



NCREDC Meeting Summary

Introductory Information:

Date and Time Meeting Commenced: May 19, 2017 1:00pm

Location: Clarkson University, Potsdam

Council Members Present: Tony Collins, Garry Douglas, Rollin Beattie, Joseph Butler, Reg Carter, John Donoghue, Cathy Dove, John Ettlting, Bill Farber, Kate Fish, Joe Giroux, Paul Grasso, Scott Gray, Michele Ledoux, Betty Little, James McKenna, Harry McManus, Kylie Peck, Colin Read, Barbara Rice, Christopher Thompson, Donna Wadsworth, James Wright

Council Members Substitutes: None

State Agency/Local Government/ESD Staff: Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, Craig Alfred, Dick Ashlaw, Erin Burns, Jeff Farrell, William Ferebee, Steve Hunt, Erin Hynes, Barbara Kendall, Caitlin Lecker, June O’Neill, Brian Peck, Frank Rooney, Alie Walsh, Karen White, Tricia Wilson

Special Guests: David Wolff

Time Adjourned: 1:55 p.m.

Welcome and Remarks:

Call to Order:

- Preamble requesting disclosure of any conflicts of interest read.
- Conflicts noted:
- Recusals noted: Garry Douglas regarding NAMTrans; Betty Little regarding NAMTrans; Cathy Dove regarding Point Positive
- No conflicts noted.
- The record of recusals was noted and acknowledged at the meeting.

Reports/Discussions/Motions:

New members of the NCREDC were introduced: Brian Ashley, Executive Director, Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization; Kylie Peck, President & CEO, Greater Watertown – North Country Chamber of Commerce; and Christopher Thompson, Director, Office of Economic Development, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.

A summary of the executive session was given:

The URI process to access \$50 million in funding has started. We have a review committee that meets quarterly to look at applications. They then bring the applications to the full council for consideration to move them to the next phase of the application. Two tentative proposals were advanced today to Phase II of the URI application.

DRI Round 2 is underway. The same 5 member regional review committee will act on behalf of the council. Communities must apply by June 14th and the committee will make a recommendation to the State as to which community should receive the funding. Outreach has been done with all regional communities that this process is now underway.

We named a special Accommodations Task Force that will report back to us in July with strategies/guidance on how we can more effectively implement our vision of developing accommodations across the region.

We had a briefing from David Wolff, Board Chair at Adirondack Action, regarding the status of broadband across the region and some strategies on how we can maximize the state investment.

Alie Walsh, Vice President of Regional Economic Development at Empire State Development gave a presentation on the launch of Round 7 of the Regional Economic Development Council process.

The North Country has received about \$484 million for 456 projects since 2011. In 2016 the ten regions competed for an unprecedented amount of money and competed in the first round of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative. This year, regions should continue to focus on implementing downtown projects. In 2017, there is again an unprecedented amount of funding for the process. Funding includes \$150 million in ESD Capital Funding, \$75 million in Excelsior Tax Credits, \$575 million in additional funding from other agencies, and \$10 million for each region in Downtown Revitalization Initiative Round 2 funding. The total amount of funding available is \$800 million from 30 programs and 12 agencies. The website, www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov has everything posted online, including a resource guide and regional council guidebook. As part of this year's competition, each regional council will be required to:

- Identify projects for the State life sciences cluster
- Support the Downtown Revitalization Initiative and begin to identify projects to implement it
- Continue to identify strategies to train the workforce of today and tomorrow. This year we are asking each region to survey local industry leaders and skills training programs to identify gaps and develop strategies to close them.
- Implement regional strategies and continue to build and expand the project pipeline
- Update ongoing regional initiatives and priorities outlined in prior round strategic plans
- Utilize and report on key indicators or performance measures that track regional strategies and/or regionally significant issues

Details are still being sorted regarding the Life Sciences funding that was included in the budget this year. The REDC's role is to assess what kind of cluster already exists in the region. A workgroup may help with this task. The CFA opened on May 1st and closes July 28th at 4 p.m. No late applications will be accepted. Regional council progress reports are due on October 2, with the awards being held in late fall again. Each council should also provide an update on ongoing initiatives:

- Identify projects that will implement the regions cluster action plan
- An update to their "Opportunity Agenda" plans;
- Engage the Community College Councils

- Identify and endorse preferred business incubators and Hot Spots
- Promote increased participation by Veterans in the CFA process; and
- Continue efforts to engage local governments in the process.

Priorities to keep in the back of your mind when making decisions and applying for funding are place making, workforce, tradeable sectors, and innovation. More information about these is available in the Regional Council Guidebook.

Paul Grasso noted that workforce development funding doesn't match the priority requirement the state places on it through this process.

Alie Walsh said that is the feeling across the state. They are working with the NY DOL on how to obtain more funding for workforce development activities. This year, the focus is on skills gaps and should include conversations between industry and training centers. You can try to find a way to fit the available funding to meet those needs.

Garry Douglas presented the Co-Chair public forum, noting that one is scheduled in each county. He said that Alie Walsh covered a lot of the information he would present in her presentation so he will not duplicate it. He said that this process has been successful for the region but noted that we need more projects from private companies to be more competitive with the other regions.

Garry Douglas opened the floor to public comments.

Fred Hanss, Director of Planning and Development for the Village of Potsdam representing Gregg Townsend. The Village will be pursuing funding this round for East Dam Hydro plant. We've entered into an agreement with NYPA to do a rebuild of the plant. It's a \$1.8 million project. NYPA will provide some financing, but we will be seeking funding from the Community Development Block Grant program. We have a high percentage of low- to moderate- income residents. We will be submitting this to the regional council for priority project consideration. The revenue from the power generation is used to pay for the operation of our water and sewer plant and other village operations.

Rebecca Faber, representing Marlinda Lavalley from St. Lawrence Health System - Canton Potsdam Hospital. I heard the life sciences mentioned and I wanted to make you all aware that the St. Lawrence Health System has recruited several new physicians. We have the first rheumatologist ever to practice in the area, a new oncology faculty member and endocrinologist. These physicals are beginning to run clinical trials that we were unable to run prior because we lacked that level of specialty. When you're thinking about life sciences and creating the work group, please look at St. Lawrence Health Systems and other healthcare institutions in the region.

Garry Douglas closed the meeting at 1: 55 p.m.