



Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council Meeting  
February 6, 2012  
Binghamton University

**Council Members Present:** Tom Tranter, Bob Duffy, Harvey Stenger, Keith Baumann, Martin Dietrich, Kathryn Boor, Steve Craig, Peg Ellsworth, Barbara Schindler, Martha Robertson, Ernie Hartman, Tim O’Hearn, Steve Johnson (for David Skorton), James Johnson, Svante Myrick, George Miner, Uttara Prasad, Debra Preston, Michael Stamm, Martha Robertson, Tony Rosemarino (for Dan Spoor), Diane Lantz, Lou Santoni, Linda Schumaker, Susan Skidmore

**State Agency/Local Government Staff Present:** John Burin, Paul D’Amato, Ken Lynch, Bijoy Datta, Pam Eshbaugh, Phil Giltner, Tim Grippen, Kevin McLaughlin, Tim Joseph, Elaine Miller, JC Smith, Linda Hardie, Patrick Doyle, Brian Shea, Bob Furlani, Jack Chanecka, Irene Baker, Tom Kowalik, Kevin McCabe, Christian Harris, Frank Surdey, Julie Sweet, Tom Kowalik, Peg Kelly, Robin Alpaugh

Reports/Discussions

Lt Governor Duffy opened the meeting and welcomed all Council members, elected officials, and agency representatives. He recognized the work completed by the Council last year as outstanding and encouraged all Council members, returning and new, to continue the good work this year.

T. Tranter welcomed everyone and asked all Council members to introduce themselves. He asked for approval of the December meeting notes but was told that Council members did not receive them yet. He tabled the approval until next meeting.

K. McLaughlin presented a report on the status of projects approved following the December CFA award process and Council Strategic Plan competition. (PowerPoint is posted on the Council website.) He distributed a list of projects awarded funding during last year’s CFA review process. (See Council website.)

I. Baker presented an update on the CFA process for this year. She reinforced the value of the Region’s Strategic Plan and indicated that the structure of the new CFA competition is currently being designed in conjunction with the Regional Economic Development Council Statewide Co-Chairs Committee. She encouraged Council members to focus on plan implementation, updating strategies as necessary, and preparing the progress report. She reported that some programs included in last year’s CFA process may

be pulled out of the process this year because it was shown they didn't fit well. She reported that the CFA website will be updated and that projects previously submitted but not funded could be revised and resubmitted this year and that re-typing of applications will not be necessary. A timeline for the CFA process has not been set; however, with the help of the Statewide Council Chairs group will try to get the timeline out as soon as possible.

A public comment period was held at four individuals made comments: Krys Cail talked about an ongoing initiative to support local farmer's markets, regional grown produce and creating a USDA food hub ; Rema Loeb presented her recommendation that the Council not support the natural gas industry hydro-fracking in the Southern Tier; Kim Michels also presented her opposition to hydro-fracking in the Southern Tier; Irene Weiser referenced a Cornell University study and data from Pennsylvania indicating the hydro-fracking was dangerous to agricultural livestock and people, also encouraged establishing meat processing initiative in the region.

The Council took a brief recess and recess. Following the recess, they reconvened in private session.

K. McLaughlin and T. Tranter reported that 51 applications had been received to date for the Recharge NY Program. A list of projects applications was distributed. (See Council website.) Council members were encouraged to remind businesses about this program. He also informed Council about the change in this program that required REDC review of applications for this program. He described the project review and approval process for the Council. Several questions were raised and discussion ensued. T. Tranter reminded Council members that a central issue to be considered in these applications is the impact that projects may have in the community. Council members are to send their comments about projects to Kevin by Wednesday February 8, 2012. He will forward comments to the Executive Committee and project reviewers consisting of non-elected representatives from each county. Following project scoring, he will distribute scores to all Council members for approval.

T. Tranter introduced the guidelines and application forms drafted for initiatives approved in the CFA process last year. Three different funds were supported, i.e., Shovel Ready Sites, Rural Venture Initiative, and Community Revitalization. K. McLaughlin indicated that he and the Executive Committee are seeking comment and feedback from the Council and work group members. It was suggested that clearer language be added to each application to clarify the loan versus grant aspects of the project applications. It was suggested to change the name from Rural Venture Initiative to Agriculture Venture Initiative. It was suggested to change the percentages utilized for ranking to increase the percentage addressing brown field conversion in the Community Revitalization Fund. It was decided not to advertise these funds until after the Empire State Development Board approves them at their April meeting. K. McLaughlin will send an email to all Council members seeking additional feedback by the end of February.

As he closed the meeting, the Lt Governor suggested that this Council explore a project to seek funds to build a regional business incubator in the next round of CFA applications.

## Decisions/Actions

Council members are to send their comments about Recharge NY projects to Kevin by Wednesday February 8, 2012. He will forward comments to the Executive Committee and project reviewers. Following project scoring, he will distribute scores to all Council members for approval.

Work Groups will reconvene to help develop specific projects for 2012 submission.

Clearer language may be added to each fund application to clarify the loan versus grant aspects of the project applications.

It was decided to change the name of one fund from Rural Venture Initiative to Agriculture Venture Initiative.

K. McLaughlin will send an email to all Council members seeking additional feedback by the end of February on the project application process on three funds approved last year.

The Council will meet approximately four times during 2012.

Although a date for the next meeting was not set, the Council may meet in April to review and vote on project proposals and assess progress to date.

Next meeting:

- Date: To be announced
- Time: To be announced
- Location: To be announced
- Agenda:
  - Review and vote on project proposals
  - Assess Council progress to date