

# MOHAWK VALLEY REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



## MVREDC MEETING NOTES

January 29, 2015 @ SUNY Oneonta

2:00 PM in Morris Conference Center, Craven Lounge

The Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council (MVREDC) met last Thursday, January 29, at SUNY Oneonta to learn more about Governor Andrew Cuomo's New York State Opportunity Agenda and the plan for the Upstate Revitalization Fund.

The meeting opened with a welcome & remarks by SUNY Oneonta President Nancy Kleniewski. SUNY Oneonta is embarking on an aggressive capital program, involving rehabilitation and construction on several academic buildings and green infrastructure on the lower campus.

Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, who serves as statewide Chair of the Regional Economic Development Council initiative, met with the MVREDC for the first time to outline Governor Cuomo's [2015 Opportunity Agenda](#), which includes \$1.5 Billion to establish the Upstate Revitalization Fund - a competition in which seven regions will compete for three awards of \$500 million to help revitalize the Upstate economy and create new jobs for Upstate New Yorkers.



Modeled after the Buffalo Billion, the Upstate New York Economic Revitalization Competition will provide an opportunity for a range of projects to be eligible for funding. Funding will be awarded in the form of grants, tax credits, and loan programs, and winners are expected to be announced in the Fall of 2015. Richard Tobe, Director of Upstate Revitalization, accompanied Lieutenant Governor Hochul to elucidate the details of this remarkable chance for the Mohawk Valley to present a dynamic, definitive plan for growth and prosperity.

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“The Opportunity Is Imminent.” Co-Chairs Larry Gilroy and Bob Geer immediately seized this opportunity, on behalf of the Regional Council, to communicate regional strengths and offer a glimpse of the Mohawk Valley’s winning strategy. Citing a “convergence of technology and innovation,” Geer and Gilroy pointed to distinct similarities between Buffalo and the Mohawk Valley - a clear indication that we are “ready for this investment.”



## Guest Presentation: Northern Eagle Beverages, Inc. - All In For The Future

George Allen, President and CEO of Northern Eagle Beverages, Inc., located in Oneonta, provided an overview of their recent expansion into hop farming and craft brewing. Recognizing the future of production and distribution of craft beverages, NEB made the decision to invest in hop harvesting, drying, and pelletizing equipment. NEB also recently acquired Cooperstown Brewing Company, revitalized the brand, and is stepping up production of several lines of craft beers.



## Guest Presentation: Department of Labor Unemployment Outreach Strikeforce

Paul Nelson, DOL, and Melissa Quesara, Director of Outreach Strikeforce, delivered a presentation about the technical and financial assistance programs available to unemployed workers and employers for training and education in areas with high unemployment. The program focuses on Montgomery County in the Mohawk Valley region, but as Paul and Melissa emphasized, these incentives are available across the region, and that anyone interested should most definitely take advantage before the assistance expires. For more information, please go to: <http://labor.ny.gov/main/> or contact

As Lieutenant Governor Hochul and Richard Tobe both indicated, this is a “once-ever” opportunity for the region. Wheels are already in motion, and working groups are assembling to seize this moment. During the next few months, the MVREDC will continue to engage, recruit, and collaborate with stakeholders from across the six-county region to refine our vision for a vibrant future.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Together, we will construct a plan that will attract even greater private investment, even more jobs, and better secure a brighter and more sustainable future for our region.