

# FINGER LAKES REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

## February 7, 2013

**Council Members Present:** Lt. Governor Robert Duffy, Joel Seligman, Danny Wegman, A. D. Berwanger, Maggie Brooks, David Callard, Matt Cole, Bill Destler, Taylor Fitch, Steve Griffin, Mary Pat Hancock, Pamela Heald, James Hoffman, Dr. Anne Kress, Theresa Mazzullo, Assemblyman Joseph Morelle, John Noble, Sandra Parker, Mark Peterson, Tyrone Reaves, Thomas Richards, Senator Joseph Robach, Hilda Rosario Escher, Christine Whitman, David Young. **Representatives for Council Members:** Mitch Rowe for Robert Hayssen, and Julie Marshall for James Merrick.

**Members Absent:** Timothy Buckley, Richard Colacino, Charlie Cook, Bradley MacDonald, Tom Macinski, Jack Marren, Augustin Melendez, Robert Sands and Kirsten Werner.

**Team Members:** Vincent Esposito, Joe Hamm, Dave Seeley, Betsy Colon, Kiska Stevens.

**State Agency Members:** Merideth Bahr Andreucci, Helen Blum, Joseph Chan (Via Telephone), Jason Conwall, Paul D'Amato, Linda Hardie, Kevin Hurley, Richard Parker, Leonard Skrill, J. C. Smith, Julie Sweet, Robert Traver and Ralph Van Houten.

Mr. Wegman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone back and that we are ready for another year.

Mr. Seligman welcomed everyone and recognized that one of our members, Assemblyman Joseph Morelle, has been named Majority Leader of the State Assembly. He also stated we are also coming off a very big year and that we have big plans and the implementation of our Strategic Plan is still ahead of us. We have a long way to go and he is looking forward to the coming year.

Lt. Governor Duffy congratulated the Finger Lakes Regional Council on winning and then he recognized Assemblyman Morelle on his new appointment to Majority Leader. He also congratulated Dr. Kress on receiving the Women's Council Athena Award. He stated this is a great time for the Finger Lakes Region; we know the talent we have in this region; the leadership from Mr. Seligman and Mr. Wegman is tremendous; and the time and hard work everyone puts in away from their jobs and careers is phenomenal.

Lt. Governor Duffy stated that on behalf of the Governor, they are looking for suggestions on how to reform IDA's. Please submit your suggestions to Mr. Seligman or Mr. Wegman.

Lt. Governor Duffy gave a brief overview of the executive budget.

Mr. Seligman asked the Lt. Governor if he knew what the timing, funding and awards information will be for the next round of the CFA's? Lt. Governor Duffy stated that the rules will be similar to this past round and that the funding is dependent on the budget which has yet to be reviewed by the Legislature.

Mr. Esposito stated that the Governor has more programs running through the Regional Council process, most notably the Innovation Hot Spots which the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Workgroup will be working on. Regional Marketing Plans is another competition that will be based around the Council and the Tourism and Arts Workgroup will be working on that. A task force for getting our region's plan out will be formed so, if you are interested, please let us know.

Mr. Esposito recognized some new members to the Regional Council: Matt Cole from Commodity Resource Corp. in Livingston County, was appointed by the Governor to replace Ms. Oswald. Julie Marshall from the Livingston County IDA will now be representing Mr. Merrick, the Livingston County Board of Supervisors

Chairman. Jack Marren, Supervisor of Victor and Ontario County Board of Supervisors Chairman has replaced Ted Fafinski.

Mr. Esposito also noted that when Ms. Oswald left the Council she left a vacancy on the Executive Committee which is filled, not by the Governor, but by the Council. He then turned the meeting over to Mr. Seligman.

Mr. Seligman stated that he and Mr. Wegman would like to nominate Dr. Kress to fill this vacancy. A motion was made and seconded and a vote was taken and unanimously agreed upon.

The meeting was then turned over to Mr. Wegman and Mr. Peterson to discuss the workgroups progress. Mr. Wegman stated that the workgroups are the primary means for the Regional Council to meet the goal we set of 50,000 jobs over the next five years. The thought is to rate the workgroups on three criteria, the first rating would be "Just Beginning", which means between 0 to 10 jobs have been created. The next rating is "On Our Way", which means between 11 and 50 jobs. The third rating would be "Yahoo", which is over 51 jobs. This is meant to be how we grow jobs in the future with these workgroups and we hope this is a simple way to look at what we are doing and measure our progress.

Mr. Peterson stated that we have made some adjustments in membership to the workgroups, which have been actively meeting. We have 14 active workgroups, with 43 new people engaged in the workgroups for a total of 240 people in the community actively involved. They have been working to develop their key indicators, dashboard and metrics for their work. As was expected last year, each workgroup will deliver a very brief presentation at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting outlining their performance objectives and where they are, defining their dashboard and giving us an update and proposing any new projects that might be coming through for the Regional Council's consideration in Round 3.

Lt. Governor Duffy gave a brief update on the utilities transfer from Eastman Kodak to RED from Chicago. This transaction is subject to a number of actions on behalf of New York State. The application has been filed and is now open for public comment until April 1<sup>st</sup>. RED is meeting with the customers now regarding utility and energy rates. He stated we are all supportive of Kodak coming out of bankruptcy and we want to make this park grow. It is the biggest industrial park in the state and the potential for upstate economic development is phenomenal. The main issues are getting the utilities stabilized and the future leadership of the park. The Governor's office is working closely with Mr. Perez to make this park succeed and to see what relief the state can offer in the future for the new owners. He also suggested having Andrew Kimble from the Brooklyn Navy Yards come up and visit in order to ask questions and get his advice. Mr. Seligman stated that would be a good idea and asked if Mr. Kimble could give a 30 minute presentation on the Navy Yards. Lt. Governor Duffy will contact Mr. Kimble to attend.

Mr. Chan from ESD joined the meeting via the telephone and stated he would be happy to explain or answer any questions and gave an update on the most recent happenings on Eastman Business Park. He stated this is a complex utility situation to deal with and a very large piece of real estate. The state has spent a lot of time with Kodak looking at ways the state could be helpful in attempting to assist potential new owners of Eastman Business Park.

Mr. Seligman stated there are 7,500 jobs in the park and there is potential for growth and this requires two steps, the first of which is the utilities infrastructure. Step two is the disposition of the property from Kodak to a new developer who will then be able to start to market this site and bring new businesses in and grow them. He then made a motion for reaffirmation that Eastman Business Park is the Regional Council's top priority. The motion was seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Alt from the Eastman Business Park thanked the co-chairs, the Governor and the executive committee for their support over the last two years and for the reaffirmation for the third year. He stated his key job is business development and that the support he is getting from the state to bring in companies is fantastic. He then gave a brief presentation on Eastman Business Park and showed a short film also.

Mr. Seligman encouraged anyone who has not toured Eastman Business Park to do so. He thanked everyone for all of their hard work and is looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned and those wishing to take a tour of Eastman Business Park were directed to the waiting bus.