



Work Group Meeting Notes

Work Group Name: Leveraging Natural Resources
Work Group Chair: Deanna Alterio Brennen
Meeting Date: Tuesday, August 30, 2011

Work Group Members Present: Paul Bencal, Jim Bitner, Alex Cartwright, David Flynn, Robert Knoer, Tom Mishler, Deb Roberts, Richard Zink, Kathleen Const, Richard Meyers, Stephen Rinaldi

Summary of Meeting: The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Deanna Alterio Brennen and all present introduced themselves and stated the organization they represented. A short Power Point presentation describing the nature and purpose of the Governor's Regional Council's was given by Diego Sirianni.

There was a short discussion regarding the precise meaning of the Work Group's charge, Leveraging Natural Resources and what the goals of the meeting were.

The Chair addressed the fact that there were some other resources (potential work group members) that might help fill out the group and provide a wider range of knowledge regarding Natural Resources in Western New York. There was also some discussion around whether it was correct to include Agriculture in the group or whether it should be a separate working group. In addition, Group Member Kathy Konst, brought to the group's attention that no representatives of the larger cities in the Region were part of the group and would be a welcome addition to the group.

The group then executed a SWOT analysis of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats around Leveraging Natural Resources in Western New York. The following are some of the highlights of the SWOT analysis. A more in depth review and analysis of the results is underway.



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SWOT Analysis Results

THREATS

- Food Imports
- Taxes/Regulations Compliancy
- Government mandates too much of local budgets
- International – threats from other countries
- Sprawl
- Water Theft
- DOT is critical to water quality problems, invasive plants & species, wetland destruction
- Pollution from other states
- Underutilized urban vacant land/Brownfield. Cost of clean-up
- Unions – high cost of labor

STRENGTHS

- Waterfront
- Strong Infrastructure – large return on investment
- Low cost Hydropower
- Education
- Strong community spirit and willingness to help
- Land Opportunities
- Agriculture
- Fresh Water
- Proximity to Markets/Locations
- Quality of Life – sports teams, 4 seasons and no disastrous weather

WEAKNESSES

- Energy – lack of plan
- Labor – Brain Drain
- Infrastructure – Aging Water/Sewer Systems
- Poor Self Image
- Lack of Funds to Address Environmental Contamination
- Special Interests and Self Interests
- Too Many Agencies/Entities



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- Regulations

OPPORTUNITIES

- Food
- Water – lots of fresh water
- Border
- Tourism – we have a lot to draw visitors to
- Energy
- Infrastructure
- Regulatory
- Regionalism
- Innovational – Governor who sees the problems
- Brownfields – create shovel-ready sites
- Miscellaneous – build on assets; time to bring industry back; attract people from natural disaster areas