

Long Island Regional Economic Development Council Meeting Notes
February 19, 2013
Brookhaven National Laboratory

Regional Council members, Work Group Co-chairs and state agency staff in attendance were:

<u>Council Members:</u> Lt. Gov. Robert Duffy Stuart Rabinowitz, Co Chair Kevin Law, Co Chair Dr. Hubert Keen Elaine Gross Bill Wahlig Tracey Edwards Rupert Hopkins John Durso Dr. Sam Stanley Mark Fasciano Des Ryan Bel Pagdanganan Dr. Doon Gibbs Pauletter Satur Joe Cabral Noreen Carro	<u>NYS State Agency Staff:</u> Andrea Lohneiss (Executive Director) Brian Foley (NYS Parks) Mark Grossman (NYS DOL) Jonni Urquart (NYS DOL) Shital Patel (NYS DOL) Peter Scully (DOT) Greg Watson (NYSHCR) Sharon Griffith (NYSERDA) Barry Greenspan (ESD) Aida Reyes Kuehn (ESD) Brian Teubner (ESD) Denise Zani (ESD) Tom DeJesu (NYPA) Vinnie Frigeria (NYPA) Tony Savino (NYPA) Tim Pessolesi (NYS Ag & Markets) Dwight Brown (NYS EFC)
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The following agenda was distributed to all RC members:



**LONG ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL
MEETING AGENDA
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
February 19, 2013**

**Brookhaven National Lab
Brookhaven Center, Bldg 30
Upton, NY**

Regular Meeting

3:00 pm – 3:05 pm	Welcome and Opening Remarks RC Chairman, Lieutenant Governor Bob Duffy
3:05 pm – 3:10 pm	Introduction of Regional Council Members and Round 3 Kickoff Co chairs Rabinowitz and Law
3:10 pm – 3:25 pm	Round 3 Timeline and Expectations; Overview of Economic Development Programs Proposed by Governor Cuomo in 2013-2014 Budget Lieutenant Governor Bob Duffy
3:25 pm – 4:00 pm	Discussion of Long Island Regional Council Work Group Structure Co chairs Law and Rabinowitz
4:00 pm - 4:45 pm	Reports on Regional Council Initiatives Lieutenant Governor and Co chairs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wyandanch Rising – Jonathan Keyes, Town of Babylon• Path Thru History Plan – Brian Foley, PTH Work Group Leader• Infrastructure Summit Report – Jim Morgo, Infrastructure Work Group Co Chair• CEDS Update - Cara Longworth, Exec Dir, LIRPC
4:45 pm – 4:55 pm	Review of NYS Job Development Authority Program Co chair Rabinowitz Ray Salaberrios, Senior Director, Economic Revitalization
4:55 pm – 5:00 pm	Public Comments
5:00 pm	Adjourn

The meeting began at 3:05 with approximately 75 attendees in the audience.

Regional Council Co-Chair Stuart Rabinowitz welcomed all and thanked Brookhaven National Labs for hosting the Regional Council meeting and introduced Dr. Doon Gibbs, Interim Brookhaven National Lab Director and a new Regional Council member. Mr. Rabinowitz acknowledged Sam Aronson, who recently stepped down as Brookhaven National Lab Director and therefore stepped down as a Regional Council member. It was noted that Sam Aronson worked tirelessly on council efforts and was always willing to volunteer his time and resources to council efforts and was in fact part of the Round One presentation team.

Doon Gibbs then presented a brief power point about BNL and welcomed all to the lab and thanked Lieutenant Governor Duffy for coming out to the meeting and touring the lab. Brookhaven National Lab was established in 1947 and managed by Brookhaven Science Associates. Brookhaven National Lab employs 3,000 highly-compensated scientists with a budget of \$700M. The lab is home to seven Nobel Laureates and is involved a range of basic science to advanced energy and physics research. The beneficial partnership with NYS was noted as was the soon to be completed \$1B National Synchrotron Light Source (NSLS II) project.

