

North Country Regional Economic Development Council

Public Forum – Plattsburgh, NY

Date: Monday, June 26, 2012 Time: 6:05 p.m.

Attendance: approx. 40 (including 3 council members, 5 staff)

Garry Douglas introduced Jake Liszka – Provost, SUNY Plattsburgh: Liszka welcomed the council and attendees to the college for the public forum.

Co-chairs G. Douglas and Tony Collins spoke to Powerpoint presentation

Other Council members in attendance: John Donoghue, James McKenna

Q and A

If Priority Projects are not moving forward what happens to the money?

GD: One project so far is not moving forward. Council can review other proposed priority projects to see if the funding can be used for other opportunities. State allows the council to reassign the money. State needs to sign off and redirect the funding.

TC: Tell us about projects that you would like to see occur even if it is not currently in the pipeline.

Who are the seven members of the Priority Project Committee?

There are seven members each representing a member county of the council. They include:

- Keith Zimmerman – St. Lawrence County
- Eric Virkler – Lewis County
- Erin Hynes – Clinton County

Comments

- Mayor, Village of Champlain: **C²RP project.** First spoke at May Council meeting in Lake Placid. Project is designed to provide water and wastewater solutions to both the villages of Champlain and Rouses Point and the Town of Champlain. It will provide economic growth and environmental protection for the municipalities and residents (*See attached comments*).
- Trustee, Village of Rouses Point Discussed revitalization efforts in village of Rouses Point and thanked the NCREDC for its support for its applications in 2011 (*See attached comments*).
- Village of Rouses Point: Village working on waterfront revitalization for a decade. Working on marketing and promotion of activities in RP. Economic Restructuring is fourth pillar for RP for village to work on. The village is active in marketing of sale of Pfizer and examining other opportunities in village. Expect to submit a CFA to continue efforts to seek investment in tourism infrastructure in the village. RP looking for funds from various waterfront programs and to work/sponsor other waterfront programs/consulting.

Economic development and restructuring – Rouses Point wants to look at the economic development market and find out why investors have not found Rouses Point? Village

wants to figure it out and help investors find RP. Do some analysis and then do marketing to promote sale of empty property.

Catalyze small business startup, i.d. small sector tourism and establish visible signage at entrance to village.

- Asked NCREDC to keep in mind the infrastructure health care needs of the workers. We need more health care providers. There are not enough providers to keep young people here or to attract new people to the area.
- One of the CFAs to be submitted is for a small slaughterhouse and meatpacking facility to be located near Plattsburgh (near Northway for ease of access). Hoping to persuade City of Plattsburgh about the value of allowing a parcel of land for use as holding pens for slaughterhouse. Environmentally harder to get it accepted, but would benefit young farmers who want to get their livestock to market. Coordinating with St. Lawrence Valley farmers for similar processing. Need a more local facility to reduce trucking of animals.
- Strand Theatre Restoration Project: Asking the council to keep the Strand as a priority project for another year. Will be ready to finish the work with the funding secured by NCREDC. Need funding for equipment to run the theatre to attract the type of acts desired. Could become the U.S. venue for Montreal Jazz festival for next year.

Forum ended at 8:35 p.m.