Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council Meeting

Binghamton University, Innovative Technology Complex, Smart Energy Building

January 16, 2019

9:00AM – 11:00AM

Council Members Present: H.Stenger, T. Tranter, M. Printup , T.Omara, J.McKinney-Cherry,

E. Hartman, J.Garnar, M.Field , P Ellsworth, R. David, R.Materese, M. Laliberte, K.Connerton, M. Dietrich, D. Mandell, M.Opperman, M.Robertson, M.Sauerbrey, L. Shumaker, L.Tinney

Council Members Alternates: S. Duncan (alt K.McLaughlin) .T. O’Hearn (for D. Fagan), J. Johnson (for J. Hauryski), D.Sheen (alt for Chris Moss), C.Schickel (alt for K.Boor)

State Agency/Local Government/Staff: Assemblywoman Lifton, Assemblyman Crouch, D. Lupardo, J. Sweet (DOS), K.Grippen (Chamber), D. Howell (ESD), J. Roman (ESD), T. Kocak (ESD), J. Bedrin (ESD), S. Wallmar (ESD)

T. Tranter called the meeting to order and requested that Council members and alternates introduce themselves.

T. Tranter called for approval of minutes from the 09/6/18 REDC meeting. B. Hale moved to accept the minutes of the 09/6/18 REDC meeting as presented, seconded by E. Hartman. The members voted in favor and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Introduction to Special Guests:**

H. Stenger and T. Tranter introduced Vinnie Esposito from ESD and Rick Materese, the new town of union supervisor.

**Work group updates:**

J. Garnar, reported on GBF (leverage, job creation, new housing and commercial space). Community meetings in Bing, JC & Endicott.

J. Roman - Food & Ag update– business competition among three URI regions

Advanced Manufacturing - Have not met in some time. Focus for the new year (focus on clusters such as battery and energy storage)

J. Cherry - Innovative Culture - Discussion on focus on tourism. Next meeting dates – 02/06 and meeting with TPAs in March. ST Incubators and their meetings

J. Lesko on Workforce Development – met quarterly n 2018, focus on childcare, 2019 focus on veterans. Will meet more frequently in 2019 to position for additional workforce dollars. Discussion on adding healthcare component to work group

**DRI Updates:**

J. Roman - Elmira - “Elmira Refresh” - LECOM CFA award, intro of new college in DT area. Round 1 winner in 2016. Overview of projects.

J. Cherry - Watkins Glen – 2017 winner. Held an MWBE forum to have contractors meet project owners to get ahead of MWBE requirements. RFP for consulting services for old wastewater site. 15 proposals for park reuse. Decision by end of 02/2019. Park will be done by May 2021. New lights for Woodstock.

J. Roman – please let ESD know about issues on MWBE

L. Tinney - Owego- third DRI winner. Have a consultant. Put out call for projects. Beginning to rank projects. Formed 3 work groups to look at projects in depth. Public engagement meetings (two) to bring in public input. Local planning committee has decided to have a HS student participate in board to get input from area youth. 4th round of DRI and 9th Round of CFA process announced at state of state by Governor Cuomo.

**Round 8 Priority Projects:**

Lost another round, but other funding sources mean we are doing well.

* STEAM Innovative Center update by T. Tranter – workforce training project in advanced engineering and manufacturing
* Automated Cells & Equipment, Inc. ($400k)
* Strobels Supply Expansion ($200k)
* Manufacturing Automation Systems Expansion ($400k)

J. Garnar - Buckingham Manufacturing Company ($50k)

J. Cherry - Damiani Wine Cellars ($550k) - expansion and incubating two smaller companies.

J. Roman - Tiberio Custom Meats ($320k)

M. Robertson – Ithaca Community Childcare ($700k)

M. Printup – Watkins Glen International Pretreatment ($320k)

* Secured additional funding (total $1.1M)

J. Garnar – Willow Run Foods ($750k)

Rockwell Collins ($320k)

Broome County Veterans Project ($620k)

J. Roman – Sportsfields Specialties ($500k)

JD Granary, LLC expansion video by Darcy

LeComm ($3M) Lake erie college of osteopathic medicine

Amphenol ($400k)

**Staff Report**

J. Roman - Offer letters are being worked on at the moment – half of them are written and in the MWBE office for goals, a few are out to companies.

* State of the state update. $750M for R9 CFA, R4 DRI. $175M Workforce initiative information will be coming. ESPRI Initiative (Empire state poverty reduction initiative).

V. Esposito - mentioned governor support of BU Health Sciences Park

**Public Comment**:

M. Sauerbrey - commented on airport grant and DOT move from waterfront to airport land (two different decisions – clarification)

J. Cherry – Asked a question on how we can get feedback from state on how to perform better.

D. Lupardo - mentioned creation of video (look at finger lakes video) to share updates. Region is suffering from not having “a center city.” Focus on exciting tourism events (LUMA as example). Bag of regional products could have been better (from Ag perspective).

* + Disagreement with comments by R. David. COB not supported enough by others. Disagreement on lack of anchor city. Agrees LUMA should be highlighted. Lack of unity in approach. Excellent topic that merits discussion.
  + Addition of other voices to SIAT presentation (particularly Ag)
  + Harvey Stenger – lack of big city is an advantage
  + V Esposito – this is an issue across REDC. Focus on implementation of regional plans and not on competition.
  + Needs more flash and visuals for presentation

There being no further public comment, T. Tranter stated that the next REDC meeting will be held May 2019 and the meeting was adjourned.