



## Southern Tier Regional Council Meeting

May 9, 2014

**Council Members Present:** Tom Tranter, Harvey Stenger, Linda Shumaker, Rose Sotak, Diane Lantz, Steve Craig for Laurence Wilcox, Bijoy Datta for Debbie Preston, Donna Lupardo, Barbara Lifton, Stacy Duncan for Kevin McLaughlin, Emmanuel Priest for Tom Libous, Candace Vancko, Anthony Rosemarino for Dan Spoor, Tim, O’Hearn, James Johnson, Ernie Hartman, JD Young for Scott Welliever, Louis Callea for Michael Field, Peg Ellsworth, Kim Middaugh for Sue Skidmore, Martha Sauerbrey, Tom Schryver for Mary Opperman, George Miner, Lou Santoni, Katherine Boor

**State Agency/Local Government Staff Present:** C. Crouch, T. Kowalik, R. Alpaugh, J. Roman, B. Furch, K. DeWick, H. Gonzalez, K. Grippen, F. Bonn, L. Moore, J. Sweet, C. Grant, C. Harris, F. Surdey, M. Baer, J. Reppert, D. Burlew, T. Kane, M. Bowers, P. D’Amato, K. McCabe, R. Silva

### Reports/Discussions

T. Tranter opened the meeting and welcomed all Council members, agency representatives, elected officials, and members of the public. He introduced and welcomed Ryan Silva, Deputy of NYS Regional Councils.

T. Tranter reviewed the meeting agenda and asked that minutes for Council meeting held April 4, 2014 be approved. The minutes were approved. (Moved by T. O’Hearn, seconded by E. Hartman.) He then reviewed the agenda for this meeting.

R. Alpaugh provided an update report on the following projects:

- Elmira College – R3 priority project - \$2.250 for outfitting of Cowles Hall to expand health care course offerings will be presented to the ESD Board for approval on Monday. This is our first R3 to go to the Board for approval.
- Community Revitalization & Rural Initiative Fund – fund replenishment payment requests are in process in NYC.
- Telemedicine and Mobile Health Care Technology Fund \$2.125 – was approved at the May ESD board meeting – public hearing is set for next Friday.
- MWBE compliance continues to be important to projects – waivers are tough to accomplish - percentage goals are expected to rise above the current 23%.
- Project Ribbon Cuttings – Please let ESD staff know of ribbon cuttings - this is important as we prepare for this year’s progress report and presentation to the state assessment team.
  - Jeff Eaton with Arbor Housing will host a ribbon cutting on June 13<sup>th</sup> in Corning – REDC Council members are encouraged and invited to attend.

- Next REDC meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup> – we will be asking the Council to formalize/approve our Global NY strategy, Veterans plan, and update to our Opportunity Agenda. We will also present an update to our strategic plan in the area of Workforce Development and industry and sector targets. On May 22, 2014, we have multiple work group meetings planned to tackle these updates in preparation for June's meeting.

J. Roman provided the following report:

- Round 2 ESD Projects Summary - There were a total of 24 projects, 16 projects are active, four are completed, two are questionable, and two are no longer viable. Overall, the majority of projects are progressing well.
- Round 3 ESD Projects Summary – There were a total of 29 projects. About 70% of the Offer Letters are done or in process of drafting. Offers are being done in priority order based on need. Many offers had to be reissued and/or revised based on new negotiations or project issues primarily related to budget, jobs, timing of the funds, LPA and MWBE requirements, and fees.
  - Recommend that more early communication with entities during the application stage will be helpful to the process for Round 4.
- STREDC Community Revitalization – Program is operating very well. Total project costs for all projects are approximately \$27M, total STREDC amount awarded is approximately \$6M with private investment at almost \$19M. Jobs projected to be created are 196, and retained are 10. The program is fulfilling its mandate and providing a great benefit to our downtown communities. A recent successful project in Corning is the War Memorial project which has found a new developer and moving forward with complete building renovations to ultimately contain apartments near the downtown core.
- STREDC Rural Initiative – Program is operating very well. Total project costs for all projects are approximately \$8M, total STREDC amount awarded is approximately \$3.5M with private investment of a little less than \$3.1M. Jobs projected to be created are 143, and retained are 25. The program is fulfilling its mandate and providing a great benefit to our agricultural entities in rural areas. A recent successful project in Steuben County is the Jenkins Farm Market which is the purchase and expansion of a local farm market.
- STREDC Issues – One issue for STREDC is that it is often being misunderstood as an incentive program to provide low cost financing for projects. While this is certainly part of its mission, the program is specifically designed to provide gap financing to projects. This means that STREDC is to participate once all other avenues and sources of funding are exhausted.

