



North Country Regional Economic Development Council

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NORTH COUNTRY REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HOLDS PUBLIC MEETING IN POTSDAM AND WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Council Announces Series of Public Forums Across the Region

The North Country Regional Economic Development Council (NCREDC) today met at Clarkson University in Potsdam, St. Lawrence County. During the meeting, the Council discussed committee updates, reported on progress being made by projects, and announced the launch of a series of public forums that will be held throughout the region in coming weeks.

Council co-chairs Garry Douglas, President of the North Country Chamber of Commerce, and Tony Collins, President of Clarkson University, invited and encouraged businesses, organizations, labor and education representatives, as well as members of the public, from Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties to participate in the public meeting.

The Council also welcomed two new members during today's meeting: Reg Carter, executive director of Citec, and Michele Ledoux, owner of Adirondack Beef Company and executive director of Lewis County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Additionally, a presentation was made by Empire State Development to the Council on a new round of the [Restore NY Program](#), which aims to revitalize urban areas and stabilize neighborhoods through investments in projects as a means to attract residents and businesses.

“Building strong public-private partnerships are key to the Governor's community-driven, regional approach to economic development. It is terrific to welcome new members to the Council who bring fresh perspectives and added insights to the strategies and vision created for the North Country based on broad public participation and input from across the region,” said Tony Collins, president of Clarkson University and co-chair of the NCREDC. “Through the volunteer contributions of many stakeholders from business,

academia, local government and non-governmental organizations working in partnership with New York State, we are well poised for ongoing progress and success in stimulating economic investment in the North Country's seven counties and advancing priority projects.”

“Everything is on course and well underway for this year's funding competition,” said Garry Douglas, president of the North Country Chamber of Commerce and co-chair of the NCREDC. “The CFA grant application process has begun, our work groups are reviewing our strategies for updates and refinements, and our public participation process has been launched with the first of seven public forums to be held in each of our region's counties. We have much work to do between now and fall, but feel good about our plans and strategies and especially about our continued region-wide teamwork.”

The Public Forums schedule is as follows:

- **Clinton County - Plattsburgh**
Friday, June 17, 2016, 10 – 11 a.m.
North Country Chamber of Commerce
7061 Route 9, Plattsburgh, NY 12901

- **Essex County - Elizabethtown**
Friday, June 17, 2016, 1 – 2 p.m.
Essex County Board of Supervisors Chamber Entrance #3
7551 Court Street, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

- **Jefferson County - Watertown**
Monday, June 20, 2016, 3 – 4 p.m.
Dulles State Office Building, 1st Floor
317 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601

- **Lewis County - Croghan**
Monday, June 20, 2016, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
American Maple Museum
9756 Main Street (Route 812), Croghan, NY 13327

Members of the public are encouraged to [RSVP online](#) to attend.

The Council also endorsed three resolutions to support the Adirondack Regional Land Bank, efforts to retain troop strength at Fort Drum, and the Rehabilitation of the Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge.

Additionally, the group also passed a resolution supporting Senator Patty Ritchie and Assemblywoman Addie Russell’s bill to convey St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center properties in Ogdensburg to the City of Ogdensburg and strongly urged favorable consideration of the bill by the members of the Senate and Assembly.

The NCREDC, which is composed of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties, is one of 10 regional councils across New York State. There are now 373 projects that have been awarded a total of \$423.2 million in the North Country in support from the State, through the Regional Economic Development Council initiative.

About the Regional Economic Development Councils

The Regional Economic Development Council initiative is a key component of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's transformative approach to State investment and economic development. In 2011, Governor Cuomo established 10 Regional Councils to develop long-term strategic plans for economic growth for their regions. The Councils are public-private partnerships made up of local experts and stakeholders from business, academia, local government, and non-governmental organizations. The Regional Councils have redefined the way New York invests in jobs and economic growth by putting in place a community-based, bottom up approach and establishing a competitive process for State resources. After five rounds of the REDC process, nearly \$4 billion has been awarded to more than 4,100 job creation and community development projects consistent with each region's strategic plans, supporting the creation or retention of approximately 200,000 jobs.

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