Mr. Rabinowitz acknowledged Dr. Hubert Keen, President of Farmingdale State College as a new Regional Council member replacing Dr. Calvin Butts who recently stepped down. Dr. Keen has been the co-chair of the workforce and education work group and will continue in that role.

Lieutenant Governor Duffy thanked Doon Gibbs for the tour and acknowledged Co-Chairs Stuart Rabinowitz and Kevin Law as well as Council Executive Director Andrea Lohneiss for their commitment and hard work during Round 2. He noted that feedback from the RC Strategic Assessment Team will be available shortly. That team visited Long Island on October 5 to hear the Regional Council's updated plan for Round Two. The Lieutenant Governor noted a willingness to have a conference call to discuss feedback but suggested the council not get frustrated about not winning a top prize in Round Two.

Kevin Law noted that the group should be proud of winning nearly \$60 million in state funding for important projects. Kevin then summarized the Work Groups' activities and noted the importance of integrating the NYSERDA \$800,000-funded Long Island Cleaner Greener Sustainability Plan into the deliberations of each work group. A presentation about the LI Sustainability plan will be made at April 9 Regional Council meeting.

Innovation and Industry Cluster work group will continue to be co-chaired by Steve Savage (no longer with CA Technologies) and Dr. Sam Stanley, President of SUNY Stony Brook.

Natural Assets will continue to be co-chaired by Bel Pagdanganan. and Carrie Gallagher.

Path Thru History Work Group, established in 2012 at the request of Governor Cuomo with a focus on heritage tourism, will be expanded in 2013 to include Arts, Culture and Tourism. This

Work Group is led by New York State Parks deputy regional director Brian Foley and is developing a plan for utilization of tourism resources allocated to each region. NYS Council on the Arts (NYSCA) now has funds in the CFA so it is important to include arts in discussions.

Infrastructure Work Group will continue to be chaired by Des Ryan and Joe Morgo. It was noted that this group is dealing with developing recommendations for Storm Sandy rebuilding.

Workforce and Education will continue to be co chaired by Joe Cabral of North Shore Long Island Jewish and Dr. Hubert Keen, Farmingdale State College, and since they are both Regional Council members and would like to expand the focus of the Work Group to include the region's community colleges, they will be joined by Suffolk Community College President Dr. Shaun McKay as a third co-chair.

Writers' Group will be co-chaired by Marianne Garvin and Hofstra's Larry Levy with support from Rich Guardino and professors from Hofstra's Suburban Institute and other resources contributed by President Rabinowitz. Stuart also asked the group for any recommendations of individuals who would be able to contribute to the writing team.

Dr. Hubert Keen noted that his group's leadership caucused about the next round and will focus on the challenges of transition from high school, college, and BOCES environments to jobs in advanced manufacturing. Joe Cabral discussed the Regional Industry Councils and Career Academies and how their work will align with Regional Council Work Group to prepare our workforce.

The Lieutenant Governor was asked about any proposed budget initiatives that the Regional Council should focus on. The Lieutenant Governor discussed Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's proposed Innovation Hot Spot program and Innovation Centers. There are proposed to be five approved in 2013 and five in 2014 and they could be aligned by the 10 Regional Council regions but that is not definite. These centers are aimed at commercializing technology and serve like a business incubator and feature a "tax free" zone.

Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy also discussed a proposed \$50 million venture capital program aimed at attracting additional VC investments from outside New York State. This initiative would be tied to the Hot Spot and Innovation Center program aiming for a 4:1 private to public leverage.

Lastly, the Lieutenant Governor discussed Industrial Development Agency reform as proposed in the state budget and noted the Governor is asking for feedback during the 30-day period and is open to dialogue to support the important work done by IDAs. He noted feedback is due quickly.

Kevin Law introduced the first presentation which was made by Jonathan Keyes, Director of Downtown Revitalization for the Town of Babylon, presenting Wyandanch Rising project. Jonathan presented a power point showing overhead maps and renderings of the various

components including the transit station, Geiger Park and open space. It was noted that the town selected the Albanese Organization as the master developer. This project has received Regional Council funding and other from ESD, DOT, DOS, EFC and DHCR. It is also receiving funds as a Brownfield Opportunity Area and tremendous progress has been made.

