



10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Herkimer College, Robert McLaughlin College Center Room 282

Welcome

Co-Chairs Larry Gilroy and Bob Geer opened the meeting, recognized Council Member Renee Shevat on her award by the YWCA. Larry introduced Ryan Silva, the new Deputy Director for Regional Councils for Empire State Development. Ryan spoke briefly on the +/- 30 programs and 13 agencies sponsoring opportunities for funding in [CFA Round IV](#).

Executive Committee Reports

- Education & Workforce. Dr. Dustin Swanger (Committee Co-Chair) discussed STEM initiatives and the upcoming College Presidents' Roundtable hosted by FMCC and SUNY-Oneonta.
- Outreach & Communications. Mark Kilmer (Committee Co-Chair) outlined an outreach plan for greater participation from chambers of commerce around the region. Dr. Shevat noted the NY Rising forum on April 23rd at Herkimer College.
- Project Development. Mike Reese (Committee Co-Chair) discussed the importance of early CFA project identification, and proposed guidelines for HCR and CIF funding.
- Summit Planning. Nick Matt (Committee Co-Chair) Announced regional Summit planned for April 30th @ Arkell museum in Canajoharie, plenary sessions, and workshops on agenda. For more information, go to the conference landing page at <https://guidebook.com/g/try9ci8o/>.
- Project Foodie. Update by Assemblyman Brindisi on the cross-regional project to make new upstate-downstate co-packing initiative.

Presentation: Opportunity Agenda – Edmeston Central School District STEM Initiative

Brian Hunt, Superintendent of [Edmeston Central School District](#) presented to the REDC a plan for STEM education that builds upon CORE and Project Lead the Way initiatives already underway in Otsego county. The project is to implement a Robotics & Automation program, entailing teacher education/certification, retrofitting the wood shop to a CNC laboratory, and collaborating with Milford & Laurens on Project Lead the Way and the CORE Institute. The project is ready for CFA application, and exemplifies the MV Opportunity Agenda while aligning with core MVREDC strategies.

Presentation: NYSERDA Cleaner-Greener Communities – Strategy for the Mohawk Valley

Jessica Waldorf, NYSERDA CGC Associate Project Manager provided an update on the [Cleaner Greener Communities](#) implementation strategy for 2014 with examples of projects from around the state that demonstrate economic & environmental sustainability. This year, another \$30 Million is available through the program, and Waldorf emphasized the critical nature of collaborative, transformative projects. Focus on big-picture, long-term planning & implementation projects that result in true carbon reduction & cultural shifts.

Case Study: Village of Bridgewater Consolidation

The first village in recent history in Oneida County to voluntarily vote for dissolution, the [Village of Bridgewater](#) is embarking on an implementation plan to officially dissolve at the end of 2014. Mayor Gary Comstock presented the chronology, administrative process, and logic behind the historic decision. In addition to financial savings, Comstock cited low voter turnout and lack of interest in filling Village leadership positions as other drivers of the decision. Comstock praised the Department of State and Sean Maguire for providing the financial and technical support throughout the process. Several Council members publicly applauded the efforts of the Mayor and the Village. A productive discussion ensued between Council members, Oneida County Executive Picente, Herkimer County Chairman Bono, and others on the challenges, impediments, and true cost/savings involved in shared services & consolidation.

Other Business

- Dr. Geer announced SUNY Business Plan Competition Regional Qualifier at SUNY Institute of Technology
- Ken Tompkins provided an update on the [BUSINESS MENTOR NY](#) program
- Ryan Silva discussed the State Budget and positive impacts on regional priorities, including Nano Utica and [NUAIR](#).

Adjourned @ 12 pm

Thank you to Herkimer College for a terrific meeting space, hospitality, and amazing staff support!

*******NEXT REDC MEETING: May 22nd @ SUNY Cobleskill 10 am to 12 pm*******