

**North Country Regional Council**  
**Tuesday, August 6, 2013 at 11:00am**  
**Malone Golf Club**

Present: Tony Collins, Cali Brooks, Garry Douglas, Janet Duprey, John Ettling, Bill Farber, Kate Fish, Jeff Graham, Paul Grasso, Hugh Hill, Billy Jones, Betty Little, Cheryl Mayforth, Jim McKenna, Bill Murray, Jon Putney, Patty Ritchie, Addie Russell, Eric Virkler, Donna Wadsworth, Dan Wilt, Jim Wright

Also present: Dick Ashlaw for Joseph Griffo

Absent: Ken Blankenbush, John Donoghue, Randy Douglas, Carolyn Fitzpatrick, Bridget Ann Hart, Donald Kasprzak, James Langley, Carl McLaughlin, Anne Merrill, Marie Regan, Michael Tabolt, David Tomberlin, Mark Tryniski, Lisa Weber

**WELCOME**

Garry Douglas opened the public session at 1:18pm and provided the summary of the Executive Session including the actions of the Board including:

- The change in applicant of the Tourism Transformation Fund from AEDC to DANC;
- The transfer of the Digital Theater Conversion Fund from AEDC to DANC, and;
- The change in the Carthage Apartment project, including a change in project location and expansion of the project to a multi-use development at the former Mercy Hospital campus in Watertown and request that the state approve the transfer of funds as well.

Garry Douglas reviewed the Opportunity Area and Innovation Hot Spot programs. He also highlighted the Adirondack Challenge and recognized the efforts of Bill Farber and Jim McKenna. He noted that at the end of the event, he and Tony Collins presented the Governor with a replica Teddy Roosevelt hat, similar to that which President Roosevelt wore while in the Adirondacks.

Garry Douglas also reviewed the motions passed by the REDC in support of the St. Lawrence County Psychiatric Center and Chateaugay prison.

Garry Douglas introduced Michael Perrin from the NY Works Task program for a presentation. The Task Force works out of the Executive Chamber is about a year-old. It is tasked with improving project management, project selection, and capital asset financing processes. It is also charged with writing capital plan. Every year, the state legislature adopts a five year capital plan each year; however this new capital plan is a ten year plan, involving 47 state agencies and totals just over \$174 billion. The plan is organized by functional sectors and REDC regions. The plan includes a Strategic Plan for Economic Growth in the state. Transportation makes up a majority of the capital spending in the state. He reviewed the Task Force's process and next steps. Garry Douglas thanked Mr. Perrin for his presentation and asked that Mr. Perrin connect with Paul Grasso and the REDC's transportation committee. Tony Collins asked about how the state's debt limit impacts this capital plan. Mr. Perrin

noted that the debt limit does not impact the authorities as it does state agencies. The Division of Budget closely follows the on-budget debt cap and is looking to sort out the off-budget cap. Garry Douglas incited the public to ask any questions; none were asked.

Garry Douglas moved to the public comment period and introduced the following individuals:

Jack Burke, Dewey Mountain Recreation Center (Saranac Lake) submitted an application to allow it to replace its “undersized” lodge facility and improve cross-country race trails, and mountain biking trails. The Friends of Dewey Mountain have raised about \$100,000 towards these projects. He noted the history and amenities of the facility and its impact to the community. The current base lodge includes a trailer and deteriorated log cabin.

Ron Keough, Harrietstown Town Board, noted the history of Dewey Mountain. He noted that if the town did not have significant expense for its town hall and other facilities, it could provide greater resources to Dewey Mountain but unfortunately, it cannot.

Nancy Vesco, Vesco Ridge Vineyards of West Chazy. Expressed her support for the Adirondack Coast Wine Trail and asked for the REDC to support the trail as well. She noted that the wine trail will benefit the region’s tourism and agriculture sectors.

Garry Douglas invited any others who would like to speak to provide remarks.

Paul Grasso (The Development Corporation) noted that we have not been successful in how we fund traditional education and fund programs that are working instead of competing.

Zoë Smith, Adirondack Program for the Wildlife Conservation Society, is proposing Cycle Adirondack. It is modeled on Cycle Oregon and Cycle Greater Yellowstone. The goal is to bring economic stimulus, approximately \$100,000 per community per night that the event is in town. The timing of the event is late summer/early fall starting in 2015. The proposed route would travel across a number of counties across the region.

Garry Douglas noted that the public forum would start at 2:30pm and adjourned this meeting at 2:11pm.