

## **Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council**

**August 6, 2014**

**Locust Grove**

**2683 South Road**

**Poughkeepsie, NY 12601**

**Public Session**

### **I. Welcome**

Co-chair Dennis Murry welcomed the public to the REDC Meeting at 10:30 AM. He thanked Locust Grove for opening its beautiful facility to the Regional Council, and thanked the Council members for their hard work on the Progress Report and the scoring of the CFA's.

### **II. Progress Report Overview**

Aimee went over the deliverables for the 2014 Progress Report:

- Develop and implement global marketing and export strategies
- Collaborate with local governments to transform the regional business climate
- Support NY Rising Community Reconstruction Plan projects
- Keep the project pipeline flowing
- Address regional workforce development needs for key sectors
- Refine the regional Opportunity Agenda
- Promote Veterans' participation in the workforce
- NYSUNY 2020 Challenge Grants
- Cleaner, Greener Communities Sustainability Plans
- Innovation Hot Spots
- Collaboration with other Regional Councils to advance projects and shared objectives
- Measuring performance to monitor progress

Aimee also spoke about the Mid-Hudson REDC's Four Core and Four Supporting Goals, and emphasized the MHREDC's 2014 story:

- Red Circle: Continued investment in advanced manufacturing
- Purple Circle: Investment in craft brewing cluster
- Green Circle: Promoting destination tourism

- Blue Circle: Continued urban center/waterfront revitalization

Aimee went over the timeline for the completion of the MHREDC Deliverables:

**August 6** – Regional Council Meeting, formal vote to adopt report

**August 8** – Byne Group delivers designed report for proofing

**August 11** – Final report circulated to Executive Committee

**August 13** – Finished plan sent to printer

**August 15** – Deadline for submission to New York State

### **III. CFA Overview**

Aimee gave a brief overview of the 2014 REDC Competition, starting with how the competition in 2014 is split into two parts:

- The five regions identified as Top Performers in 2013 will compete for two awards of \$25 million each.
- The five regions not identified as Top Performers in 2013 will compete for three awards of \$25 million each.

The balance of the \$25 million in capital funds will be divided among the remaining five regions. Each region will also be eligible for up to \$10 million in Excelsior Tax Credits to help attract and grow business in the region.

She briefly went over the timeline of the 2014 CFA Process, stating that the CFA opened on May 1, closed on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM, the Progress Reports and Regional Council Scores are due on August 15<sup>th</sup>, and the Round IV Awards Ceremony will be held sometime in the fall.

Aimee discussed how there are \$750M from over 30 programs across 12 state agencies available to applicants. She mentioned that Mid-Hudson had more CFA applications than ever before, with 389 finalized CFA's for the Council to review, as well as 111 submitted Priority Project applications to review, and that there was a nice breakdown of Priority Project applications from all of the seven counties in the Region.

### **IV. Presentation of Priority Projects**

Aimee went over the Priority Project application process, stating that a project sponsor must have submitted a Priority Project Application to be considered as a Priority Project. She reiterated that the deadline for the Priority Projects was the same date and time of the CFA deadline – June 16<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM.

She went over how the Council determined the Priority Projects, with the review of the Priority Projects commencing after the state agencies determined eligibility of the applications for funding, and then the Council ranked the Priority Project applications, and the top 30 ranked applications were invited for interviews which took place on July 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> from 8 AM to 6:30 PM, with further deliberations on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

Co-chair Dennis Murray then announced that the Council would take a series of votes including on the Progress Report and the designation of Priority Projects.

A motion was made to authorize the publication of the Progress Report subject to final approval by the Executive Committee. Council member Jim Taylor seconded, motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made to approve the Council's designation of Priority Projects. Council member Cliff Wood seconded, motion was carried unanimously.

Aimee then announced the Council's Priority Projects for the ESD Capital Grants Program:

**Red Circle: Invest in Technology**

USAI Expansion  
CGAM 2014  
DS3 (Anellotech)  
Pathway to Health  
Jawonio Integrated Health Wellness and Work

**Purple Circle: Attract & Retain Mature Industries**

Northeast (Niagara Bottling)  
Brooklyn Brewery Production Facility  
Hudson Valley Craft Beer, Cider and Spirits Project  
Hudson Valley Brewery  
Stone Ridge Orchard Hard Cider Plant  
Equilibrium Brewery

**Green Circle: Grow Natural Resource Related Sectors**

LEGOLAND New York  
Mensch Grasmere, LLC  
Sing Sing Historic Prison Museum  
Harbor Square Waterfront Revitalization  
Hepworth Farms Hudson Valley Grown Farm Hub

## **Blue Circle: Revitalize the Region's Infrastructure**

Saw Mill River Daylighting Phase 3

SoYo Mixed-Use TOD Project

Ashburton Avenue Rehabilitation Project

Hudson Valley Opportunity Fund

Green Chimneys School Expansion (Opportunity Area – Brewster)

Aimee also announced that the Mid-Hudson's Hot Spot designation was going to New York Medical College's iBio incubator.

### **V. Public Comment**

Teresa Butler of Pathway to Health in Middletown, Orange County thanked the Council for their time and the vote of confidence in their project.

Kevin O'Connor of RUPCO in Kingston, Ulster County also thanked the council for the tremendous amount of time they spent on the CFA. He expressed concern that his organization's project was not named a Priority Project due to a conversation he had with HCR, as they told him that without Priority Project status from the Regional Council, it is difficult to compete against all the projects across the state that are given Priority Project status.

Aimee Vargas explained that it is not true that all funded projects are scored a 20, as there are numerous cases of that a lower scored project by the Regional Council were still funded, and reminded Mr. O'Connor that there is an 80/20 split on the scoring between the Regional Councils and the agencies. She also stated that all Priority Projects will get a 20 and the 15's will be published in the Progress Report as well.

Co-chair Dennis Murray closed the public comment section after no one else in the audience expressed desire to be heard. Meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM.