson); Kira Gorman (Rep. MoA Lalor); Nate Soule (Rep. MoA Lawler); Jesse Meyer (Rep. MoS Hinchey); Maryanne Joyce (Rep. MoS Mayer); Victoria Gearity (Rep. MoS Reichlin-Melnick); Lydia Biskup (Rep. MoS Serino).

Time Adjourned: 1:29 PM

**Welcome and Remarks:**

Call to Order:

☒ Preamble requesting disclosure of any conflicts of interest read.

☐ Conflicts noted: (Please List)

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☐ Recusals noted: (Please List)

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☒ No conflicts noted.

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

**Opening Remarks – Dr. Donald P. Christian, Regional Co-Chair, MHREDC**

Dr. Christian welcomed all Council members and members of the public to the meeting. He then shared that the Council’s Annual Report was completed and submitted on June 30<sup>th</sup>, thanks to the work of Jonathan Drapkin and his team at Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, as well as ESD’s Mid-Hudson Regional Office team. Dr. Christian then asked Thomas Scaglione to provide an update on the MHREDC’s strategy.

**MHREDC Strategy Overview – Thomas Scaglione, Executive Director, MHREDC & Regional Director, Empire State Development**

Mr. Scaglione underscored that the Annual Report was completed in record time – 3 months earlier than it was due in past years. He also thanked AJ Ross Creative Media for their work in designing and laying out the report and meeting all deadlines.

Mr. Scaglione shared that to put the report together, the Council held two virtual public meetings, five executive session virtual meetings, and the team reviewed reports, surveys, and data produced by county economic development partners.

The vision of the MHREDC is a future that includes dynamic community centers featuring businesses in thriving industry sectors, residents from all walks of life benefitting from quality employment, and countless tourist attractions that make the Mid-Hudson a unique destination

and place to live. This continues to be the vision as the Council seeks to help build back better and support the region in recovery from COVID-19.

The work of the Council over the past decade has resulted in New York State granting over 900 awards and totaling \$713.6 Million of economic activity for the region.

The MHREDC has identified 141 awarded projects as priorities since 2011, 78% of which are complete or progressing, generating more than \$1.6 billion in economic activity and have a leverage ratio of 15.7:1, well above the state's original goal of 5:1. 921 Mid-Hudson projects have been awarded funding through the CFA process since 2011, 87% of which are complete or progressing. Every \$1 the state has invested in the region through the CFA process has generated \$7.50 of economic activity.

The Council's LIVE, WORK, PLAY strategy has served the region well, and has been adjusted a bit as follows:

**LIVE:** A strategy that seeks to revitalize the region's many river, hilltop, and crossroads urban centers by encouraging activities that accelerate placemaking and promote environmental justice. Efforts in smart growth and transit-oriented development, downtown revitalization, workforce housing, infrastructure improvements – including restoration, rehabilitation and repurposing of existing assets and capitalizing on natural resources – will stimulate job creation, inspire innovation and retain and attract residents.

**WORK:** A strategy that seeks to attract and retain investment in the region's mature and emerging clusters within the tradeable sectors of life sciences, advanced manufacturing, information technology, distribution, financial and professional services, and film and television production. The Council is focused on facilitating dialogue between these industries and the region's many educational institutions to create and maintain pipeline for talent and to encourage innovation resulting from collaboration. Further, the Council continues to support the construction trades and diverse small business enterprises.

**PLAY:** A strategy that seeks to enhance residents' quality of life and strengthen the region's identity as a premier tourist destination due to its scenic beauty, abundant agritourism, flourishing food and beverage industry, rich arts and cultural scene, unique history, recreational assets, and proximity to New York City. Efforts within this strategy increase visitor spending and stimulate growth across related industries, including those in targeted tradeable sectors. Through this strategy, the Council also encourages development in its downtowns, which are

popular with regional visitors and residents, further implementing the state priority of placemaking.

Applicants to programs through this year's CFA must draw clear connections to at least one of the components of the MHREDC strategy.

Mr. Scaglione encouraged all in attendance to review the MHREDC Annual report, which is posted on the MHREDC website: [regionalcouncils.ny.gov/mid-hudson](https://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/mid-hudson). Section 2 of the report goes into detail on each of the state priorities.

Mr. Scaglione gave three examples of good projects that align with the regional strategy and with state priorities:

- RUPCO's Energy Square project in the City of Kingston, Ulster County (CFA #54322)
- Star Kay White's Expansion project in the Town of Clarkstown, Rockland County (CFA #63707)
- City Winery's Hudson Valley Expansion in the Village of Montgomery, Orange County (CFA #80700)

Mr. Scaglione reiterated that it is critical that applicants understand the regional strategy and state priorities and draw clear connections to them in their application.

### **Next Steps – Thomas Scaglione, Executive Director, MHREDC & Regional Director, Empire State Development**

For next steps for the Council, Mr. Scaglione highlighted the following:

- Review Round XI CFA materials
- Promote Round XI Resources
- Voting members will evaluate grant applications submitted between 5/10 and 6/30
- Work Groups will be having leadership meetings soon.

For next steps for attendees:

- Email questions to [midhudsonREDC@esd.ny.gov](mailto:midhudsonREDC@esd.ny.gov)
- Visit the MHREDC website: [regionalcouncils.ny.gov/mid-hudson](https://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/mid-hudson) and review REDC Round XI materials and sign up for an upcoming virtual CFA info session.
- Apply by 4pm on July 30<sup>th</sup> for non-open-round programs

Mr. Scaglione also shared some key resources for everyone in attendance:

WHAT	LINK
CFA Round XI Info	MHREDC Website: <a href="https://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/mid-Hudson">regionalcouncils.ny.gov/mid-Hudson</a>
COVID-19 recovery programs	ESD website: <a href="https://esd.ny.gov/business-pandemic-recovery-initiative">esd.ny.gov/business-pandemic-recovery-initiative</a>
Entrepreneurship Assistance Centers	<a href="https://esd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/EACContactListJuly2020.pdf">https://esd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/EACContactListJuly2020.pdf</a>
NY Small Business Development Center (SBDC)	<a href="#">Mid-Hudson SBDC</a> : serves Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan, Ulster Counties <a href="#">Rockland SBDC</a> : serves Putnam, Rockland, Westchester Counties

Meeting was adjourned at 1:29 PM.