

Meeting Notes - Long Island Regional Council Meeting
December 4, 2012

Regional Council members in attendance:

Co Chair Kevin Law
Co Chair Stuart Rabinowitz
Desmond Ryan
Pat Edwards
Elaine Gross
Tracey Edwards
John Durso
Bill Wahlig
Marianne Garvin
Dr. Sam Aronson
Islip Supervisor Tom Croci
Nick Terzulli for Nassau County Exec Mangano
Joanne Minieri for Suffolk County Exec Bellone
Justin Burke for Senator Jack Martins

Belinda Pagdanganan
Noreen Carro
Joe Cabral
Anne Shybunko-Moore
Paulette Satur
Mark Fasciano

Exec Director Andrea Lohneiss and Deputy Director Mark Grossman

Printed copies of ***Progress and Promise – Building a Foundation for Long Island’s Future, 2012 Update*** were distributed to all Regional Council members and everyone in attendance. The meeting opened at 3 pm with the following agenda distributed.



**LONG ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL
MEETING AGENDA
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
December 4, 2012**

**Long Island Association
Bank of America Building
Lower Level Meeting Room
300 Broadhollow Road,
Melville, NY 11747**

Regular Meeting

3:00 pm – 3:20 pm	Welcome and Opening Remarks Distribution of 2012 Progress Report and Discussion of Timeline Co Chair Stu Rabinowitz
3:20 pm – 3:50 pm	Hurricane Sandy Impacts and Recovery Efforts Nassau County Economic Recovery Task Force Report Infrastructure Summit Report Co Chair Law
3:50 pm – 4:00 pm	Executive Director's Report Andrea Lohneiss
4:00 pm – 4:50 pm	Presentation of Round One Projects SGRID 3 – <i>Sam Aronson, Lab Director, BNL; Mike Bebon, Deputy Director of Operations; Jim Misewich, Ph.D., Associate Laboratory Director for Basic Energy Sciences; Gerry Stokes, Associate Director for Global and Regional Solutions</i> BNL STEM - <i>Ken White, Founding Director, Portal to Discovery Manager, Office of Educational Programs, Brookhaven National Laboratory</i> <i>Cheryl Davidson, Director of Workforce Readiness, North Shore-LIJ Health System</i> Thought Box – <i>Mark Fasciano, Canrock Ventures</i>
4:50 pm - 5:00 pm	Open discussion
5:00 pm	Adjourn

Co-Chair Rabinowitz welcomed Regional Council members and the 100 estimated attendees from the public. He noted the difficult month with super storm Sandy and explained Lieutenant Governor Duffy was not expected to be at our meeting and his absence was due to his responsibilities with statewide storm relief. It was noted that Governor Cuomo and his Strategic Assessment review team completed the Long Island visit on October 5th and have been diligently completing the remaining tours over the past few weeks. Round two awards are anticipated by end of the year.

Co-Chair Rabinowitz noted that the Round Two submission titled "Progress and Promise" was distributed to all at today's meeting and acknowledged the excellent printing job by Regional Council member Noreen Carro. He also noted that Council Member Dr. Calvin Butts has resigned from the council and his important contribution was acknowledged and much appreciated. A replacement for Dr. Butts has not yet been confirmed by the Governor.

Co Chair Law thanked Hofstra University and Co Chair Rabinowitz for their financial contributions including the cost of printing the progress reports. Both Kevin and Stuart noted that they are each appointed members of County Executive Mangano's Sandy rebuilding task force and briefing described those activities. Co Chair Law said that the Governor's Commission aimed at rebuilding New York State's infrastructure includes five Long Island members and further described the focus of the December 3, 2012 Long Island Infrastructure Summit which he chaired and the planned purpose for the group.

Stuart Rabinowitz suggested that the Regional Council's Infrastructure Work Group (co chaired by Des Ryan and Jim Morgo) could establish a subcommittee to address longer-term storm rebuilding issues. Jim Morgo agreed to handle this task and the Regional Council approved this suggestion.

Sam Aronson noted the linkage between Round One project Smart Grid 3 and the long term hardening of Long Island's utility systems. Sam feels that the research and development of a "smarter" utility system is more critical than ever since a smarter grid would have lessened the loss and impact of super storm Sandy.

Marianne Garvin noted the importance of building standards for new and upgraded residential developments and Pat Edwards asked the group keep in mind the importance of low and moderate income homeowners and renters in this discussion.

Supervisor Tom Croci noted the need to invest in storm preparedness and volunteered his expertise in homeland security and readiness to any effort.

Andrea Lohneiss provided update of activities since the Sept 14, 2012 submission of our plan update (The 2012 plan update is referred to as "Progress and Promise"). Governor Cuomo visited Long Island on October 5th and his Strategic Review Assessment Team spent two hours

hearing an outstanding presentation by the Regional Council presenters and questioning asking questions regarding the plan, progress and projects. Andrea announced that 100% of the funded projects from Round One are in contract and within compliance. Andrea acknowledged the considerable work and collaboration of the state agency team who have worked so hard to get projects into compliance and participate in weekly meetings with Empire State Development. Initially awarded funding for 78 projects, all active projects are under contract. In addition, as a *best plan awardee*, the Long Island region was allocated an additional \$15M in Excelsior credits of which an estimated \$9.5M of those available tax credits have been allocated to approximately nine additional projects. It was also noted that LI was also awarded an allocation of private activity bond cap to support Industrial Development Agency projects whose allocation was insufficient to complete its 2012 transactions. In September, the Town of Islip requested and was approved for the full allocation for a senior housing project to be developed by Engel Burman in Sayville. These are not actual state dollars but the ability for an Industrial Development Agency to issue bonds.

