



**Southern Tier
Regional Economic
Development Council**

**Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council Meeting
Binghamton University, Innovative Technology Complex, ES-2008
Vestal, New York
February 2, 2017**

12:00pm-2:00pm

Council Members Present: T. Tranter, K. Connerton, P. Cummings, R. David, P. Ellsworth, Betsey Hale, M. Laliberte, M. Lane, J. McKinney-Cherry, T. O'Hearn, T. O'Mara, M. Printup, M. Sauerbrey, R. Sotak, S. Trichka, E. Hartman, M. Krusen, M. Stamm, J. Garner

Council Members Substitutes: S. Craig (for L. Wilcox), J. Nyrop (for K. Boor), S. Duncan (for K. McLaughlin), T. Schryver (for M. Opperman), J. Johnson (for J. Hauryski)

Special Guests: Howard Zemsky, President and CEO, ESD, Lindsey Boylan, Chief of Staff, ESD, Alison Walsh, VP of Regional Economic Development, ESD

State Agency, Local Government/ESD Staff: L. Skrill, NYSHCR, J. Sweet, DOS, P. D'Amato, DEC, C. Harris, DOL, Ken Smith, DOL, J. Williams, DOT, P. Eshbaugh, DOT, J. Roach, DOH, JC Smith, NYSEFC, M. Straight, NYSERDA, R. Salaberrios, ESD, J. Miller, Elmira, J. Koshi (Sen. Reed), Mayor Deemie, Mayor Bertoni, Sen. Akshar, Assemblyman C. Crouch, Assemblywoman Lupardo, P. Rumsey, D. Howell, J. Roman, B. Furch, J. Cornwall

T. Tranter called the meeting to order and introduced Howard Zemsky, President and CEO of Empire State Development, Lindsey Boylan, ESD Chief of Staff and Allison Walsh, ESD Vice President of Regional Economic Development as well as other special guests. T. Tranter welcomed new members of the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC), Jason Garner, Broome County Executive, Michael Laliberte, President of SUNY Delhi, Michael Printup, President of Watkins Glen International Speedway and Stephen Trichka, Vice President and General Manager of BAE Systems.

T. Tranter called for approval of minutes from the 9/15/16 REDC meeting. J. McKinney-Cherry moved to accept the minutes of the 9/15/16 REDC meeting as presented, seconded by J. Johnson. The members voted in favor and the minutes were approved unanimously.

B. Hale reviewed the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) REDC round 6 awards. T. Tranter reviewed a handout of Upstate Revitalization Initiative (URI) awards announced to date. D. Lupardo asked for an update on the Flex Tech project. D. Howell, ESD Southern Tier Regional Director, provided an update on the project. H. Zemsky stated that the project was proceeding on time without delays.

H. Zemsky presented the State's principles of economic development for the URI including four pillars outlined in a document provided titled "Southern Tier Region, Strategies for Upstate NY," placemaking, workforce, innovation, tradable sectors. H. Zemsky explained that the State will be focusing on economic development strategies that enhance quality of life with an eye on making places attractive to young people and that invest in cities, towns and villages and do not support sprawl. H. Zemsky provided examples including downtown development, urban waterfront revitalization, rehabilitating historic buildings and investing in brownfields.

J. Miller, City of Elmira Community Development Director and J. Sweet, Regional Director for the NYS Department of State, provided an update on the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) in the City of Elmira.

T. Tranter introduced the new marketing videos for the Southern Tier and thanked REDC members who participated in the videos. D. Howell discussed how the long form videos and short form videos will be distributed and targeted nationwide to businesses looking to grow, expand and locate in the Southern Tier.

H. Zemsky presented an update on NYS budget priorities including tuition-free college for which 81% of Southern Tier families would qualify, as well as the development of industrial hemp production. T. Tranter mentioned that the DRI is included in the proposed budget and the REDC's process will be similar to the process the previous year.

J. Roman, ESD Southern Tier Deputy Director, provided a staff report on the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Corporation's three revolving loan funds, the Shovel-Ready Program, the Community Revitalization Program and the Rural Initiatives Program. T. Tranter stated that over 5 years there had not been a single delinquent payment for any of the funds.

R. Salaberrios, ESD Vice President of Economic Revitalization, provided an update on resources available for small business development and outreach efforts in the Southern Tier.

REDC Work Group members provided updates on the activities of the workforce development workgroup and the food and agriculture work group. T. Tranter explained that additional work groups will be formed including work groups focused on greater Binghamton, advanced manufacturing and the culture and innovation.

Public comment included the following:

Jim Baumgartner, Binghamton resident, complimented the REDC on the marketing videos as well as the outreach and advocacy strategy and asked that ESD continue to support this initiative.

Misty Purdy, Director at Capabilities, Inc., asked how her organization could fit into the economic development plan and strategies for the region, in particular as it related to workforce development and individuals with disabilities.

Alan Michaels of Industry Building Blocks discussed an entrepreneurial alliance group compiled of 1,000 companies in the Southern Tier and would like to do a Southern Tier strategy session between the group and the REDC.

There being no further public comment, T. Tranter announced that the next REDC meeting would be in April, the Executive Committee will meet monthly, thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was adjourned.