

**North Country Regional Economic Development Council  
Meeting Summary  
SUNY Plattsburgh  
April 20, 2012**

**Open Session**

Ms. Baker noted that the Lt. Governor was not in attendance due to a scheduling conflict.

**Attendance:** William Murray, Donna Wadsworth, Teresa Sayward, Janet Duprey, John Donoghue, Gordon Crossman, Cali Brooks, Roseanne Murphy, Garry Douglas, Tony Collins, John Ettling, Hugh Hill, Kate Fish, Jim McKenna, David Tomberlin, Dan Wilt, Randy Douglas, Carl McLaughlin, Betty Little

**Absent:** Adoré Flynn Kurtz, Don Kasprzak, Sen. Ritchie, Senator Griffo, Ken Blankenbush, Addie Russell, Sallie Brother, Jeff Graham, Bill Farber, Eric Virkler, Jim Langley, Anne Merrill, John Martin, Cheryl Mayforth, Jim Wright, Lisa Weber, Mark Tryniski, Bridget Hart, and Marie Regan

Garry Douglas called the meeting to order at 12:30 and introduced two new members: David Tomberlin from Well Dressed Food and Hugh Hill of Malone Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Douglas outlined the committee reports from the prior session. All thematic working groups will be convening to updates and refinements to their sections of the plan. It was stressed that the document is a living document.

Ms. Baker Talked about 2011 projects: Message is that Agencies are responsible for projects in helping them get over hurdles. Megan Daly will be tracking all the projects. Each agency tracks projects differently but all projects will be tracked through CFA system.

Ms. Baker continued by stating that as projects stall, funding will be reallocated to projects that are ready to go. This information will be on a website that is currently under development so that the public can see the projects' process.

Ms. Baker stated the new CFA Round in 2012 will have \$150 million in Capital Funding and \$70 million in tax credits from the Excelsior Jobs Program. \$530 million will also be available from 11 state agencies through 27 programs. CFA will be released in Spring, Applications due in Mid Summer, Scored in Late Summer, and Awards made in early fall. Arts and Agricultural funding will also get through CFA this year. The new CFA has a variety of changes that will make the application process easier. It will also help to weed out projects that aren't quite ready yet.

- Implementation of projects is focused on the strategic plans. There will be evaluations of current projects and the development of an additional project pipeline. A framework has been created so that an exec committee is driving the plan when Council is not in session.
- There is a new statewide endorsement standard. The basic question revolves around how do projects advance the plans.
- State involvement is crucial in this process. The agencies are now working to implement each region's strategies and drive them.

## **SAGE Presentation to Regional Councils**

Brian Quiara, Lt Governor's Staff on behalf of Derek Utter:

- Final SAGE report is due on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Organization Streamlining includes Mergers and Eliminations, Functional Mergers, Centers of Excellence, Enterprise Shared Services, and Coordination of Cross Cutting programs.
- Saving money can also come through operation improvements within the government. 5000 ideas were submitted on SAGE website.
- SAGE also is pursuing a culture of performance and accountability. SAGE is reevaluating the core missions of State Agencies to reduce redundancy.

Individual Comments and Questions:

- There is an opportunity for our local enterprises to provide privatized services for State Agencies.

Per Mr. Quiara, NYS is still working on how such a program of privatization could be implemented and we are unsure of how the SAGE plan will be rolled out over the coming months

- Change through the legislature is difficult. If there are priorities in SAGE commission, Governor could sell the ideas to the people so that legislature could push the project forward.
- There is often a cultural difference between public and private sectors. A spirit of entrepreneurialism in state agencies should be pursued.
- Letter from DEC and APA is a great example of things that are in progress of making government efficiency happen. A collaborative effort in consolidated review is very impressive.
- APA Tupper Lake review took a long period of time. A way needs to be made to streamline such a process.
- The SAGE presentation will be distributed to council.

## **Public Comments and Questions:**

A Council Member stated that previously, grants that were rejected were able to meet with the agencies to see why projects weren't funded. Can this also be possible to speak with councils?

Ms. Baker replied: Applicants can always speak with agencies

- The Council has been speaking about how to assist people. We are looking to bring experienced people at writing proposals to do private outreach at scheduled sessions. Applicants can also speak with the agencies.
- That is a common question. Another way we can assist applicants is with helping projects connect with the plan.
- Workshops will also highlight how to write well for an application. The presentations will also be available on the websites.

- State agencies have been behind the Council to help out. This process will be very defined this year. Introduces State Agency Resource Team and Deputy Directors.
- The APA and DEC have undertaken a coordination process on the request of Commissioners Martens and Ulrich to help reduce service redundancy between the two agencies.
- The Governor is facilitating greater coordination between agencies as evidenced by the North Country Railroad extension to the Tahawus Mines.
- The NYS Wood Products Development Council provides an additional opportunity to grow the economic benefits from the Northern Forests woods products industry.

A question from the audience – it appears that weatherization grants and airport grants have timing issues. Grants were due in October but awards were already decided.

Ms. Baker asked this person to contact her directly on specific issues.

- I love NY campaign ran an ad that excluded Adirondacks. How are we connecting with I love NY campaign so that we can be included in such major investments.

Per Jim McKenna, each county has tourism promotion agency-our council has two regions applicable to “I love NY”. Jim will bring opportunities to the Council

Per Ms. Baker: Business Marketing and Tourism came up in every region. There are several funding streams. There is a pot of money in latest round of CFA funding. The PATH through NY historic marketing campaign wants a work group in each REDC to work on the initiative.

- Local Jobs for local people. Community development and local construction workers are ready and able to build every project. Economic Development should utilize a local workforce
- Local 773. The use of project labor agreements help to ensure working conditions, on-time delivery, and usage of a local resource. Local PLA’s add significant advantages.
- Will projects that weren’t funded be considered?

Mr. Douglas replied that projects are encouraged to apply again this round. We will have better training, a reassessment of the plan. In terms of why a project wasn’t funded, applicants should ask the funding agency. We have been counseling some priority projects on reconfiguration so that they fit certain funding streams.

Mr. Collins added that this is a strategic process that is evolving. Projects should be lining up in the project pipeline if they fit the vision of the plan.

- Northeast Central Labor Council, please ensure that the money stays in North Country. Urges usage of construction companies using NYS registered apprentice programs.

As closing comments were made and the meeting was wrapped up, the audience was asked to look at the list of upcoming events itemized at the bottom of the agenda for today’s meeting.

Meeting closed at 2:30PM