

North Country Regional Economic Development Council
ORDA Conference Center | Lake Placid
Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015

Present: Tony Collins, Garry Douglas, Janet Duprey, Cathy Dove, Jim Calnon, Billy Jones, Joe Giroux, Hugh Hill, William Farber, Carolyn Fitzpatrick, Cheryl Mayforth, William Murray, Zvi Szafran, Eric Virkler, Donna Wadsworth, John Donoghue, James McKenna, James Wright, Dan Wilt, Kate Fish, Joe Lightfoot, John Ettling

Absent: Ken Blankenbush, Bridget Hart, Betty Little, Carl McLaughlin, Marie Regan, Michael Tabolt, Cali Brooks, Sam Dyer, Bill Ferebee, Jeff Graham, Paul Grasso, Joe Griffo, Bob Lenney, Patty Ritchie, Dan Stec, David Tomberlin, Mark Tryniski, Lisa Weber

Public Session

Tony Collins opened the public session at 1 p.m.

Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul thanked everyone for their collaboration, commonality in working together. While there have been challenges, everyone has overcome that. The funding the council has received in previous cycles is a tribute to the members working together. There a lot of talent and opportunity in the North Country. She is very pleased to see the work everyone is doing.

Tony Collins thanked Gov. Cuomo and Lt. Gov. Hochul for giving us this opportunity. He said the seven counties have come together for regionality.

Tony Collins provided a summary of the executive session. The council voted and approved the Progress Plan, Priority Projects, Upstate Revitalization Plan, and CFA Scores. He said the Governor has, in the past, gathered the agencies to review proposals as quickly as possible. While there are a lot of proposals, it is important for the group to identify those that are best for the region. Jobs retained are just as important as growing new jobs. The URI plan proposed would have a bigger impact on the North Country than in other regions. We are moving forward with identifying those projects that would be ready in years, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Tony Collins said Tourism and Community Development, Advancement Manufacturing and Technology, and Agriculture and Clean Energy are the main priorities in the strategic plan, and projects should align with those priorities. While we expect to win one of the URIs, we are focused on establishing a plan and sticking to it.

Garry Douglas quickly reviewed the timetable for the public previously mentioned. The Council's plan will be submitted Sept. 21 and released to the public. Submission of URI plan including projects, strategies will be on Oct. 5 and released to public. Review by the state implementation assessment team should occur in mid to late October. Awards announcement possibly in December.

Tony Collins opened the floor to public comment.

Bob Ross spoke about Homeward Bound Adirondacks, which has asked for funding to update Camp Bedford (former Boy Scout camp), for veterans and their families. It would also bring conferences and wilderness retreats during "shoulder" seasons throughout the year, which would increase tourism in

some neighboring communities. Valerie Ainsworth said Homeward Bound Adirondacks received calls from the Ticonderoga American Legion for assistance for a disabled veteran living in a camper with 7 children. Homeward Bound had 4 trucks of furniture provided by other organizations for them.

Tony Collins closed the public session at 1:25 p.m.