



*Meeting held at 2 p.m., Feb. 12, 2014 @ SUNY Institute of Technology*

### Welcome

Co-Chair Larry Gilroy opened the meeting by congratulating the entire Regional Council on the achievement of “Top Performer” status in New York State’s 2013 Regional Council competition. The MVREDC secured \$82.4 million for 76 projects across the six-county Mohawk Valley Region. Co-Chair Gilroy also introduced new co-chair Dr. Robert Geer, Acting President at SUNY IT. Members of the public were welcomed and the Council members introduced themselves. After a review of the meeting’s agenda, Bob Geer took the floor to provide an Executive Committee Report.

### Executive Committee Report



Bob Geer began his report by summarizing the REDC’s mission: “Create and implement a strategic plan for economic and community growth, and identify the projects that will help advance that plan.” Co-chair Geer noted that the MVREDC has been awarded \$188 million in state funding since the end of 2011, impacting more than 3,500 jobs. He revisited the MVREDC core strategies: Grow (enhance regional concentrations); Build (workforce alignment and education); Create (innovation-enabling infrastructure); Revive (increase Spatial Efficiencies); and Forge (strengthen government and civic effectiveness).

He also unveiled the MVREDC’s 2014 priorities: Region-wide Engagement, to include outreach via Chambers of Commerce and a regional summit; Business Development, focusing on manufacturing and industrial expansion, as well as capital investment and job opportunities; Community Revitalization, including smart growth and infrastructure investments; and Education & Workforce, including STEM education, advanced skills training and connecting industry to education.

To address these priorities, a new MVREDC workgroup/committee structure for 2014. The new committees are:

- Project Development (chairs: Steve DiMeo and Mike Reese) -- Support the CFA process by identifying and compiling a list of Priority projects, and manage the grant processes for HCR-CDBG funding and the MV Community Investment Fund.
- Education & Workforce (chairs: Carolyn Lewis and Dr. Dustin Swanger) -- Devise a structure and process to address the skills gap between workforce and businesses. Identify and support projects and initiatives that demonstrate and exploit collaboration between educators and industry.
- REDC Economic Summit (chairs: Todd Hutton and Nick Matt) -- Plan and execute a regional summit of business and community partners focusing on strengthening regional relationships; and on identifying regional (and globally) significant projects for the 2014 Round.
- Outreach and Information (chairs: Dr. Renee Scialdo Shevat and Mark Kilmer) – Identify opportunities to engage key constituencies through chambers of commerce, top employers, tourism agencies, and community organizations. Clearly communicate regional strategies and opportunities for funding through the CFA process.

## Path Through History



Helen Martin, committee chairman of Mohawk Valley Path Through History initiative, unveiled the recently introduced Mohawk Valley Path Through History website, created for MVPTH by Brocket Creative Group in Clinton ([www.mohawkvalleyhistory.com](http://www.mohawkvalleyhistory.com)).

The MVPTH working group, made up of history and tourism professionals from around the MV Region, chose to focus on the area's rich Revolutionary War history as its inaugural project. Collateral materials, including a pamphlet and tie-ins lodging, restaurants and other points of interest for visitors have been developed and integrated into the new program.

For more information about the Mohawk Valley Path Through History project, please contact Helen Martin at (518) 762-7638.

## Local Government Efficiency



Sean Maguire, a strategic planner from NYS Department of State, described New York's Local Government Efficiency initiative, consistent with MVREDC's fifth strategy, FORGE: Strengthen government and civic effectiveness.

The MVREDC is encouraging the modernization of civic institutions and governmental structures, services, systems through regionalization, consolidation and shared services. Sean noted that, to date there have just been four applications and two funded projects for efficiency grants from Mohawk Valley communities – for a sanitary district in Montgomery County and for a Mohawk Valley Water Authority study. Both projects are in progress. He pointed to a success story in Herkimer County. There, the County worked with DOS to identify efficiency improvement options for existing highway services. The County is now working with various towns to capture a potential \$875,000 in savings through consolidated and/or coordinated maintenance work.

Mohawk Valley municipalities interested in learning more about the Department of State's Local Government Efficiency program can contact Sean at [sean.maguire@dos.ny.gov](mailto:sean.maguire@dos.ny.gov) or by visiting the website: <http://www.dos.ny.gov/LG>.

## Regional Success Story: Schoharie County



Sarah Blood, Economic Development Marketing Coordinator from the Schoharie County Department of Planning, Promotions, & Economic Development, described for the REDC Schoharie's County's continuing recovery from devastating floods suffered since 2011. With the assistance in part from REDC CFA Round 1 and 2 grants, county officials have been working with local businesses and residents to rebuild homes, businesses, farms and communities severely damaged or destroyed when hurricanes and tropical storms caused the Schoharie Creek to swell to record levels. Through the Schoharie County Micro-Enterprise Assistance program, 17 small businesses received vital assistance; more than \$1.4 million in new investment was made, leveraging \$425,000 of emergency assistance from National Grid. In all, it is estimated that 24 jobs were saved. The Agriculture Assistance Program employed support from a CFA Round 2 award and from NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets to assist 23 farms and – with assistance from Cornell Cooperative Extension -- to provide disaster training that helped lower farm insurance premiums.

**Global NY – an REDC Round IV initiative**



Ana Liss, an Empire Fellow representing the Governor’s office, provided an overview of Governor Cuomo’s new Global NY Initiative which is intended to identify opportunities to increase new export activities for companies across the state. As part of the fourth round of Regional Council competition, New York will recognize and reward REDC plans that incorporate global marketing and export strategies. These strategies should be supported by detailed assessments of international commerce activity and identify new export opportunities while placing emphasis on regional economic supply chain strengths, such as advanced manufacturing and high tech services. Approximately 194,378 New Yorkers’ jobs are directly supported by exports, or about 2.2% of the entire workforce. New York exported about \$81.4 billion worth of goods and services in 2012, with the vast majority of that originating in the greater New York City area. Utica-Rome was the states seventh-ranked export market at \$769 million. Governor Cuomo plans to showcase the Global NY initiative at a summit on world trade and investment in 2014 at a date to be announced. Participants will include foreign investors, REDCs, regional companies, state and local leaders.

**Adjournment**

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