

Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council

Meeting Notes October 26, 2011 SUNY Oneonta

Welcome and Introduction of Members

Lt. Governor Duffy called the meeting to order 11:07 a.m. and thanked everyone in attendance on behalf of Governor Cuomo for their attendance and participation. Lt. Gov. Duffy said the work by REDCs statewide to date has been extraordinary and is very much appreciated. He saluted the work of the MVREDC, co-chairs and staff. He likened the stage in the planning process to be "like the last leg of the marathon." He also said the Governor is very grateful for Council member attendance at Sept. 27 statewide conference, that the Governor is deeply impressed with members' energy and commitment.

Co-Chair Remarks

Co-Chair Yeigh thanked the Lt. Governor for all the work he and his team have done behind the scenes to help the MVREDC craft its strategic plan. Mr. Yeigh asked Council to introduce themselves.

Co-Chair Gilroy told the public in attendance: "This is a working meeting for us. You're role at the beginning of the meeting is observation, but we will also conduct a public forum for you today to get your input. We'll be conducting an exec session to discuss projects, some of which are at a sensitive stage and we don't want to jeopardize any opportunities that might not otherwise occur.

Public Participation Workgroup Update & Discussion

Public Participation Workgroup Chair Nancy Pattarini gave a report of activities to date to solicit public and industry-specific input to the planning process. She noted that a series of focus groups were conducted in October in a variety of formats. Included were representatives from the tourism, small business, technology, health care, and education communities. Much valuable information gathered. Several more forums were scheduled following this meeting for the purpose of reviewing draft strategic plan and getting feedback. Meeting were scheduled for Oneida, Schoharie and Fulton counties, meaning all counties have been visited at least once. Ms. Pattarini said some common themes were emerging. For example, infrastructure of every type has been mentioned, so that every type of enterprise can compete on a global level. Clearly, she said, there is also a commitment for ongoing public participation. "It is safe to say we will have an input and outreach process going forward," she said, "and a process for the continuous distribution of info via our website. We have had very energized conversations, and we are most proud that people across the region have been very solution-oriented and positive, despite very serious issues and concerns."

Consolidated Funding Application Scoring Process

Executive Director Ken Tompkins made a presentation to the Council on the forthcoming Consolidated Funding Application scoring process and entertained questions from Council members. He noted members would be able to participate in a training Webinar at a time to be announced soon.

Presentation of Draft Regional Plan

Strategies and Implementation Plan Workgroup Co-Chair Steve DiMeo presented the MVREDC Draft Strategic Plan to the Council. The strategies are as follows:

- I. **Enhance Regional Concentrations:** This is to optimize key business and industry sectors, to target attraction and growth of complementary firms, to focus on business outreach, to leverage key R&D institutions, to foster innovation, and to grow the region's export economy
- II. **Workforce Alignment and Education:** Increase the supply of skilled workers to meet employer demands, expand demand for skilled workers, focus on career ladders.
- III. **Innovation Enabling Infrastructure:** Encourage the development of new products, services and technologies. Create new and/or expand existing university and college relationships with businesses and other education entities.
- IV. **Increase Spatial Efficiency:** Increase the region's efficiency and productivity; deal with aging infrastructure systems; foster strategic investments to create, expand and improve regional businesses and industrial parks; improve broadband connectivity; promote use of natural resources; promote investment in regional cores, municipal centers, central business districts; promote Brownfield development.
- V. **Strengthen government and Civic effectiveness:** Modernize the region's system of governance and civic institutions; attract private capital; nurture the expansion and attraction of business activity.

Chair Discussion and Updates

Co-Chair Yeigh: "Whatever happens, when we finish this process, we're going to have a strategic plan which we've never had as a region. I'm very confident we're going to be one of the four regional winners. But there is a billion dollars available, and the bulk of the dollars are outside of the \$40 million, so we have to keep working

Co-Chair Gilroy thanked Members for their patience. He noted that the Co-Chairs will be presenting the finished Strategic Plan to a Plan Review Committee at the end of November, and that he hoped Council members would be able to attend that event. He thanked the Lt.

Governor for being tremendously responsive in helping us to resolve business issues in the region.

The Co-Chairs noted that the next (and last scheduled) MVREDC meeting would be at 11 a.m., Nov. 9 at SUNY IT, Utica.

Adjournment followed.

###