

**MHREDC Public Meeting
Tuesday, May 2, 2017**

Introductory Information:

Date and Time Meeting Commenced:

Tuesday, May 2, 2017 – Public Session: 4:00 PM

Location:

Marist College
Cornell Boathouse
3399 North Rd.
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Council Members Present: Meghan Taylor; Dennis Murray; Don Christian; Jonathan Drapkin; Maureen Halahan; Al Samuels; Ned Sullivan; Jim Taylor; Cliff Wood; Vincent Cozzolino

Ex-Officios: Marcus Molinaro (Dutchess County Executive)

Council Members Substitutes: Suzanne Holt (Rep. Hein); George Oros (Rep. Astorino); Jason Baker (Rep. Spano); Freda Eisenberg (Rep. Alvarez); Barbara Barosa and Sandra Fusco (Reps. Odell);

State Agency/Local Government/ESD Staff: Lydia Biskup (Rep. MOA Serino); Tess Dickenson (Rep. MOA Barrett); Lisa Hofflich (Rep. MOA Galef); Chris Whitson (Rep. MOA Skartados); John Winton (Rep. MOS Murphy); Dwight Brown (EFC); Erin Drost (Parks); Sherry Young (DOL); Sandra Jobson (DOT); John Petronella (DEC); Emily Saland (Marist College); Richard Winters (SUNY New Paltz); Dan Jeanson (Hudson River Valley Greenway); Monique Le Gendre (ESD); Whitney Bowers (ESD); Eric Warren (ESD); Dylan Miyoshi (Governor's Regional Rep.)

Special Guests: David Yellen (Marist College); New York State Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul; Commissioner Howard Zemsky (ESD); Lindsay Boylan (ESD); Amy Varghese (ESD); Ashley McCloskey (ESD)

Call to Order:

Preamble requesting disclosure of any conflicts of interest read.

Conflicts noted: (Please List)

Recusals noted: (Please List)

No conflicts noted.

The record of recusals was noted and acknowledged at the meeting.

Public Session

Dr. David Yellen welcomed MHREDC and the public to campus.

Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul offered welcoming remarks and acknowledgements. She provided some key points from New York State's Fiscal Year 2018 Enacted Budget:

- \$800 million for the Regional Economic Development Councils Round 7 - since the inception of the Regional Councils, the result is \$4.6 billion in investment statewide
- Middle Class Tax Cut will save taxpayers \$250 on average next year, and 6 million New Yorkers \$700 annually when fully effective
- \$5 million for the Catskills for trail maintenance and infrastructure upgrades
- \$70 million for I Love New York campaign to promote statewide tourism
- \$200 million for the Empire State Trail that will include the Walkway Over the Hudson in part of the 750-mile trail
- \$100 billion for NYS infrastructure program

Commissioner Howard Zensky offered welcoming remarks to the public and the Lieutenant Governor.

Ashley McCloskey provided the overview of the CFA Round 7 funding cycle:

- Since 2011, over \$4.6 billion has been awarded/committed to support over 5,200 projects statewide
- Since 2011, \$486.5 million has been awarded/committed to support 574 projects in the Mid-Hudson

- Over \$800 million is available from over 30 programs across 12 state agencies for the 2017 Competition. Breakdown:
 - \$150 million in capital grants
 - \$75 million in Excelsior Tax Credits
 - \$10 million to each region for Downtown Revitalization Initiative
 - over \$575 additional funding from various state agencies
- In 2017, each REDC will be required to:
 - identify projects for the State Life Sciences Cluster
 - support the Downtown Revitalization Initiative and identify projects to implement
 - address the skills gap by collaborating with industry and skills training programs
 - implement strategies through the project pipeline
 - update ongoing regional initiatives in the Progress Report
 - update performance measures
 - update on prior round priorities and ongoing state initiatives
 - Regional Industry Cluster Plans
 - Opportunity Agenda
 - Community College Councils
 - Business Incubator and Hot Spot Program
 - Veterans' Initiative
 - Engage Local Governments
- Round 7 Timeline:
 - CFA Opens – May 1
 - CFA Closes – 4 pm sharp July 28
 - Regional Council updates and Scores Due – Oct 2
 - Round VII Awards Ceremony – Late Fall
- Downtown Revitalization Initiative Round 2 will catalyze and incentivize downtown revitalization through a statewide competition. Each REDC will nominate one downtown and each downtown will be the focus of \$10 million of concentrated funding. The community should be positioned as ripe for development and have the ability to capitalize on recent job growth to attract tomorrow's workforce. Each downtown will have an expert planning firm help build their strategic investment plan and identify project to implement the plan.
- New York State drives economic growth by making investments that enforce 4 interconnecting strategies:

