



Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council

Southern Tier Regional Council Meeting

January 28, 2015

Council Members Present: Tom Tranter, Harvey Stenger, Peg Ellsworth, Mike Field, Mike Lane, Diane Lantz, Donna Lupardo, Kevin McLaughlin, George Miner, Svante Myrick, Uttara Prasad, Debbie Preston, Tom Santulli, Martha Sauerbrey, Barbara Schindler, Linda Shumaker, Rose Sotak, Mike Stamm, Rich David

Council Member Substitutes: Emmanuel Priest (for Senator Tom Libous), Joel Smith (for Candace Vancko), Steve Craig (for Lawrence Wilcox), Glenn Nealis (for James Eisel), James Johnson (for Joseph Hauryski), Tim O'Hearn (for Dennis Fagan), Tom Schryver (for Mary George Opperman), Judy McKinney-Cherry (for Scott Welliver), Kim Middaugh (for Susan Skidmore), Anthony Rosemarino (for Dan Spoor)

Special Guests: Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul, Howard Zemsky, ESD/Designee, Rich Tobe, Director of Upstate Revitalization, Ryan Silva, Deputy Director of Regional Economic Development

State Agency/Local Government, ESD Staff Present: Terry Kane, Robin Alpaugh, Joe Roman, Barbara Furch, Bonnie Palmer, Omar Sanders, Kara Grippen, Kevin McCabe, Dawn Burlew, Jason Conwell, Paul D'Amato, Pam Eshbaugh, Ken Lynch, Kevin McManus, Elaine Miller, Leonard Skrill, Julie Sweet, Paul Nelson, Melissa Qesada, Ken Smith

Reports/Discussions

Opening Remarks:

- Tom Tranter, Co-chair calls meeting to order.
- Harvey Stenger, Co-chair, welcomes Council members to Binghamton University
- Harvey Stenger introduces the Lieutenant Governor, Kathy Hochul; Howard Zemsky, President & CEO of Empire State Development Designee; Richard Tobe, Director of Upstate Revitalization
- Harvey Stenger Introduces Mayor of City of Binghamton Richard David as the newest member to the Board, Ex. Officio
- Harvey Stenger asks Members/Designee's to introduce themselves and their affiliation
- Harvey Stenger introduces Lieutenant Governor. Lieutenant Governor gives a brief greeting and comments to the Board

- Tom Tranter, Co-chair, calls for approval of minutes of August 7, 2014 Council meeting. Approved.
- Harvey Stenger, Co-chair, reviews the meeting agenda
 - Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul to present State of the State/Budget (with power point, Richard Tobe to discuss Governor's Upstate Revitalization Program
 - Summary of 2014 Awards – brief video
 - Staff Reports – Highlights of CFA Rounds 1-3 project activity
 - DOL Presentation – Unemployment Strikeforce Initiative
 - Public Comment Period

- Harvey Stenger introduces Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul
- **Lieutenant Governor present State of the State/Budget (with power point):**
 - **Economic Opportunity:**
 - Property Tax, Infrastructure
 - Broadband initiative in Upstate NY Rural areas,
 - Higher Education \$110M for SUNY2020 and CUNY 2020;
 - \$50M in additional Startup NY
 - Venture Capital funding \$500M Competition
 - Farmland Preservation by \$30M
 - \$20M clean energy competition
 - Rail Upgrades
 - Tourism Development
 - \$35M Global NY Export-import business expansion,
 - Raise minimum wage,
 - \$486M in affordable housing,
 - MWBE 30%/ \$2.4Billion
 - **Education:**
 - Student Loan Forgiveness up to two years
 - residency program for teachers, teacher evaluations
 - **Public safety:**
 - \$15M in emergency system GPS and snow plows to keep roads open
 - raise the age of adult sentencing, women's equality agenda
 - \$403MM to fight homelessness

- Harvey Stenger introduces Howard Zemsky, President & CEO of Empire State Development Designee and Rich Tobe, Director of Upstate Revitalization

- **Richard Tobe Overview of Upstate Revitalization Fund \$1.5B:**
 - Competition will be based on the private investment to match public funding; and job creation

