

Mohawk valley Regional Economic Development Council  
Meeting Notes  
Feb. 26, 2013  
HCCC, Herkimer

**Welcome and Introduction of Members, Agenda and Overview**

Co-chairs Gilroy and Yeigh welcomed Lt. Governor Robert Duffy, the public and MVREDC members. Herkimer County Community College President Dr. Ann Marie Murray extended a welcome to the Lt. Governor and the Regional Council .

Co-chair Gilroy presented an overview of the items to be discussed at the 2/26 meeting:

- *Lt. Gov review of State of the State initiatives that could impact/involve the regions.*
- *Regional Cohesiveness*
- *Overview of HCR \$8M award to Council*
- *Path Thru History Update*
- *Cleaner-Greener –Sustainability Update*
- *Project Tracking*

**Lt. Governor review of State of the State**

Lt. Governor Duffy presented a brief overview and highlights of Governor Cuomo's January State of the State address and noted the crucial role that the Regional Economic Development Councils played in making many positive changes happen during 2012. The Lt. Governor highlighted several initiatives the Councils will play an important role in during 2013, particularly in helping to grow tech jobs.

**Regional Cohesiveness**

Co-Chair Gilroy opened a brief discussion of the need to weave together the region's strengths, so that a clear regional identity and its assets are evident to all. He suggested the MVREDC needs a much higher level of engagement with the public, community and business leaders across the region. It was suggested the MVREDC convene a group of true experts in major segments – manufacturing, higher ed, etc. – to participate in the continued development and success of the Strategic Plan. MVREDC Member Nancy Pattarini suggested that the MVREDC needs to define the over-arching economic driver for the region, as a way to tie together regional strengths. Council Member VanWagoner noted that the strategic vision was formed prior to identification of the first CFA projects, so it may be appropriate to revisit the vision. Co-chair Gilroy indicated the MVREDC would mount an initiative on this topic that will rely on Council input and participation.

**Overview of HCR \$8M Award to Council**

Executive Director Tompkins made slide presentation to the MVREDC regarding an award of \$8 million in Community Development Block Grant funding, made to the Council by New York State Homes & Community Renewal. The Council is being asked to identify projects in any of three categories: public facilities, economic development or housing that may qualify as applicants for CDBG assistance. Applicants must be units of local government, and a number of other requirements and qualifiers apply. The MVREDC is being asked to state its priorities among the projects it is able to identify by late March.

### **Path Through History**

Mark Castiglione, Acting Executive Director of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, provided an overview of the status of the Governor's initiative to promote greater tourism by highlighting each region's assets of historical significance. The Mohawk Valley Path Through History Working Group is forming a plan to compete for \$100,000 in NYS funding to be used for marketing the MV Region's cultural and historical assets. In so doing, it is hoped to increase regional tourism. The group's final plan is due in the Spring.

### **Cleaner Greener Sustainability Initiative**

Karen Sullivan, Otsego County Planning Director, provided the MVREDC an update on the outreach and public-participation strategies developed by the MV Cleaner Greener Sustainability Initiative. The group received a \$1 million CFA Round 1 award to develop a plan to identify projects that can compete for a pool of \$90 million in future state funding. The plan, once submitted to NYSDERDA, will help serve as a blueprint by which projects can be proposed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and guide sustainable development.

### **Project Tracking Update**

Executive Director Tompkins briefly explained to MVREDC members that he would be working with the Executive Committee to develop a project tracking system that will allow the MVREDC to have a better understanding of how projects it has approved are progressing. An update on this initiative will be provided at a future meeting.

### **Adjournment**