

Final – Adopted 03.20.2019

**MHREDC Public Meeting
Monday, September 17, 2018**

Introductory Information:

Date and Time Meeting Commenced:

Monday, September 17, 2018 – Public Session: 12:51PM

Location:

Newburgh Armory Unity Center, Larkin Conference Center, 321 S. William Street, Newburgh, NY 12550

Council Members Present: Meghan A. Taylor; Donald P. Christian; Jonathan Drapkin; Aleida Frederico; Marsha Gordon; Kimberlie Jacobs; Harold King; Jacquie Leventoff; Al Samuels; James Taylor, Jr.; Kristine Young.

Council Members Substitutes: Ron Hicks (Rep. Molinaro); William Fioravanti (Rep. Neuhaus); Barbara Barosa (Rep. Odell); Lucy Redzeposki (Rep. Day); Suzanne Holt (Rep. Hein).

State Agency/Local Government/ESD Staff: Sandy Galef (MOA); Shelley Mayer (MOS); Andrew Liebert (Rep. MOA Galef); Lydia Biskup (Rep. MOS Serino); Ehle Shachter (Dept. A&M); Jamie Ethier (DOS); Sandra Jobson (DOT); Lance MacMillan (DOT); Dan Jeanson (Hudson River Greenway); Erin Drost (Office of Parks, Rec, Hist.); Rich Winters (SUNY New Paltz); John West (DOL); Mattie Christensen (DOL); Andy Beers (DOT); Monique Le Gendre (ESD); Whitney Bowers (ESD); Eric Warren (ESD); James Kostenblatt (ESD).

Time Adjourned: 1:38PM

Welcome and Remarks:

Call to Order:

Preamble requesting disclosure of any conflicts of interest read.

Conflicts noted: (Please List)

Recusals noted: (Please List)

No conflicts noted.

The record of recusals was noted and acknowledged at the meeting.

Ms. Taylor thanked the following elected officials for attending the public meeting:

- Sandy Galef, Assemblymember
- Shelley Mayer, Senator

Co-Chair Donald Christian thanked Bill Kaplan and the Newburgh Armory Unity Center.

Ms. Taylor then introduced the agenda and welcomed everyone to the Newburgh Armory Unity Center.

MHREDC Look Back 2011-2017 – Meghan A. Taylor, Executive Director, MHREDC

Ms. Taylor gave an overview of the history of the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council (MHREDC), including the current 3-point strategy of Live, Work, and Play. The Council also seeks to advance the state priorities of Placemaking, Workforce Development, Tradeable Sectors, and Innovation. These priorities are integrated into the MHREDC’s comprehensive strategy. The Mid-Hudson has been named a top performer by the state in four out of seven years of the REDC process, resulting in additional grant funding for projects through the CFA. Since 2011, the Mid-Hudson has been awarded more than \$560 million to support 693 projects.

The Mid-Hudson has received 2,768 applications through the CFA since 2011. In 2018, the Mid-Hudson received 385 applications, of which 100 were eligible applications for the ESD Grant Fund. The MHREDC is committed to keeping the public informed and engaged throughout the year, and in 2018 held 24 public meetings/presentations. 89% of all projects awarded CFA funding are complete or progressing, and the ration of total project cost to state investment is 7:1 for all projects in rounds 1 through 7.

Downtown Revitalization Initiative Round 1 & 2 Update – Jaime Ethier, Coastal Resources Specialist, DOS

Mr. Ethier began by providing an overview of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI). The DRI is a \$100M investment in downtowns throughout the state. \$10M is awarded to one downtown in each region – cities, towns, and villages. That downtown is selected as part of a process where the Regional Economic Development Council solicit applications from municipalities, evaluate them, and recommend one to receive the funding. It is critical that the selected downtown be a vibrant part of the community and can demonstrate that activity right now. The DRI funding, then, is an opportunity to build upon that existing activity. The desired attributes that are sought in downtown revitalization initiative applications include:

- Well-defined boundaries
- Sufficient catchment area
- Past investments, future potential
- Recent or impending job growth
- Attractive physical environment
- Quality of life policies
- Support for the local vision
- Readiness

If awarded, the state engages a consultant to work with the municipality in the planning and implementation process over approximately six months. The public is engaged throughout the process. Once the plan is complete, projects are selected for investment and the municipality implements the plan.

The City of Middletown won the DRI for round 1, and they had all the desired attributes. The following projects were identified after the city underwent strategic planning:

- Convert Woolworth Building into Rail Trail Commons
- Fund for Facades and Storefront Signage
- Streetscape Improvements
- Erie Way Park
- Branding and Wayfinding Signage
- Parking and Public Green Space Improvements

The Woolworth Building is under construction now and expected to be completed soon. They are actively seeking tenants for the space. The city is working with DOT on Streetscapes now, as well.