- Placemaking: in order to attract a talented workforce, our built environment must emphasize creating accessible job centers, sustainable infrastructure and livable communities.
- Workforce: targeted job training and education ensures that jobs in high-paying, in-demand, tradable sectors are filled in an equitable way.
- Tradeable sectors: the industry sectors that are part of a global market like manufacturing, agricultural products and energy – the industries the State is targeting to increase export based employment opportunities.
- Innovation: the strategy of investing in and creating synergies between research and commercialization to drive the economy forward.

Meghan Taylor provided a summary of the Mid-Hudson’s accomplishments from Round 1 through 6 of the Regional Council Process:

- The Mid-Hudson region is fortunate to have been named a top performer in 2012, 2014 and 2016.
- The Mid-Hudson’s assets include an educated workforce, global industry leadership and an abundance of tourism attractions.
 - 11,849 patents from the Mid-Hudson from 2011-2015, that’s more than New York City.
- The Mid-Hudson is moving in the right direction, with almost all of the general economic indicators showing positive change since 2011.
- The MHREDC has a “live, work and play” strategy for the region.
 - Live: seeks to revitalize region’s 198 cities, towns and villages, encouraging smart growth, transit-oriented development, downtown revitalization and infrastructure improvements to stimulate job creation and prevent youth flight.
 - Work: seeks to attract and retain quality jobs in the regions mature and emerging clusters and match them with region’s highly educated workforce
 - Biotech
 - Advanced and high-tech manufacturing
 - Information technology
 - Financial and professional services
 - Distribution
 - Play: seeks to position the region as a premier tourist destination based on
 - Scenic beauty
 - Local agriculture
 - Food and beverage industry

- Arts, culture and history
- Recreational assets
- Proximity to New York City
- Since 2011, the Mid-Hudson has held 115 public meetings and presentations and continues their extensive public outreach with Round 7.
- 92% of the region's CFA awarded projects are complete or are progressing. When comparing total investment to total CFA awards, the region has a 7:1 leverage ratio.
 - In terms of priority projects, when comparing total investment to total CFA awards, the region has a 13:1 leverage ratio.
- Upcoming CFA Workshops
 - May 17, 2017, 9:00am – 11:30am at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh
 - June 7, 2017, 1:30pm – 4:00pm at Yonkers Riverfront Library in Yonkers
- To view all supporting materials for REDC Round 7 please visit regionalcouncils.ny.gov

Public Comment

Emma Corey, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival

Our project engaged 5 out of 7 counties but the feedback we received was that it wasn't regional enough, can you explain?

Meghan Taylor responded that she would follow up with her individually but noted that regional can sometimes apply not only to geography but also the number of individuals the project actually reaches.

Richard Senna, Haverstraw Brick Museum

Would the CFA help us with funds to hire a curator?

Meghan Taylor responded that more often than not, categories within the CFA do not support operating dollars.

Richard Senna, Haverstraw River Arts Fund

Would the CFA help us acquire a building and establish a Jewish Heritage Center?

Meghan Taylor responded that she would follow up with him individually, but building acquisition is an eligible capital expense under a few programs in the CFA.

Richard Senna

I'm working with a client who's in the process of purchasing an abandoned building in Haverstraw. If the owner is willing to do the build-out in order to attract a tenant, would this work for a CFA?

Meghan Taylor responded that the project could be potentially eligible through the ESD Capital Grant Fund.

Jeff Domanski

How does sustainability factor into project eligibility?

Meghan Taylor responded that sustainability and smart growth are incorporated in scoring criteria as well as part of MHREDC's Live Strategy.

A question was raised on whether any winning applications were available on the website.

Ashley McCloskey answered that yes, they were.

A question was raised asking how a project gets on the priority project list.

Meghan Taylor answered that there is no longer a separate application for priority projects. The Mid-Hudson Regional Office will go through an internal eligibility test and following that, the Council will review all eligible applications and will rank the ESD Capital Grant Fund projects to determine the top 30 or so that will be invited in for interviews and consideration for priority project status. In addition to the Capital Grant Fund priority projects, the MHREDC will identify projects in other funding programs that are worthy of priority status, which all will be included in the 2017 Progress Report. All projects are eligible for priority status.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02pm.