



MOHAWK VALLEY Regional Economic Development Council

REDC Meeting Notes – July 31, 2014

10:30am to 12:00pm @ Herkimer College - Robert McLaughlin College Center

[Public Meeting preceded by an MVREDC Executive Session from 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM.]

Welcome

Co-chairs Larry Gilroy and Robert Geer opened the meeting by welcoming the Council, the public, and elected officials to an important and pivotal meeting that will determine the 2015-2015 strategy for the MVREDC and frame the Progress Report & Implementation Plan. On behalf of the Council, Larry Gilroy expressed sincere gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor for his partnership and friendship during the past four years.



Photo courtesy of the Herkimer Telegram

Remarks by Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy

Lieutenant Governor Duffy complimented the Mohawk Valley on recent successes and continuing momentum.

Executive Committee Report

A brief report by the Co-chairs focused largely on the activities and methodology of the Project Development Committee, working in close and frequent consultation with the Executive Committee, to proactively seek projects throughout the region, and to cultivate a strategy-based, competitive field of CFA applications.

Action: Vote on Slate of 2014 CFA Scores and Priority Projects

The Council unanimously approved a motion to approve the selection of priority projects and all 2014 CFA project scores as recommended to the Council by the Executive Committee. The list of projects is expected to be published soon.

Presentation: Burrows Paper Corporation Capital Project

Rose Mihaly, COO of Burrows Paper Corporation, was awarded a CFA Round 2 ESD grant of \$250,000 for major capital equipment replacements and upgrades to achieve greater productivity, sustainability, and quality at the Mohawk Mill facility in **Herkimer County**. Rose delivered a fascinating presentation on the vision, operations, and international presence of Burrows Paper in a constantly-evolving global economy. Among the key points presented:



Photo courtesy of the Herkimer Telegram

- Burrows is a privately-owned, vertically-integrated company with 95 years of papermaking expertise, with global headquarters in Little Falls, NY.
- Worldwide supplier of lightweight paper and packaging, with strategic locations in North America, Europe, and Asia.
- Recently completed a \$7 Million capital investment in equipment.
- Burrows has been committed to environmental quality and sustainability since 1919, producing up to 66% of the total energy consumed through renewable energy sources, including hydroelectric, photovoltaic, geothermal, and biomass.
- Burrows currently has more than 250 employees in upstate New York, comprised of graduates from Mohawk Valley institutions such as SUNY-IT, Hamilton College, Herkimer College, and Utica College.

Discussion of 2014 Progress Report & Implementation Plan

Carolyn Lewis, MVREDC Executive Committee, briefed the Council on content of Progress Report and Implementation Plan data, narrative, projects, and initiatives to highlight in both the document and upcoming presentation to SIAT. Key points:

- *Theme based on “sustaining momentum.”*
- *Collaboration with CNYREDC on Global NY; expansion of the Metropolitan Export Initiative to include all six counties in the region.*
- *Sustainability and Opportunity Agenda concepts present throughout and fundamental to the narrative, project examples, and strategy discussion.*



Photo courtesy of the Herkimer Telegram

Action: Vote to Authorize Executive Committee to Submit Progress Report & Implementation Plan

The Council unanimously approved a motion to approve the outline and proposed content for the 2014 Implementation Plan, authorizing the Executive Committee to complete and approve the final document for submission to the State Implementation Assessment Team.

Other Business

Ryan Silva, Deputy Director of Regional Councils, briefed the Council on the number of applications received statewide and status of the CFA process, to date. Ryan remarked that the overall quality of applications continues to improve.

Ken Tompkins, Executive Director of the MVREDC, provided a briefing on:

- *Homes & Community Renewal Project Pipeline*
 - *The current HCR round (separate from the CFA RoundIV) closed on June 30th. Project applications received total more than \$14 Million for the \$7.1 Million available. Project Development Committee will be meeting shortly to prioritize Economic Development, Public Infrastructure, Public Facilities, and Housing applications.*
- *Global MV Export Breakfast @ Fulton-Montgomery Community College, 8AM on Friday, August 1st*
 - *Guest Speaker: Steven King, Executive Director of the CNY International Business Alliance*

Co-chairs adjourned the meeting