

Massena Public Forum  
Thursday, June 28, 2012

Tony Collins & Garry Douglas Presenters:

Questions on the process:

- Audience Member: For any CFA application, does the system apply to multiple segments of the funding? (Garry describes process for getting considered for anything that you may qualify for by submitting through the CFA system.)
- Audience Member- Two part question – 1) You will have \$25 million for priority projects, how will that be allocated? (Garry answers that priority projects will be awarded if we win, and he and Tony then answer that they will put it through the priority project list. 2) What type of projects? Garry answers that the \$25 million pot for priority projects are for capital initiatives according to our transformative priorities.
- Audience Member: How do transitional processes work versus transformative? (Answer: Transformative is the terminology used by the state. Follow the criteria in describing the transition.)
- Audience member asked to explain the \$25 million priority project funding awarded to our region and the tax credits, bond funding. Garry answered \$25 million in Excelsior tax credits and \$40 million in IDA bonds were made available in the announcement in December 2011.
- Audience member asked if the NYPA \$16 million and 20 mega watts was included and Tony/ Garry said no. He asked if the CFA was part of this process... can I start local utility process, then I would have to work separately with River Valley Redevelopment Authority.

Action Item: Hook him up with an appropriate state agency representative about his ideas for a transformative project in energy generation/utility development.

## Public Comment

- North Country Pastures – We are working with the Smartis Corp which is part of United Helpers and this is phased project doing the food hub. Garry said it was good to tell us about phased. She said they were working with Gardenshare and Extension specialists – we are a conglomerate of for-profit and nonprofit groups and will that be a problem in the process. We have local institutions that are interested in chickens and now Fort Drum is interested in chickens as well as
- Town of Massena – A couple of comments, I have to admit when this whole process was announced last year, I was skeptical. Compliments to Tony and Garry for the wonderful package you put together and the success you brought the region and thank you for the work for the region. And I'm not here just because my airport received some funding last year. I like the projects and the areas in the plan. Massena has Alcoa and everyday there are loads of molten aluminum sent to Oswego County for cans and I would like to see opportunities for more plant development here so that those products could be manufactured here in Massena in addition to the aluminum raw material that we ship outside the region.

Two other components: I like the agriculture in the plan and we have a great tradition in dairy and it's a tough business to be in. I would like to see more beef cattle and processing facilities. And the last thing, the focus on tourism is good and for a long-time economic development people would not think of tourism as economic development and I'm pleased to see the focus on this in the plan. We are working on the fishing tournament and this is something we can capitalize on the opportunities with tourism.

- St. Lawrence County Planning Office deserves credit.

- Rescue Squad with Ogdensburg, NY: We are trying to build or construct/buy a building with Green aspects to it.
- Final Speaker: It is nice to hear and look at this plan, is it really going to be feasible? The NY Debt, the pension debt and the national debt, and the pie in the sky of some of these projects like the train tracks, it is like the mayor of Massena said, we need to get to agriculture quickly. Here we are buying milk from California. The land is our natural resource, can we put some of these boys back on the land – the price of milk is sustainable if they work, and \$3 million for the state in total doesn't get people back to the land so they wouldn't have to pay the same equality to these corporations to reclaim the land.....