



**Southern Tier
Regional Economic
Development Council**

Southern Tier Regional Council Meeting

May 26, 2015

Council Members Present: Tom Tranter, Harvey Stenger, Kathryn Boor, Kathy Connerton, Peg Ellsworth, Mike Field, Ernie Hartman, Judy McKinney-Cherry, Kevin McLaughlin, George Miner, Debbie Preston, Mike Lane, Lou Santoni, Tom Santulli, Martha Sauerbrey, Linda Shumaker, Susan Skidmore, Rose Sotak, Mike Stamm, Barbara Lifton

Council Members Substitutes: Steve Craig (for Lawrence Wilcox), Bob Murphy (for Rich David), Jamie Johnson (for Joe Hauryski), Emmanuel Priest, (for Senator Libous), Tim O'Hearn (for Dennis Fagan), Anthony Rosemarino (for Dan Spoor), Tom Schryver (for Mary Opperman)

State Elected Officials: Cliff Crouch, NYS Assemblyman, Donna Lupardo, NYS Assemblywoman.

Special Guests: Kathy Hochul, LT. Gov., Ryan Silva, ESD, Rich Tobe, ESD, Matt Watson, NYSTAR, Leslie Whatley, STARTUPNY

State Agency/Local Government/ESD Staff: Bonnie Palmer, Pam Eshbaugh (DOT), Hector Gonzalez (Ag. & Markets), Christian Harris (DOL), Ken Lynch (DEC), Leslie Moore,(Parks), Leonard Skrill (HCR), Valerie Ivan (DOS), JC Smith (Environmental Facilities), Julie Sweet (DOS), Jack Williams (DOT), Jared Kraham, Lee Ann Tinney, Robin Alpaugh, Dawn Burlew, Barbara Furch, Terry Kane, Tom Kowalik, Susan Payne, Joe Roman, Omar Sanders

Reports/Discussions

- T. Tranter called meeting to order.
- Tom Tranter called for approval of minutes of March 9, 2015 Council meeting. G. Miner called the question, T. Tranter seconded. Council approved.
- H. Stenger welcomed Council members to Binghamton University and asked members/designee's to introduce themselves and their affiliation.
- Lieutenant Governor gave opening remarks.
- Ryan Silva provided Round V Overview.
- Rich Tobe discussed Upstate Revitalization Initiative.
- Matt Watson discussed Industry Cluster Plan.
- Leslie Whatley provides Start Up update.

Staff Report/Updates:

- R. Alpaugh reported highlights of recent project activity since our last meeting on March 9th.
 - Rural Initiative Fund rec'd a \$300k disbursement and has a balance of \$100k from R2. We will be working to take the next award of \$1,650,000 to the ESD board shortly.
 - Disbursement 1 for Telemedicine has been made to STREDC in the amount of \$1,487,500 or 70% of the \$2,125,000 grant
 - Bates Troy disbursement of \$304k is imminent and they are holding a press conference and open house tomorrow at 10:30 am in Binghamton – please see me for details after the meeting if you are interested in going.
 - Buckingham Manufacturing R2 priority project disbursement of \$50k is imminent.
 - Community Revitalization 4th and final payment for R1 reallocation of \$100k and the 1st payment of R2 award for \$750k was submitted last week for processing, the next CR award of \$2.4M was taken to the ESD board and approved in March
 - CMOG international motor coach \$1.5 M priority project was approved by ESD in April.
 - First Arena R3 \$1.5M project was approved by the ESD board this month.
- J. Roman reported highlights of recent project activity.
 - STREDC Community Development Fund Report – Program provides gap financing up to \$500,000 in low interest loans at 1% for renovation projects that revitalize downtown buildings. Since program inception there has been a total of 27 approved loans for approximately \$8.3M which will leverage over \$57M of private investment. As a result, projected outcomes include 27 building renovated, 24 jobs retained, and 249 jobs created.
 - STREDC Rural Initiative Fund Report – Program provides gap financing up to \$300,000 in low interest loans at 1% for the enhancement of the agricultural industry through capital projects. Since program inception there has been a total of 23 approved loans for approximately \$4.4M which will leverage over \$9.5M of private investment. As a result, projected outcomes include approximately 448 acres of land placed into agricultural production, 25 jobs retained, and 158 new jobs created.
- S. Payne presented an overview of the proposed Public Engagement Plan. A brief discussion followed. J. Cherry called the question; it was seconded. Council approved.
 - Website: Public information session dates, recorded WebEx sessions, Work Group meeting dates, Work Group PPT's, data analyses, posting of preliminary initiatives and projects for public review and comment
 - Community meetings
 - WebEx Sessions (live and recorded): Municipal leaders, general public
 - On-line survey to rank URI strategic priorities and receive input
 - Media Coverage: Print, TV/Radio, Social Media (Facebook)
 - Work Groups: Agriculture, Downtown Revitalization, Energy, Entrepreneurship & Business Development, Industry Cluster, Global NY, Tourism, Workforce Development/Veteran/Opportunity Agenda
 - STREDC Meetings
- S. Payne proposed criteria, previously approved by the Executive Committee, for assessing proposed URI initiatives and potential projects. K. McLaughlin called the question, P. Ellsworth seconded. Council approved.

- Innovation: Targeted industry development driven by creative ideas and technology that will contribute to building an advanced economy in the Southern Tier with potential for significant job growth, high wages, and long-term sustainability.
 - Connectivity: The initiative and related projects have connections and relationships in sufficient scale and strength to bring about long-term transformational change, particularly in the region's key clusters.
 - Investment: Private sector investment (5:1).
 - Global: Expansion of global exports, foreign investment and foreign spending.
 - Workforce development, with an emphasis on engagement of hard-to-place workers.
 - Reinvestment in communities as required to support targeted industry development; and that leverages investment, inspires creativity and innovation, and attracts talent to the region.
- No public comments today.
 - No other council business.
 - T. Tranter adjourned the meeting.

Decisions/Actions

- Minutes from March 9, 2015 meeting were approved.
- Public Engagement Plan was approved.
- Criteria for assessing proposed URI initiatives and potential projects was approved.