

# NIAGARA ERIE REGIONAL COALITION

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Hon. Barry Weinstein, MD

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## Executive Director:

Tod A. Kniazuk

## MEMORANDUM

**To: Co-Chairs Clyde Burmaster & Barry Weinstein, MD**

**From: Economic Development Chair Hector Titus  
Government Affairs Chair Peter McMahan**

**Re: November 2007 Meeting**

**Date: December 7, 2007**

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The Niagara Erie Regional Coalition Economic Development and Government Affairs Subcommittees met jointly on November 27, 2007 at the Niagara County Center for Economic Development (NCCED). Present for the meeting were subcommittee members Titus (Economic Development); McMahan, Allen, Anello, Ellis, and Weinstein (Government Affairs).

### Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS):

Discussion was once again focused on the REDS. Subcommittee Member James Allen shared that there is an understanding that economic development policy is being developed around the clusters; this doesn't go far enough, but at least pieces of the REDS are being released and used. The IDAs have agreed to follow the Framework for Regional Growth. There is also an effort underway to follow the clusters, and to develop uniform criteria for incentives that would apply to the IDAs, but also to organizations such as the New York Power Authority.

Subcommittee Member Wright Ellis referenced the timeline contained in the last subcommittee report and asked for an update. The work of the interns is in the hands of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership since they paid for the interns. Subcommittee Member Laura St. Pierre Smith will be asked for the documents, as she was not at the meeting.

Subcommittee Member Vince Anello stated that we should get the updates and move forward with the project. All those present were in agreement.

Subcommittee Member and Coalition Co-Chair Barry Weinstein reiterated his intention to release the REDS prior to his leaving office at the end of the year.

Erie County Executive:

The subcommittees recommended inviting Erie County Executive Elect Christopher Collins to the December general meeting, and also recommended sending him information on the Coalition. It was noted that he did develop an economic development position paper, and that many of his priorities are those shared by the Coalition.

Other Topics:

Other topics discussed included the small business assistance website, planning for the December general meeting, and membership changes at the Regional Coalition.