

North Country Regional Economic Development Council

Friday, April 4, 2014 at 11:00am

Best Western, Watertown

Present: Garry Douglas, Tony Collins, Addie Russell, Anne Merrill, Billy Jones, Bridget-Ann Hart, Carl McLaughlin, Carolyn Fitzpatrick, Cheryl Mayforth, Dan Wilt, Donna Wadsworth, Eric Virkler, Hugh Hill, Jim Wright, Jim McKenna, Jeffery Graham, James Calnon, John Donoghue, Jon Putney, Ken Blankenbush, Michael Tabolt, Bill Murray, Bill Farber

Absent: Randy Douglas, Joe Griffo, Marie Regan, Patty Ritchie, , David Tomberlin, Janet Duprey, John Ettling, Kate Fish, Paul Grasso, Cali Brooks, Mark Tryniski, Lisa Weber

Tony Collins Opened the Public Meeting at 1:20 PM.

Tony Collins provided the public with an overview of the closed meeting.

This Council passed resolutions to accept the revised vision statement, encourage the support of biomass in the state's Renewable Portfolio Standards program, especially in regards to the Lyonsdale and Chateaugay ReEnergy facilities, support the transfer of surplus NYS Office of Mental Health in Ogdensburg to convey surplus real property, and to support the International Paper's gas pipeline project.

There are new appointments in Albany in terms of the Regional Council. Brendan Hughes is the executive director and Ryan Silva is now the deputy director of regional councils.

In the budget \$150 million has been allocated to the REDC process for which we will compete. On Wednesday, several members will attend a session in Syracuse to review past years of the REDCs

We voted to slightly revise our vision statement and included health care and education.

We heard from our working groups. One of the challenges this year is to see how our region competes in the global market.

The Adirondack Winter Challenge successful. The Governor is the chief advocate for tourism in New York State and the Adirondacks. We are greatly appreciative in his efforts.

Ana Liss, Empire Fellow for the Director of State Operations & Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor, provided the Council with a presentation on the Global NY initiative.

This initiative is intended to empower councils to look strategically at international trade as economic development.

Melissa Wagner-Telford provided an overview of the North Country Children's Museum and the Regional Arts and Interactive Learning (RAIL) Project. This is a partnership between the St. Lawrence County Arts Council and the North Country Children's Museum that includes a mixed venue at Snell Hall on Clarkson's campus.

No public comment.

Tony Collins Concluded the Meeting at 2pm.