- *Each Regional Council will be assigned to prepare a convincing argument for utilizing the funding of \$1.5B*
- *Criteria should not be exclusive: unified approach to the plan for the region, sustainable concepts, innovation, academia based to retention, workforce development with emphasis on hard to place workers. Investments should be rooted in projects that create net new wealth*
- *Ineligible Criteria: no real estate, retail*
- *A short deadline for the regional proposal with an anticipated date in late summer. Competition deadlines for \$1.5B will be in competition with CFA but no official date of announcement at this time*
- *Howard Zemsky remarks on Community Revitalization Fund \$1.5B:*
 - *Addressed the role of ESD in the process to help advance each region's plan for the Community Revitalization Fund*
- **Tom Tranter, Co-Chair, opens the floor Q&A:**
 - *Question of a collaborative approach inter-regional approach for Community Revitalization was raised*
 - *Assemblywoman Lupardo asked if agribusiness will be considered as a transformative proposal*
 - *Richard Tobe response: Agribusiness can be included. However, the Council will need to come to the decision and present a solid case that Agribusiness is vital to the future of economic development for the region*
 - *Tom T. asked Richard Tobe to talk about a strategy for addressing distressed urban cores*
 - *Richard Tobe response: Urban cores will be a prerequisite but not the single most important criteria for the competition*
 - *Howard Zemsky: Identified the need for transforming urban cores, town, and other municipalities as strategy for retention of young people*
 - *Tom Santulli: Stated the need for clarification and emphasis on urban cores and flexibility on criteria for the use of funding*
 - *Howard Zemsky Response: Announced information can be provided to give direction on criteria for the competition*
 - *Mayor Richard David: Ask for elaboration on project selection process for CFA VS. \$1.5B Revitalization Fund*
 - *Richard Tobe response: unlike the CFA, the process for the \$1.5B competition will include long-term transformative approach to the development of urban core.*
 - *Howard Zemsky response: Buffalo Billion initiatives reflect on their regional plan, gives example of how initiatives created an inter-connected plan for sustainable development*

- *Kevin M: asked if the funding will cater to working capital or operating funds for development.*
- *Richard Tobe: The plan should establish flexibility however use of funding has not been decided at this time.*

Staff Report/Updates:

- *Bonnie Palmer, Regional Director, presented on Regional Council Round 4 highlights from Awards Ceremony and gave thanks to the Regional Council for their efforts.*
- *Robin Alpaugh, Deputy Director, announced recent highlights of prior round CFA projects*
 - *Community Revitalization Fund, Rural Initiative recent disbursements, next round ESD Board approvals in February/March, 70/30 disbursements*
 - *Bates Troy completed*
 - *Sunrise Family Farm completed*
 - *WSKG Path Through History completed, videos on station website, Round 4 award to continue additional videos*
- *Joe Roman, Economic Development Specialist II, Updates on Regional Programs Funding Status:*
 - *Community Revitalization*
 - *Rural Initiative*
 - *Shovel Ready*
- *Tom T Announces the Executive Committee is back to work and bringing on Susan Payne as a consultant for the Regional Council.*
- *Martha S. asked who's on the Executive Committee*
- *Tom T reads off list of Executive Committee members*
- *Harvey S asks for help from all board members to provide input on the regional competition for the \$1.5B*
- *Harvey S introduces Paul Nelson, DOL, to present new initiative Unemployment Strikeforce (with power point)*
- *Presentations: Unemployment Strikeforce Initiative:*
 - *Department of Labor is now providing funding for unemployment strike force Initiative goals to reduce unemployment. The program is now looking to expand into the Southern Tier in order to utilize funds to hire and train people to get active in the workforce,*
 - *Incentives: Tax credits for business, workshops, customize recruitment services, labor law compliance, health and safety consultation at no cost. Up to \$12,000 on staff assistance-recruitment event; up to \$20,000 on customize job fair*

Public Q/A:

Adam Flint, Southern Tier Solar Works, stated that he would like the opportunity to discuss energy opportunities with member of the Council to be considered as part of the plan for the Community Revitalization Competition for \$1.5B.

Other Council Business:

- *Tranter Co-chair asks if there is any additional business.*

Council Adjourned