

Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council Meeting
Friday, May 29, 2015
Public Session: 11:15am
SUNY New Paltz
New Paltz, NY

Present: Len Schleifer; Dennis Murray; Jason Baker; Andy Bicking; Lydia Biskup; Lindsey Boylan; Barbara Clifford; Vincent Cozzolino; Jonathan Drapkin; Mike Finnegan; Carol Fitzgerald; John Gilstrap; Marsha Gordon; Gerald Benjamin; Ron Hicks; Erica Kane; Brian Kelly; Thom Kleiner; Monique LeGrendre; Dana Ivenberg; Jacquie Leventoff; Maureen Halahan; Ryan McLeod; Chris St. Lawrence; Harry Porr Charles Radier; Lucy Redzeposki; Al Samuels; Karl Schlegel; Ryan Silva; James Taylor; Meghan Taylor; Richard Tobe; Eric Warren; Matt Watson; Lesley Whatley; Cliff Wood.

I. Welcome

Co-Chair Dennis Murray welcomed members of the public to the meeting @ 11:50 a.m.

II. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION

Ryan Silva provided a presentation on the overview of the CFA, URI, The Priority Cluster, and Global NY.

- 2014 REDC highlights.
- REDC Round V overview and extended time.
- 2015 programs and competition funds breakdown.
- Regional economic clusters program and criteria's.
- Global NY changes and updates. (Global NY Development Fund \$35 million).

Question: Will the winning regions of the Upstate Revitalization Initiative participate in next year's CFA competition?

Response: The programs and its criteria are still a work in process.

III. UPSTATE REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE

Rich Tobe presented the Upstate Revitalization initiative. The URI is seeking to revitalize the Upstate New York's economy, of which the Mid-Hudson is a part of. The focus is on the plan and not necessarily individual projects.

- Plan implementation
- Built around competition
- How your plan compares to other regions

- Creativity and innovations
- Leveraging private sector investment (5:1 Ratio)
- Connectivity
- Sustainability
- Workforce Development
- Hard to place workers
- Collaboration
- Readiness

Question: If a project wants to be considered for the URI, do you have to complete a CFA?

Answer: A CFA application is not needed to be considered for the URI, applicants can fill out the Intent to Propose application that is on the CFA website. However, it was suggested that if a project is ready to go within 18 months, the applicant should fill out all three applications – Priority Projects, CFA, and URI.

Question: How much weight is the state giving to higher wages versus jobs for hard to place workers? Is it more important to create more jobs for hard to place workers OR creating jobs with higher wages?

Answer: Find the sweet spot between the two ... finding jobs for hard to place workers will help the region's average wage go up, but creating jobs that pay higher than the average wage will as well.

IV. StartUP New York

Lesley Whatley presented updates on the StartUP New York program. The StartUP New York program is intended to promote entrepreneurship and job creation by encouraging public and private colleges and universities throughout the state to work with the business community create opportunities to work together. The schools get real-world opportunities for their students to work with companies in their chosen field, and the companies will pay no NYS taxes for 10 years. For the colleges and universities to participate, they must identify vacant space on or in close proximity to their campus to place these companies. To date, there are 71 approved schools and 110 companies approved to participate in the program. These companies have committed to creating over 3,000 jobs in New York State.

Question: Why has StartUP received such bad press?

Answer: It takes time to put in place a new program. The state had to educate the universities about how the program works, and that process took most of 2014. By the end of last year, there were 54 approved schools and 55 approved companies. By the end of the IQ 2015, there are 71 approved schools and 110 companies approved to participate in the program, with those companies committed to creating over 3,000 net new jobs in New York State.

Ron Hicks commented that the StartUP NY program is a great tool for communities to entice companies to move to New York State.

V.PUBLIC COMMENT

Comment: Robert Scherrik of Pyramid Realty Services made a proposal for the URI regarding the lack of shovel ready sites for national site selectors to look at, as one of the major challenges in Hudson Valley for industrial and high tech development is a lack of shovel ready sites. In the 1980's, there were numerous available sites in large business parks which provided a development boom for 20 years. Today, a green field site in NY takes 18 to 48 months to become shovel ready, whereas companies want to be able to start construction within 6 months of their decision to move to an area. In order to attract national developers and promote economic development, there is a need to provide shovel ready sites.

Response: We will look at all options to determine how to fix this issue. Please submit your proposal to the URI Workgroup so they can study it.

Question: In order for a company to be a part of Startup NY what must they do, and how far can a company be from campus to participate in the program?

Response: Lesley Whatley answered that a company does not need to be on a campus to be part of StartUP NY; however, the location that the company would like to locate itself must be in the approved Campus plan.

As for being part of StartUP NY, the company must work with the College to set up internship/externship opportunities for the students, work with the faculty on research if it is applicable, and provide opportunities for the students to be hired at the company if there is a fit.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:10 p.m.

