

Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council
August 31, 2012
Marist College

Meeting Summary Notes

PUBLIC SESSION

The Co-Chairs welcomed the public to the Council meeting.

Council Actions

The Council explained that it will vote to approve a suite of priority projects for 2012 funding and on Council scoring for projects submitted for funding through the Consolidated Funding Applications. The Council's score accounts for 20 percent of the final score for all CFA projects.

A motion to approve the suite of priority projects passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the suite of CFA prioritized projects and endorse CFA scoring passed unanimously.

Discussion of Progress Report

Emily Saland and Peter Dworkin provided an update on the progress report. To address gaps that remain in the report, particularly to describe progress on action items and define actions items moving forward for the implementation agenda, Council members either volunteered to help supply that information or were volunteered in absentia (indicated by an *) if they had worked on those subject matter areas in the 2011 Plan or had specific expertise.

Assigned Council members are asked to review the action items and strategies related to each initiative in last year's plan; recommend which, if any, should be modified and carried forward; and populate the other columns on each implementation table in their section that note any progress we've made and future actions/timeline for completion.

The deadline for this information is COB, Wednesday, September 5th and all information should be submitted to Emily Saland and Thom Kleiner.

The assignments are as follows:

Biotech: Peter Dworkin

Advanced manufacturing: Vinnie Cozzolino

Information Technology: Emily Saland

Distribution: Maureen Halahan*

Financial and professional services: Marsha Gordon*; Ale Frederico*

Corporate Food and Beverage: Larry Gottlieb

National Resources: Ned Sullivan

Waterfront Development: Luiz Aragon, Ned Sullivan, Ron Hicks

Tourism: Arts and Culture: March Gallagher

Agriculture: Ken Kleinpeter*

Artisanal Food and Beverage: March Gallagher

Infrastructure: Chris St. Lawrence, Ron Hicks

Housing: Jonathan Drapkin*

Urban Centers: Professor John Nolan*

Workforce Development: Cliff Wood*

Youth Retention: Marsha Gordon* (and John Ravitz* from the Business Council)

Small Business: Carol Fitzgerald, Terri Ward

MWBE: Ale Frederico*, Robin Douglas* , Wiley Harrison*

State Legislation: Dennis Murray, Len Schleifer

Local Legislation: March Gallagher

Marketing: Mary Rodriguez

Inter-Regional Partnerships: Emily Saland

Public Engagement: Aimee Vargas and Mary Rodriguez

Performance Measures: Gerry Benjamin and Metrics Committee

Peter and Emily also noted that the 22 priority projects will be fully presented in the Strategies section of the plan. All priority and CFA prioritized projects will also be presented “at a glance” in appendices.

Public Comment

Herb Orangle spoke about the importance of the sustainability industry and hopes that the final report will include words or documents that demonstrate sustainability as a means of differentiating us from the other regions. He noted that David Church has sent the Council a one page description of how the work of the sustainability plan relates to green circle industries.

Jeff Rump noted that watershed and waste management issues are reflected work done with the Council and stated that the continuing to work together on these issues is essential. He added that the “green circle” is vocal and wants to participate in a productive way with the Council.

Path Through History Report

Mark Castiglione, of the Hudson River Valley Greenway reported on Governor Cuomo’s Path Through History initiative and the conference that was recently held in Albany. The Path Through History is a statewide roadmap that ties historically and culturally significant sites, locations and events throughout the State.

At the conference, the Governor announced that the state will allocate \$1 million to jumpstart ten regional heritage tourism marketing plans. In addition, Governor Cuomo unveiled proposed new road signs to be installed on major state highways to promote sites from New York's history, and previewed a new website that will have additional information on the sites. The Path Through History will be marked by brand new signs that will be placed along the New York State Thruway and other major arteries to direct travelers to historic sites in the area. The Mid-Hudson region will see 35 new signs.

In partnership with the ten Regional Economic Development Councils, regional workshops will receive \$100,000 grants based on their proposal for marketing, planning and regional promotion activities. These workgroups will coordinate with local tourism entities to promote the state's vast network of museums, historic sites, and other cultural institutions located throughout the entire state.

Members of the Council are encouraged to work with Mark and the workgroup on this initiative.

Conclusion

A motion to authorize submission of the Progress Report to the state was approved unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:15