Mid Hudson REDC
August 14, 2013
SUNY Sullivan
Loch Sheldrake, NY

Public Session

Co-Chair Dennis Murray welcomed public to the public session. Lt. Governor Duffy congratulated Len Schleifer on a recent article in Forbes Magazine that listed Regeneron as one of the most innovative companies in the state.

Priority Project and CFA Process Update
Dennis Murray reported the Council had an extraordinary response to the priority project process. We received 101 applications, a substantial increase over last year. Priority project applications are an endorsement of the CFA application. The Council is in the process of eligibility reviews. Top applications will be presented to Council in coming weeks and Priority Project announcements will be made in late September.

Opportunity Agenda--
March Gallagher on behalf of Pattern for Progress/Jonathan Drapkin, reported that the application process opened June 14 and closed June 28. Seven communities applied. A review committee selected the Village of Brewster and City of Peekskill as the REDC's opportunity agenda designations. Two CFAs were submitted on behalf of these municipalities for ESD technical assistance and strategic planning grants.

Len Schleifer noted that the public should be aware that this Council included criteria that priority projects include an internship program among distressed communities.

Natural Resources (Green Circle) Update
Andy Bicking, Scenic Hudson provided an overview of the Council's progress on the Green Circle strategy that includes five major themes: waterfront development, artisanal food, natural resources, and agriculture
Examples of Success Stories
--Clear Water Home Port Kingston
Artisanal Food Development
- Bread Alone
- Food and Beverage Alliance established
- HV Agribusiness

Tourism, arts and Culture
- Visitation increased by 3.1%.
- West point Foundry preserve.
- Marsh Path.
- National Geographic's Best in the World .

2013-14 Sustainability Plan.
- Cross Cutting themes

EPF, focus on downtown infrastructure--link green and brown circles (like Saw Mill River Day lighting project), agriculture--hot sector of the economy. We need a comprehensive plan for growth in this area.

I***nfrastructure Committee/Brown Circle***
Paul Ryan reported on the work of the Infrastructure Committee and noted that the region is preparing for priority project with major infrastructure components.

Marketing Committee
Mary Rodrigues reported that the Byne Group kick off meeting is tomorrow and Council members should contact her with questions and suggestions.

Tourism Update
Mary Kay Vrba reported that in 2012—the tourism sector represented 3.8 billion in economic activity, generating 62500 jobs in region. Hudson Valley tourism applied for a CFA. There are 4 themes of focus--outdoors, history, culture/arts, and food. Travel Hudson Valley is drawing international visitors. It is also hosting travel writers and working on the responsible traveler initiative. Hudson Valley tourism is celebrating 25 years of promoting the HV. Thank you to Marist for conference. Dennis Murray mentioned the region's recent National Geographic designation and suggested that be promoted in a communications effort. Mary Kay also reported that the implementation of Path Through History continues.

Meeting Minutes Approval
Motion to approve was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

--Randolph Horner, Ulster County: Spoke to strategies and synergies. Renewable energy component of manufacturing. There is a nexus between renewable energy and cost savings.

--Glen Gladally, a planner with an Engineering firm: The new grant structure has broken down agency walls and that has been very helpful in infrastructure projects.

--John Beasley, Sullivan County: NY is known throughout the world for the history of the revolution and onward. John discussed the significant history of Sullivan County, including development of the Borscht Belt, timbering, and use of natural resources.

Carla Howser-Hahn--Represents the NPS Upper Delaware River region. Welcomes the Council to Sullivan County. Invite you to take a trip down your wild and scenic river!

Nadia Rusch—Local Town Supervisor invited meeting attendees to drive up Route 97 byway.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:50