

ERIE-NIAGARA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP
INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND REGIONAL GROWTH
UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO
BECK HALL, 3435 MAIN ST.
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14214-3004
PHONE: 716-829-3777 FAX: 716-829-3776
E-MAIL: tkniazuk@buffalo.edu
www.erie.gov/enrp

Co-Chairs:

Hon. Sean O'Connor
Hon. Barry Weinstein, MD

Members:

James Allen
Robert Blanchard
Daniel Boody
Hon. Clyde Burmaster
Hon. Elise Cusack
Hon. William Davignon
Brian Eldridge
Hon. Wright Ellis
Samuel Ferraro
Hon. Judith Fisher
Hon. Samuel Granieri
Hon. Dale Larson
Celeste Lawson
Maria Lehman
Hon. Peter McMahon
Hon. Gerald Meal
Lawrence Meckler
Hal Morse
Jo Nasoff
Laura Roberts
Laurence Rubin
Hon. Mark Schroeder
Hon. Demone Smith
Hector Titus
Peter Wendel
Lawrence Witul

Ad Hoc:

Michael Casale
Tim Doolittle
Richard Geiger
Stan Rydelek
John Sheffer, II

Administrator:

Tod A. Kniazuk

Memorandum

To: ENRP Co-Chairs Sean O'Connor & Barry Weinstein, MD

From: Economic Development Subcommittee Chair Hector Titus

Re: April & May 2003 meetings

Date: June 6, 2003

The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership's Economic Development Subcommittee met April 22 and May 27, 2003 at Pizzeria Uno's on Maple Road. Present for the April meeting were subcommittee members Titus, Eldridge, Nasoff, and Doolittle, as well as ENRP Co-Chair Barry Weinstein and ENRP Member Laura Roberts. Present for the May meeting were subcommittee members Titus, Cusack, Davignon, Eldridge, and Doolittle, as well as ENRP Co-Chair Weinstein.

Economic Development Working Group / Regional ED Strategy

Following last December's release of the Economic Development Working Group (EDWG) report and the subsequent initiation of the Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS), the relationship between these two efforts, as well as their relationship to the Framework for Regional Growth, was detailed.

The EDWG was convened to determine the best structure for a one-stop shop for economic development in the two counties. The report determined, however, that a regional economic development strategy is needed to then dictate the strategy. To that end, the REDS initiative was undertaken. The resulting strategy will then be "plugged in" to the reconvening EDWG one-stop shop effort.

While all this is going on, the Framework for Regional Growth is also underway. The Framework is a document that will be used by the two counties' governments, and will inform others of the counties priorities for land use, economic development, and other issues. While the Framework is a document for use by the two county governments, the goal of the REDS is to have it used by every entity engaged in economic development in the two counties.

Both the Framework and the REDS start at the same point – a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis. The UB Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth (the agency contracted

to be project manager for the REDS) is now engaged in creation of the SWOT, which will be delivered by the end of June, 2003. A draft strategy will then be produced by the end of August, 2003, with extensive public input to follow. The final version of the strategy will be delivered by the end of the year. The Framework is using this SWOT and strategy as part of the economic development portion of its document.

Local Governments Forum

The subcommittee was given details of the ENRP's June 11, 2003 Local Governments Forum. Suggestions were then made of topics to include either in the presentation or in the survey. They include brownfields, the permitting process, market windows (the speed of the economic development process), pre-permitting, state standards on reuse of land (and the difficulties these present), how local officials fit into the economic development process, and things site selectors are looking for.

REDD

As reported last year, the REDD will continue to be housed at the UB Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth in 2003, following support for this scenario being given by the ENRP and the two Legislatures. The BNE has made a presentation to the other five Western New York counties in an effort to get them on board as well. While the fate of the REDD for this year has been secured, we must quickly deal with funding and housing issues for 2004. As BNE is the main user of the group, it was suggested that a meeting be set up to discuss the issue with them. That suggestion led to a general discussion about BNE, its effectiveness, and its future funding. **The Economic Development Subcommittee is seeking approval to invite Buffalo Niagara Enterprise Executive Director Tom Kucharski to be the guest speaker at the ENRP's July general meeting.**

Other Topics

Other topics discussed include the relicensing of the Niagara Falls Air Base, the ENRP Transportation Committee's Job Development & Public Transportation initiative, the 2005 rewriting of the Workforce Investment Act and the desire to see more money allocated to counties and municipalities, and the resurrection of the shovel ready site working group.