

Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council  
Meeting Notes  
11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday, August 24, 2011

**Welcome and Introduction of Members**

On behalf of Governor Cuomo, Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy welcomed council members and the public to the second official meeting of MVREDC. He thanked everyone for participating and advised the process is going extraordinarily well. He reiterated this is a multi-year process as the council members will serve as an advisory group that helps to prioritize projects with the region and make recommendations.

Co-Chair Yeigh extended thanks to Herkimer County Community College for graciously hosting this meeting. As this is the first meeting open to the public, co-chair Yeigh asked council members to introduce themselves to all present.

**Overview of Council Rules and Procedures**

Co-Chair Gilroy noted the Council's ambitious timeframe for developing a plan, but said the playing field is level with other regions. He said the Council will need to move forward quickly and ask people throughout the region for their input and help. He asked all with challenges, opportunities, or ideas to please bring them to the Council. Mr. Gilroy referred members and the public to the Governor's website, which is a great place for information about the Council's work:

<http://nyworks.ny.gov>.

Co-Chair Yeigh said the remaining meetings of the REDC will be open to the public for observation, but that there may be times when an executive session is necessary. He said noted that when formal or difficult decisions must be made, the Council will follow Robert's Rules of Order. Co-Chair Yeigh said the Council will be able to make a lot of decisions by building our consensus and the co-chairs will to do all they can to assist in this.

**Overview of the Consolidated Funding Application and Endorsement Standard**

Irene Baker briefly discussed the funding mechanisms and the role the REDC will play in the allocation of the funds. There are two funding mechanisms, the first is \$200 million in funding from the Empire State Development Corporation and the second mechanism is \$800 million in funding through the NYS Consolidated Funding Application (CFA).

Governor Cuomo has identified \$200 million in the NYS budget to be awarded to the regions for their strategic plans. Ranked by a Strategic Plan Review Committee, the top four plans will awarded \$40 million each (\$25 million in capital grant funding

and \$15 million in Excelsior tax credits), with the remaining six regions splitting \$40 million in capital grant funding and tax credits.

Several State agencies have come together to identify an additional \$800 million in financial resources that will be used to support the NYS Consolidated Funding Application approach to regional economic growth. This approach will be a simplified electronic application to be completed by the project sponsor. State agencies will review each project to determine eligibility. After review, projects will be submitted to the regional council, which will then rank and prioritize each project based on a pre-determined set of endorsement standards tailored to coincide with our strategic plan. The MVREDC's endorsement standards will be crafted by the SWOT Workgroup and will be reviewed at the September 14, 2011, meeting.

Lt. Gov. Duffy stated there are a lot of changes occurring in how the State does business and he realizes there may be impediments. This council was formed to be more responsive not less. Sometimes corporations don't have the same timeline we do and some projects may not be found to be as high a priority in the first round as it may become in the second round.

### **Regional Overview Snapshot**

Ken Tompkins, executive director of Mohawk Valley Regional Empire State Development, provided a brief presentation on the region's economy. He stated the Mohawk Valley region is at the geographical center of New York State and then shared key attributes of the region that may prove helpful in creating the MVREDC strategic plan.

### **Introduction of Workgroup Leaders and Members**

Co-Chair Yeigh asked each workgroup leaders and members to introduce themselves and to briefly describe their mission and responsibilities.

### **Overall Strategies and Implementation Workgroup**

Nick Matt, workgroup chair, stated the mission for this workgroup is to review existing plans, gather feedback from other council members and the public, and to use that to recommend strategies for implementing, monitoring and measuring the overall plan.

Members are Chuck Green, Ann Thane, Carolyn Lewis, Steve DiMeo, and David Howard. They will also be soliciting a representative from Herkimer and Schoharie County.

### **Strategic Writing Workgroup**

Ann Thane, workgroup chair, stated their mission is to collect information from other Workgroups and REDC council meetings to include in a completed Regional Economic Development Strategic Plan. Write and revise the plan when necessary.

The group will also craft criteria to aid in the selection of projects for the plan. The criteria will be provided to the Overall Strategies and Implementation Workgroup.

Members are Steve DiMeo, Wolf Yeigh, Mary Morse, Tom Quackenbush, and Harold Vroman.

### **SWOT Workgroup Presentation**

Mike Reese, workgroup chair, stated his group's mission is to determine regional drivers and craft endorsement standards for the Mohawk Valley to be used in the CFA process. His group also completed a draft analysis of the regions strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, which was reported out to the council.

Members are Daniel Robinson, Richard Smith, Scott White, Steve DiMeo. His group is soliciting members from Herkimer, Schoharie and Otsego counties.

### **Vision Workgroup Presentation**

Randy VanWagoner, workgroup chair, stated the group's mission is to craft an economic vision statement that encompasses the entire Mohawk Valley Region. He presented his group's draft vision statement, which is

*By connecting a diverse economy and the promise of an entrepreneurial future with the roots of an historic and innovative past, the Mohawk Valley Region will be recognized as one that is open to new ideas and inclusive of others; one that maximizes sustainable use of its abundant natural, cultural, and geographical resources; and one that values a safe, affordable quality of life for all. Our social and economic futures will continue to be refreshed and replenished with new talent that will find new ways of creating value for the world and wealth for our region.*

Members are Richard Ball, Juanita Bass, Bill Keller.

The draft vision statement will be posted on the MVREDC web site. Dr. VanWagoner encouraged council members and the public to submit feedback there.

### **Public Participation Workgroup Presentation**

Nancy Pattarini, workgroup chair, stated her group's mission is to craft a public participation plan that incorporates feedback from the public in all counties in the region, including guidance from REDC co-chairs. The group will coordinate public meetings prior to plan development as well as public meetings on the completed strategic plan.

Members are Dayton King, Steve Darman, Wally Hart, Carolyn Lewis, Margaret O'Shea, Alicia Terry, Ann Thane, and Steve Smith.

Ms. Pattarini reviewed the draft public participation plan developed by her workgroup. The council discussed the importance of timing for the public participation meetings and a schedule will be presented at the next meeting.

**Recap and Review of Upcoming Deadlines**

Co-Chairs Gilroy and Yeigh thanked the workgroups for their hard work and reminded the Council that it needs to adhere to the deadlines that have been set. The next MVREDC meeting is scheduled for Sept. 14 at Fulton-Montgomery Community College in Johnstown. The following action items will require approval at that meeting: regional economic drivers and critical issues; draft Consolidated Funding Application endorsement standards; and draft priority project selection criteria.

Lt. Gov. Duffy thanked everyone for attending today's meeting and reminded everyone that this process is vital to the livelihood of New York State.

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