J. Sweet reported on New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program in Broome and Tioga Counties as follows:

- Created in June 2013 to centralize, coordinate and lead storm recovery funding and efforts in storm-affected municipalities throughout New York State.
- Operated within the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC).
- \$50B appropriated by Congress through the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013.
- New York State CDBG-DR funding divided among the following program areas:

- NY Rising Housing Recovery Program
- NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program
- NY Rising Small Business Recovery Program
- Infrastructure
- Municipal Assistance
  
- Total CDBG-DR Funding for Southern Tier: \$ 42.66 million
  - NY Rising Community Reconstruction Plans:
  - Broome: 80 Projects at \$68.6 million
  - Tioga: 32 Projects at \$44.5 million
  - Sidney: 21 Projects at \$126 million
  - Margaretville: 21 Projects at \$21.2 million
  - 72 Proposed Projects
  - 35 Featured Projects
  - 47 Additional Projects
  - Total: 154 Projects at \$260 million
  
- Sampling of Southern Tier Projects
  - Improvements to Critical Infrastructure and Facilities
  - Stream and Culvert Improvements
  - Bridge Replacements
  - Extension of Water and Sewer
  - Vulnerable Population Housing Improvements
  - New Storm-water Retention & Wetland Areas
  - Early Warning Systems
  - New Shared Gov't Facilities out of Floodplain
  - Stream Management Programs
  - Emergency Preparedness and Response
  - Green Infrastructure Projects
  - New Economic Development Initiatives
  - Creation of new flood-safe communities
  
- Competitive Element
  - Broome, Tioga and Sidney: Winner for Regional Collaboration
  - Margaretville: Winner for Community Involvement
  
- Regional Initiatives
  - Regional River Initiative
  - Regional Multi-Purpose Shelter
  - Disaster Education
  - Emergency Communication Systems
  - Participation in Community Rating System

- Shared Facilities
- 211 System
- NEXT STEPS – IMPLEMENTATION
  - The NYRCR program will work with NY Rising communities to:
    - Advance proposed projects using their allocation of NY Rising funds.
    - Advance NY Rising projects through other sources of funding (CFA, HMGP, etc.)
    - Connect NY Rising communities and projects with NYS programs & initiatives

R. Silva presented an overview and progress report of the CFA Round IV initiative as follows:

- After three rounds: \$2.2 Billion to support over 2,200 projects, over 120,000 jobs created
- 2013 Highlights
  - \$715 million awarded statewide
  - More than 800 total projects selected to receive state incentives
  - Opportunity agendas developed
  - 5 Innovation Hot Spots selected
  - NYS Certified Business Incubators
- Round IV - For the fourth consecutive year, the REDCs will compete for:
  - Up To \$150 million in capital funds
  - Up To \$70 million in Excelsior Tax Credits
  - A total of more than \$750 million in state economic development resources will be awarded
- 2014 Competition
  - Regions designated as a “Top Performer” will be required to demonstrate:
    - Development and implementation of global marketing and export strategies, NEW\*
    - Support for NY Rising Community Reconstruction Plan projects, NEW\*
    - Progress with project pipelines
    - Regional workforce development needs for key sectors
    - Support for the Regional Opportunity Agenda
    - Introduction of a new veteran’s component
  - Veteran’s Initiatives
    - New York State is home to more than 900,000 veterans
    - Nationwide, post 9/11, veterans have an unemployment rate of 10% and among those under 25, it is even higher
    - For 2014, Regional Councils are asked to create a Veterans Work Group to engage veterans in the CFA process
    - The Veterans Group should promote programs such as “Experience Counts”

- Councils should encourage other CFA applicants to include workforce goals related to veteran's employment
- Address Regional Workforce Needs
  - Among the goals established by Regional Councils was an improved coordination between businesses' demand for skilled labor and the supply of workers with requisite skills
  - This Year, each Regional Council Is asked to address two critical elements:
    - Assessment of the workforce needs of priority projects for capital funding
    - Advancement of regional workforce planning based on sector strategies
  - REDCs should also:
    - Ensure the workforce needs of any prior project is identified and addressed
    - Look to leverage business-led workforce partnerships
- Refine the Regional Opportunity Agenda
  - Regional Council goals for the 2014 Opportunity Agenda include:
  - Review and refine the opportunity agenda
  - Targeted strategies for eliminating barriers to the job market for distressed communities
  - Additionally, the CFA in Round IV will ask applicants to describe how their projects or initiatives advance the region's opportunity agenda
- Global New York
  - The REDCs are going global in Round IV
  - The state will recognize and reward plans in 2014 that incorporate global marketing and export strategies
  - CFA Applications will allow applicants to link projects to Global NY goals
  - This effort provides REDCs with an opportunity to collaborate inter-regionally

Decisions/Actions

Minutes for Council meeting held April 4, 2014 were approved.

Next Council meeting:

- Date: June 26, 2014
  - Time: 12:00 Noon
  - Location: Owego Treadway Inn
- Tour of Lockheed to follow Council meeting*