

## **Regional Economic Development Council - WNY Meeting Summary**

### **Introductory Information:**

Date and Time Meeting Commenced: Monday, May 17, 2021 at 2:30 pm

Location: via Zoom

Council Members Present: Dr. Katherine Conway-Turner, Eric Reich, Paul Brown, Deanna Alterio Brennen, Dottie Gallagher, Tom Kucharski, Brenda McDuffie, Michael Metzger, Stephen Tucker, Michael Ulbrich, Dr. Mark Zupan, **Ex-Officio:** Crystal Abers, Mayor Robert Restaino, Mayor Eddie Sunquist, County Executive PJ Wendel, Niagara County Legislature Chair Rebecca Wydysh

Council Members Substitutes: Mike Casale, Andrew Federick, Tuona Batchelor, Dan Castle

State Agency/Local Government/ESD Staff: **ESD:** Amanda Mays, Kevin Hansen, Alison Walsh, Ashley McCloskey, Matt Isgro, Paul Tronolone, Mo Sumbundu, Lynn Marinelli, Jean Williams, Laura Magee, Kaitlin Chmura, Johanna Walczyk, Rosemary McCabe, Nancy Burkhardt, Lorrie Abounader. **Labor:** Orville Abrahams, Karen Coleman. **NYPA:** Lou Paonessa. **DOT:** Frank Cirillo.

Special Guests: Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, Lauren Mannerberg (Lt. Gov. office), Laura Quebral (UBRI), Christina Farrell (UBRI), Jenna Kavanaugh (Invest Buffalo Niagara)

Time Adjourned: 3:53 pm

### **Welcome and Remarks:**

#### **Call to Order:**

Preamble requesting disclosure of any conflicts of interest read.

Conflicts noted: (Please List)

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Recusals noted: (Please List)

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No conflicts noted.

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



## Reports/Discussions/Motions:

### I. Welcoming Remarks

Dr. Katherine Conway-Turner, Co-Chair, WNY Regional Economic Development Council  
Eric Reich, Co-Chair, WNY Regional Economic Development Council

### II. Remarks by Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul

- Thanked members for work during the pandemic.

### III. 2021-2022 Budget Update

Kevin Hansen, Senior Vice President and Head of Public Policy, ESD

- Power point shown overviewing FY 2022 NYS Budget: Business Assistance Highlights (available on WNYREDC website)
- Reviewed federal and state initiatives of interest to REDC including:
  - o an \$800 million new, one-time COVID-19 Small Business Recovery Grant Program;
  - o \$148 million to Support the Arts;
  - o \$60 million in Targeted Assistance to Restaurants;
  - o \$40 million in Biodefense Commercialization Fund;
  - o enhancement of child care tax credits;
  - o mandate for affordable internet to low-income families; and
  - o other programs offering MWBE and business support.

### IV. Round 11 Regional Economic Development Council Overview

Ashley McCloskey, Deputy Director, Regional Councils, ESD

- Power point shown "A New Decade of Economic Recovery" (available on WNYREDC website)
- Reviewed timelines and changes made to Round XI of Consolidated Funding Application Program; discussed 2021 Strategic Plan Update; and online available CFA Resources

### V. Executive Director's Report

Amanda Mays, Executive Director, WNY Regional Economic Development Council

- Power point shown discussing regional business development highlights including PPE Retooling Grants and Excelsior Jobs Program incentives in WNY; highlighted continued Buffalo Billion program implementation (available on WNYREDC website)

### VI. 2021 REDC Annual Report and Strategic Plan Update

Amanda Mays, Executive Director, WNY Regional Economic Development Council

Laura Quebral, Director, University at Buffalo Regional Institute

- Power point shown overviewing post-pandemic adjustments to make in regional strategic plan by updating the four pillars of Placemaking, Innovation, Workforce and Tradable Sectors; discussed additions to be made to the region's plan. (available on WNYREDC website)
- Highlighted the City of Buffalo's East Side Corridor Economic Development Fund and the Niagara Falls Strategic Economic Development Fund as private-public collaborations on wealth building
- Advised on next steps for CFA review and scoring, with further information to be sent to WNYREDC members shortly.
- Q & A from council members

## **VII. Closing Remarks & Adjourn**

Dr. Katherine Conway-Turner, Co-Chair, WNY Regional Economic Development Council

Eric Reich, Co-Chair, WNY Regional Economic Development Council

- Next meeting may be in person either late August or early September
- Adjourned at 3:53 pm