The City of Kingston was selected as the Mid-Hudson's winner in round 2, for their Stockade Business District. Projects identified in their strategic planning process include:

- Redesign Schwenk Drive
- Upgrade Dietz Stadium and Andretta Pool
- Frog Alley Improvements
- Improve Access and Circulation within the Stockade Business District
- Public Improvements to the Kingstonian Uptown Revitalization Project
- Establish a Stockade Business District Small Grants and Loans Program

CFA Round 8 Overview & 2018 Priority Project Recommendations – Meghan A. Taylor, Executive Director, MHREDC and Donald P. Christian, Co-Chair, MHREDC

Ms. Taylor gave an overview of Round 8's competition and timeline:

- \$150 Million in Capital Grants
 - All 10 regions eligible
- \$75 Million in Excelsior Tax Credits
 - All 10 regions eligible
- Over \$525 Million in additional state funding from 11 state agencies
 - All 10 regions eligible
- The application process opened May 1, closed on July 27. Regional Council Progress Report and Scores are due on October 1, and Round 8's awards ceremony will be in late fall.

She also reviewed the MHREDC's responsibilities in Round 8. In 2018, each REDC was required to:

- Develop workforce development strategies
- Identify projects for the State Life Sciences Cluster
- Support Downtown Revitalization Plans & identify downtown projects
- Implement strategies through the project pipeline
- Update ongoing regional initiatives in Progress Report
- Update Performance Measures

Ms. Taylor explained the process by which the Council assigns scores in line with the Round 8 Scoring Statewide Standards. REDC members are paired up in scoring teams and all Council members are asked to provide objective analysis, ensuring that each proposal receives one consensus score. Council Members look for proposals that implement the regional plan (Live, Work, and Play) and that align with State Strategies (Workforce Development, Life Sciences, etc.).

The REDC score is 20% of the total score. Each state agency that oversees a CFA program conducts an Agency Technical Review, which is worth 80% of the total score. For example, if a project applies for funding through a DEC program, the council scores up to 20, then the agency scores the project out of 80. The sum of the technical review and the REDC score is the total score.

Ms Taylor explained that the priority project recommendations that are going to be endorsed by this Council during this meeting are recommendations for the projects they reviewed. This does not guarantee that these projects will receive funding this year. The final announcements will come in late fall.

Dr. Christian presented the statewide economic development priorities and stressed that the Council pays close attention to these during their review of proposals:

- Placemaking: Where investment occurs matters
- Tradeable Sectors: Describes which industries the State is targeting to increase export based employment opportunities
- Workforce Development: People drive the economy
- Innovation: The strategy of investing in and creating synergies between research and commercialization to drive the economy forward

Dr. Christian shared that over the 7 rounds of the REDC process, there have been 36 projects that align with the Council’s Live strategy, 40 that align with Work, and 31 that align with Play. He then presented the 21 endorsed projects by strategy with which they align.

Recommended Live Priority Projects:

CFA #	PROJECT NAME	COUNTY
80428	Sleepy Hollow Commons	Westchester
80890	Thornwillow Makers Village	Orange
81383	Galaxy Business Park	Orange
81829	Hutton Brickyards Redevelopment Project--Phase Two	Ulster
82039	Innovation Grand Street	Orange
83314	Project Sailfish	Orange
84625	Port Chester Waterfront Revitalization Project	Westchester

Recommended Work Priority Projects

CFA #	PROJECT NAME	COUNTY
80510	Regent Mt Vernon Laundry	Westchester

80555	Greyston Capital Improvements 2018	Westchester
80854	McNeilly Wood Products Facility Expansion	Orange
80933	The Research Institute for Brain and Body Health	Sullivan
81137	Ametek Site Improvement Plan 20192020	Ulster
82457	Creodent Capacity Expansion	Orange
82890	Unlimited Tomorrow Expansion	Dutchess
84034	Plant Expansion Tappan New York	Rockland
84481	Bread Alone Bakery 2019 Expansion Plan	Ulster

Recommended Play Priority Projects

CFA #	PROJECT NAME	COUNTY
80700	City Winery Hudson Valley	Orange
81327	The Wildberry Lodge and Spa	Ulster
82409	Expanded Economic and Audience Capacity at Bethel Woods	Sullivan
83746	Academy Street Market	Dutchess
83920	GoPal Farm Produce and Creamery Expansion Project	Ulster

Ms. Taylor then shared a list of the Non-ESD Grant Fund programs. The full list can be found in the MHREDC's 2018 Progress Report at regionalcouncils.ny.gov/mid-hudson.

Ms. Taylor thanked the Regional Council and President Christian for his leadership.

Public Comment

Andrew Peck, Ph.D., Freshwater Project Manager, The Nature Conservancy & Partners Restoring the Hudson – Dr. Peck highlighted a report that his organization really published this year: Hudson River Comprehensive Restoration Plan. A number of organizations collaborated to create this plan, which relates to fish habitat protection and includes community resilience. The report provides some recommendations on what communities can do going forward and provides details on projects that have been working on these issues. More information can be found at www.thehudsonweshare.org.

Ms. Taylor closed by adding that if there are members of the public who have a project that was not listed today it does not mean that the project will not be awarded funding. She reminded that the projects highlighted today received a score of 20 from the Council, and that the remaining 80% of the score comes from the Agency Technical Review. The awards will not be announced until late fall at the awards ceremony.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:38PM