Andrea noted that the high level of activity and compliance shows that the process is working well with all funds allocated to Long Island being encumbered, outcomes measureable and in full compliance. A Newsday article that appeared in October reported on Long Island Empire State Development projects being 100% in compliance on job creation.

Andrea noted that she had reached out to all Round Two priority project applicants to assess whether the super storm had impacted their proposed projects. All applicants noted their projects were not negatively impacted and still require the funding. It was noted that even the Round One Bay Scallop project was not negatively impacted and the crop survived.

The New York State Sandy “emergency loan program” was discussed. Empire State Development and the New York State Bankers Association have capitalized a \$10M loan fund for companies located in storm-impacted communities and employing fewer than 100 workers. These firms can apply for up to \$25,000 loans with no principal or interest due for six months and a fixed rate of 1% for the remaining 2 years of the loan. Both counties’ Industrial Development Agency programs which grant sales tax exemptions on materials purchased by storm impacted businesses were also described. Fees have been reduced and approval times expedited.

The Path Thru History work group, led by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation regional offices, met on Dec 2, 2012 and will prepare a plan by end of January. Approval of the Regional Councils will be needed prior to submission to the Governor.

Co Chair Rabinowitz discussed the Nassau Hub project, specifically noting that neither he or Kevin had any involvement or prior knowledge of Nassau County Executive Mangano’s announcement of a selected development team. It was noted that the Regional Council had strongly supported the county’s retaining a first class planning firm to develop a comprehensive redevelopment plan for the 77-acre site. John Durso noted that the labor community was also not involved in the developer selection but stand ready to help a project move ahead.

Kevin Law introduced the first Round One project speaker and Jim Misevich of Brookhaven National Lab presented an update on Smart Grid 3 noting the collaborative project with Stony Brook University is critically important to hardening the Long Island utility infrastructure and that Long Island could become a “laboratory” for such work similar to that of the Pacific Northwest Department of Energy Laboratory. Jim also responded encouragingly on the subject of the Brookhaven National Laboratory/SBU team not being awarded a major United States battery project grant, noting that they remain an important player in the battery research area.

Cheryl Davidson of North Shore Long Island Jewish and Ken White of Brookhaven National Laboratory made a presentation on Regional Council Round One STEM HUB (Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics) which is aimed at preparing Long Island’s future workers for careers in science and technology. The discussion outlined the importance of “Career Academies” which focus on career skills and engage industry in the academic curriculum. Information can be viewed at www.listemhub.org

Elaine Gross asked if we have a data collection mechanism that provides information about who gets access to these potential new jobs and who is being trained and thinks it is critical to track by race, gender, income in an effort to connect Long Island’s youth with these promising careers.

Mark Fasciano of Canrock Ventures then updated the Council on the ThoughtBox project. His company and partners were not able to buy the building as hoped but in order to move the initiative forward he has now leased 11,000 s.f. of a 210,000 s.f. building (100 Duffy Avenue in Hicksville). He has moved into this building his entire operation of 40+ people and also offers “tech desks” for as little as \$500 per month to entrepreneurs who can benefit from collaboration with other tech businesses. The concept is to have many of these tech companies in the same environment to foster a cross pollination of ideas and spur new Internet technology companies. Mark also discussed similar efforts in other parts of North America including Waterloo, Canada which was ranked high among tech start up areas.

Elaine Gross asked if there is still a residential component to Thought Box. Mark noted that the town had first discouraged this element of the project but now seem to be interested in discussing a small residential component in the building which is adjacent to the Hicksville Long Island Railroad.

Bill Wahlig briefing described a that proposal LIFT (Long Island Forum for Technology) will be submitting to NYSTAR (New York State Technology and Research Foundation which is a unit within Empire State Development). The NYSTAR Request for Proposal was provided to each Regional Council member and can be viewed at:
http://www.esd.ny.gov/corporateinformation/Data/RFPs/NYSTAR/RISP_RFPPFINAL.pdf

The RISP program is aimed at helping regions spur technology development and would align well with several Round One funded projects like Accelerate Long Island. For the purposes of

this grant New York State Technology and Research Foundation has combined Long Island and New York City regions and Long Island Forum for Technology will work with New York City's technology development organization on a joint response to the Request for Proposal. The Long Island Forum for Technology will use the funds to hire a technology outreach person and will provide a cash and in-kind match for the \$75,000 per year from New York State Technology and Research Foundation if they are awarded the grant. Bill did not have the Long Island Forum for Technology proposal completed yet and was not requesting a formal vote or endorsement by the council. Once submitted, a request for the LI RC's endorsement is expected to be made by the funder.

Andrea Lohneiss noted that Suffolk Economic Development Commissioner Joanne Minieri wished to thank the council for endorsing a Suffolk County request for funding for a communication system at Gabreski Airport. The project has received funding in the amount of \$126,000 from NYS.

At 5 pm Co Chair Rabinowitz called for a motion to adjourn the meeting which was approved.