

**North Country Regional Economic Development Council  
Clarkson University, Potsdam  
Friday, May 15, 2015**

Present: Lt. Gov. Hochul, Tony Collins, Garry Douglas, Cali Brooks, Jim Calnon, Cathy Dove, John Donoghue, Bill Farber, Joe Giroux, Jeff Graham, Paul Grasso, Bridget Hart, Hugh Hill, Billy Jones, Joe Lightfoot, Betty Little, Jim McKenna, Carl McLaughlin, Anne Merrill, Bill Murray, Marie Regan, Mark Tryniski, Donna Wadsworth,

Also Present: Lindsey Boylan, Ryan Silva, Richard Tobe, Matt Watson

Absent: Ken Blankenbush, Randy Douglas, Janet Duprey, Sam Dyer, John Ettling, Kate Fish, Carolyn Fitzpatrick, Joseph Griffo, Bob Lenney, Cheryl Mayforth, Patty Ritchie, Addie Russell, Zvi Szafran, Michael Tabolt, David Tomberlin, Dan Wilt, Lisa Weber, Jim Wright

**Public Session**

Tony Collins opened the public session at 1:10PM

Lt. Governor Hochul welcomed the public and discussed the anticipated impact from the Upstate Revitalization Initiative. The Governor continues to believe in upstate New York.

Tony Collins updated the public on the closed session proceedings. On Monday, we will start our public forums in each county. We had presentations from Ryan Silva describing the Round 5 competition, Richard Tobe describing the Upstate Revitalization Initiative, and from Matt Watson about the industry clusters which is part of the competition this year. We will keep a lot of our planning private since this is a competition, but we will have a manufacturing cluster that extends across the region. Steve Hunt provided updates on past CFA projects. We have the CFA and the URI. Even if you “lose” both, your region will still receive more money than the winners in past rounds. We also heard from several work groups, the Priority Project and Planning Implementation Committee, the Public Participation committee, the Adirondack Committee, Fort Drum, and our three URI Leadership Groups. Our three leadership groups are Advanced Manufacturing & Innovation, Agriculture & Clean Energy, and Tourism & Community Centers. We heard about the leadership groups’ plans and how they tie together.

We want to hear from the public. Please go to our website to find surveys and information about upcoming forums and workshops.

Tony Collins called for public comment.

Mike Mascarenas, Patty Beshaw, and Alan Jones of Essex County spoke about a project to redevelop a senior meals preparation/nutrition kitchen. The kitchen is old and has outgrown its capacity. The kitchen currently has a black mold problem and Essex County hopes to build a new kitchen. We serve over 9,000 seniors in our county, and we serve about a third of those through this kitchen. The kitchen serves over 1000 meals per day and employs 40 people in the Town of Elizabethtown. We’ll be seeking a priority project nomination from the council and a grant from the Office of Homes and Community Renewal.

Kim DesChamps of NYSERDA/CITEC announced the Clean Energy Economy Conference taking place in Utica in June. The Mohawk Valley REDC and North County REDC have partnered to expand the North Country Clean Energy Conference that has happened the past three years.

Tony Collins closed the public session at 1:35 p.m.