

North Country Regional Economic Development Council
Meeting Notes
SUNY Potsdam
September 30, 2011

Open Session

Attendance: Lt. Gov Robert Duffy, Anthony Collins, Garry Douglas, Dan Wilt, Jim Wright, Lisa Weber, Donna Wadsworth, Eric Virkler, Tim Smith, Bill Murray, Anne Merrill, Jim McKenna, Carl McLaughlin, Cheryl Mayforth (Carolyn Fitzpatrick's representative), John Martin, Adoré Flynn Kurtz, Don Kasprzak, Bridget Ann Hart, Terry Gach, Kate Fish, John Donoghue, Jack Bush and Cali Brooks

Ex-Officio Voting: Chair Sallie Brothers, Chair William Farber, Supervisor Marie Regan

Ex-officio Non-voting: Representative from MOA Blankenbush, Representative from Senator Ritchie

Excused: Jon Greenwood, Ron Davis, Chair Jim Langley, Chair Randy Douglas, Mayor Jeffery Graham, Senator Griffo, Senator Little, MOA Russell and MOA Duprey

Staff: Roseanne Murphy/Executive Director, Terry Martino/Council Liaison, Cindy Picunas and Betsy Lowe/Facilitation.

Renee Smith-a farmer from St. Lawrence County explained the need for increasing production of humanely produced meat and poultry. And the critical need for a mobile unit to process poultry and fixed unit for four-legged animals. These are USDA approved units with USDA stamp will allow farmers throughout the Region to sell products. This project has some funding, but needs more. They are also assessing need for additional slaughter/processing facility with potential for new job creation. This will also benefit beef, hog and lamb producers with benefits in the North Country and Adirondacks. This will allow access to markets now presently closed. And will revitalization of family farms to also support agri-tourism and access to more healthy food. This is a key part of the agriculture revolution needed to lead the regional change. Bill Murray of Strategic Cluster Group was asked to discuss this project and see how it fits into our plan.

Garry Douglas commented on the seven members NCREDC CFA review committee; we are waiting on guidance from the State before setting up this working group. Douglas talked about applications that are in the pipeline. Once guidance is in place, we will proceed to the review.

The dates for the upcoming public forums were announced. Council meets again on October 21. He also presented dates for the CFA training seminars on Oct. 5 in Watertown, October 7 in Plattsburgh and Lake Placid.

Tony Collins thanked Lt. Governor, Council members and working group members, as well as Garry and Roseanne Murphy and wished Garry the best in his upcoming travels to London.

Lt. Governor discussed CFA s and said a large committee is in place and working out the details of how projects will be reviewed. He said it is being done to ensure work is being done to ensure that the council's priorities are being. He congratulated Garry Douglas for being honored by the State Business Council.

Meeting was adjourned.