

Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council
Meeting Notes
July 10, 2013
SUNY Cobleskill

Welcome and Introduction of Members, Agenda and Overview

Co-chair Gilroy welcomed Lt. Gov. Duffy, the public and MVREDC members. Acting College President Dr. Debra Thatcher welcomed the Lt. Governor and Council and SUNY Cobleskill.

Lt. Gov. Duffy praised the excellent turnout for the meeting and expressed his concern for, and admiration of, the people and communities affected by recent damaging floods.

Co-chair Gilroy reviewed the agenda for the meeting which included a presentation on recent flooding in the region; an overview of New York State's 10-year Capital Plan; modifications to the Excelsior Jobs Program; and updates on project tracking, strategies and planning, outreach and priority project solicitation.

Update on Recent Flooding

Executive Director Ken Tompkins provided an update to MVREDC members on NYS' response to damaging flooding that followed severe storms at the end of June. Hardest hit among in the MV region were several communities in Herkimer, Montgomery and Oneida counties.

The presentation included a summary of the damage as of 7/8/2013, examples of the measures put in place to help flood-affected communities and residents and a listing of emergency-assistance phone numbers.

NY Works Task Force 10-Year Capital Plan

Michael Perrin of the Governor's NY Works Task Force provided an overview of the new Statewide 10-year Capital Plan, whose purpose is to identify and prioritize the capital investments needed to place economic opportunity and job growth center stage.

The plan, encompassing 47 state agencies and authorities involved in capital spending and finance, is organized by sector (i.e., transportation, environment, energy,) and by region. It defines the state's key strengths, existing assets, challenges and points to next steps for accelerating sustainable growth.

The plan can be viewed at: nyworkstaskforce.ny.gov

Excelsior Update

Executive Director Tompkins provided a review of recent changes made to the Excelsior Jobs tax-credit program. Among other changes, a reduction in job-creation thresholds for targeted industries should make it possible for more businesses to benefit from the program's incentives. Complete information about Excelsior can be found at:

<http://esd.ny.gov/BusinessPrograms/Excelsior.html>

Work Group Updates

Tim Fitzgerald and Jennifer Waters of Mohawk Valley EDGE, provided progress reports on the Priority Project work group's efforts to identify projects that will help to advance the MVREDC's strategic plan. For those want to review the plan and believe they may have a project that should be considered a priority by the MVREDC, please visit:

<http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/mohawk-valley>

Nancy Pattarini, a co-chair of the Outreach & Engagement work group, briefed the Council and public on various efforts, including:

- Enlisting chambers of commerce; looking at other business networks to share info
- Roundtable discussions by industry sector, i.e., cyber, health care and education
- The need to identify and engage key leaders across the region in the REDC process

Summary Discussion

Co-Chair Gilroy said we still need to fill in some missing pieces; the MVREDC: needs to build more support from across all six of its counties. It must look again at its key-driver industries in this region and build relationships there. Moreover, he said, we need people on the Council and the others to lead those efforts.

Adjournment

Next meeting: The current schedule is being revised. Please monitor the MVREDC web site -- <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/mohawk-valley> -- for the latest information.

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