



NCREDC Meeting Summary

Introductory Information:

Date and Time Meeting Commenced: June 23, 2017 1:00pm

Location: Crowne Point Hotel, Lake Placid

Council Members Present: Tony Collins, Garry Douglas, Brian Ashley, Rollin Beattie, Cali Brooks, Joseph Butler, Reg Carter, John Donoghue, Cathy Dove, Bill Farber, Kate Fish, Paul Grasso, Scott Gray, Bridget Ann Hart, Billy Jones, Betty Little, James McKenna, Harry McManus, Kylie Peck, Randy Preston, Colin Read, Barbara Rice, Zvi Szafran, Donna Wadsworth, James Wright

Council Members Substitutes: Keith Tyo for John Etting

State Agency/Local Government/ESD Staff: Dick Ashlaw, Jason Denno, Jeff Farrell, Anthony Hayden, Sharon Henderson, Steve Hunt, Erin Hynes, Melissa Johnston, Dan Kelleher, Caitlin Lecker, Katie Malinowski, Adam Ostrowski, Frank Rooney, Robert Stegemann, Alie Walsh, Karen White, Tricia Wilson

Special Guests: Jim Murphy

Time Adjourned: 2:00 p.m.

Welcome and Remarks:

Call to Order:

- Preamble requesting disclosure of any conflicts of interest read.
- Conflicts noted:
- Recusals noted: None
- No conflicts noted.
- The record of recusals was noted and acknowledged at the meeting.

Reports/Discussions/Motions:

Garry Douglas summarized the executive session:

- We had a presentation from three members of Winter Universiade who are visiting on behalf of the International University Sports Federation (FISU). Milan Augustin provided a presentation on the World University Games and the potential for the Lake Placid area to host the games in 2023.
- Jim McKenna made a presentation on the findings of our Lodging Task Force that we created at our last meeting. The goal of the task force was to figure out how to best position the region for more private sector investment in the lodging industry. They came up with five recommendations as the next steps to increase the lodging capacity.
- We had an update on Fort Drum from new council member Brian Ashley. The post remains a priority for this council.

- We reviewed the upcoming CFA scoring process in which our non-elected council members participate.

Garry Douglas asked if there were any corrections or additions to the May 19, 2017 meeting summary provided. No corrections or additions were offered. Paul Grasso moved to adopt the May 19, 2017 meeting summary. Seconded by Kate Fish. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

Garry Douglas introduced Jim Murphy, Executive Director of the Adirondack Economic Development Corp. (AEDC). Jim Murphy provided a presentation on the Community Development Financial Institution Assistance Program.

- AEDC is a not-for-profit corporation that provides commercial lending, entrepreneurship training, and works with minority – and women- owned business enterprises. We are a member of the Entrepreneurship Assistance Program (EAP) network. EAPs are 22 centers throughout New York State that provide businesses assistance and training programs. We're also a Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI); a federally designated institution specifically tasked to work with minorities, women, and people that are financially disadvantaged. The CDFI program on the State level has provided technical assistance funds, institutional advancement funds, and provides funding for mission-based lending that is traditionally more risky. We're an alternative to the predatory lending that people turn to when traditional banks deny them a loan.

Garry Douglas gave an overview on the Regional Council and its work over the past seven years.

- The CFA process success we've had has resulted in other, non- CFA funding like the Whiteface Veterans Memorial Highway rehabilitation.
- The North Country has been awarded \$484.6 million since 2011 through the REDC process, incentivizing 456 projects throughout the 7 county region and leveraging over \$650 million in private investment.
- This year's competition includes \$150 million in ESD Capital Grants, \$75 million in Excelsior Tax Credits, and \$575 million in additional state funding through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) from various state agencies. Five regions named Top Performers will receive \$20 million each in ESD Capital Grant funding and the remaining regions will receive \$10 million each in ESD Capital Grant funding. There is also \$10 million available to each region for Downtown Revitalization Initiative.
- CFA Applications are due on July 28th at 4:00 p.m. Our scores and plan update is due on October second and awards are expected to be announced in December.
- This year, we are also tasked with the following:
 - Identify projects for the State life sciences cluster
 - Support Downtown Revitalization Plans and identify downtown projects
 - Identify workforce development strategies and shrink the skills gap
 - Implement strategies through the project pipeline
 - Measure performance and progress of the strategic plan and CFA projects
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Garry Douglas called for public comment.

Hillarie Logan-Dechene from the Wild Center: Made the council aware of a project that was launched with partners using funding from a previous Market NY CFA application. We've been working through the last several years with Lake George, the Adirondacks, and Saratoga Springs to come up with an itinerary to use with an international market. We've launched a new website called gonorthny.com. It's an itinerary designed for tour operators in other countries to introduce northern New York to them. We will have a public meeting about this in the fall at the Wild Center.

Mary Margaret Small from Clarkson University regarding the North Country STEM Learning Network: As a network we have a goal of economic development. I wanted to share with you some of the activities that have occurred or will occur that are directly related to workforce development and economic development. In May we had over 2,000 and almost 80 employers gather at the Watertown Arena for a Career Jam led by Cheryl Mayforth and the WDB in Jefferson County. This was the third time this program occurred and each year it has grown. This shows the next generation of workers the opportunities that are right here so that the brain drain doesn't occur. The group that attended from Saratoga County is replicating the event in the Fall. Wednesday night we had the STEM Awards Dinner to recognize some of the champions that have supported the learning and public awareness of workforce development. We gave out three awards to teachers and an organization. The network has been accepted as one of 53 Communities of Practice and entered into the STEM Funder's Network on the basis of strong bonds between higher education, public schools and the business community. We were also one of three proposals funded to look at the middle level skills gap in rural areas. We also have manufacturing day coming.

Garry Douglas said the next NCREDC meeting is September 14th in Potsdam.