Kevin acknowledged elected officials including Mark Epley, Mayor, Village of Southampton and Anna Throne-Holst, Supervisor, Town of Southampton. NYS Senator Martins was also represented by his Chief of Staff, Justin Burke.

New York State Parks Brian Foley described the work of the Path Through History (PTH) work group and noted a plan would be ready to present soon for council approval. Kevin noted that Ron Foley (no relation to Brian Foley) recently retired as Long Island Region Parks Regional Director after 30+ years and was a critically important parks advocate.

Jim Morgo spoke about the Infrastructure Work Group which was asked to develop a list of key Super Storm Sandy recommendations for the Regional Council. He noted his group met twice in November and December of 2012 and a list of 45 recommendations was developed in four broad categories:

1. Waste water treatment
2. Utilities
3. Transit and shoreline
4. Housing

The list of recommendations was distributed to Regional Council members. A common element among many recommendations was the hardening of our assets and the raising of critical infrastructure. It was also noted that a lack of rental housing was highlighted when only 122 units were available for displaced Sandy victims. Des Ryan suggested the Regional Council become involved in the rail improvements between Ronkonkoma and Farmingdale.

The Lieutenant Governor noted a state plan dealing with Sandy impacts will be announced soon.

Cara Longworth of the Long Island Regional Planning Council (different than the Regional Council) then made a presentation on the newly-approved Comprehensive Economic Development Plan (“CEDS”) by the U.S Economic Development Administration. This was a two year task supported by the Planning Council, the Regional Economic Development Council and Empire State Development and involved submitting a voluminous amount of planning data to EDA to approve the CEDS now allowing Long Island municipalities to apply for EDA funds. Over 20 years ago an organization called the Long Island Area Development Agency (LIADA) was approved by EDA but the organization ceased activity shortly thereafter. The process Cara described was necessary to make LI an eligible area for funding by EDA. The CEDS plan that EDA approved was a combination document that included Long Island Regional Planning Council’s 2035 Plan and the Regional Council’s 2011 Regional Strategic Economic Development plan as well as the 2012 update document. Cara noted that the Long Island Association’s Dr.

Pearl Kamer and Department of Labor staff contributed to this effort. Cara had reached out to all the towns and counties asking for potential EDA projects and over 80 projects have been included in the CEDS plan. It was noted that each year the CEDS must be updated with a new plan submitted every five years and Andrea noted this effort can be combined with RC plan updates and that EDA was pleased with Regional Council process. Information on ESD funding opportunities should be addressed to Cara and additional information can be found at:

<http://www.eda.gov/ffo.htm>

The last presentation was made by Empire State Development's Ray Salaberrios who manages the New York State Job Development Program ("JDA"). Ray outlined this Empire State Development direct lending program that can provide low interest loans of up to 60% of a project with a maximum New York State loan of \$3.5M. The program has been reinvigorated under Governor Cuomo's direction and has up to \$500 M in bonding capacity. Ray is eager to help Long Island businesses. The program can be used to finance buildings and equipment. Retail, housing and overnight lodging projects are ineligible for loans. Over \$10M in loans have been approved since April. Program details are at:

<http://esd.ny.gov/BusinessPrograms/JDADirectLoanProgram.html>

Tracey Edwards noted we should use the feedback from Round Two to improve our chances for the next round. Kevin Law agreed and suggested the April 9th RC meeting would have that on the agenda. Andrea Lohneiss noted that feedback is important because one of the Strategic Assessment team members asked questions of the RC presentation team that highlighted the fact that many may not have fully understood the details of each project funded and implemented, necessitating additional clarification in a Round 3 submission.

The Lieutenant Governor was asked by Kevin about a replacement for Megan Daly and Lieutenant Governor noted that a selection is in process and that the job is a key part of Regional Councils' effectiveness.

Kevin asked if any in the audience would like to make a public comment. None were offered.

A motion to adjourn was made by Des Ryan with second by Dr. Sam Stanley. Kevin adjourned meeting at 4:30 pm.