



Hudson Valley Regional Council Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 14, 2019 — 3:30–5:30 PM
HVRC Office, Newburgh, NY 12550

1. Call to Order: Ms. Pomeroy called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM and requested public comment on agenda items. There were no public comments. Introductions by attendees were provided for all for phone and in-person attendees. Mr. Porr moved to adopt December 14, 2018, meeting minutes, Mr. Steingart seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.
2. Old Business:
 - a. June 2019 CEDS Update: Peter Fairweather presented an update on the CEDS. The Mid-Hudson has the opportunity to redefine the connection between Upstate and Downstate.
 - i. Discussion focused on the status of New York State population and the impact on Hudson Valley cities. Mr. Fairweather’s projections indicate a 3% increase in population (including birth, death, migration). Mr. Fairweather indicated that population growth is starting to pick up in the city centers and along waterfronts/along the Metro-North train line. The Leiland study had previously indicated that city populations were declining due to increasing population in the suburbs.
 - ii. Mr. Fairweather’s analysis indicates that population is mostly declining for the 30-54 and under-19-years age groups. He noted that such a trend would typically lead to an economic downturn and that it is critical to keep workforce a priority during these inevitable periods of economic decline.
 - iii. Mr. Fairweather noted the in-migration opportunity available to Mid-Hudson counties due to their adjacency to NYC. Orange County’s in-migration, in particular, is influenced by its low-cost housing offerings for NYC government employees.
 - iv. The importance of infrastructure in this CEDS was discussed. Ms. Pomeroy noted that infrastructure needs to be addressed as capacity is needed to accommodate growth and that EDA funding has historically focused its funding on this area of need. Newburgh’s focus on infrastructure (water/sewer/etc.) was discussed; updating of infrastructure is particularly important given Orange County’s projected population increase.
 - v. Ms. Pomeroy noted that she and Mr. Fairweather will be collecting more information and meeting with planners and other stakeholders in all counties. Mr. Fairweather and Ms. Pomeroy recently presented the CEDS demographic analysis to a meeting of county planning commissioners convened by the Orange County Planning Commissioner. Ms. Castillo presented on the Clean Energy Communities Program at this meeting as well.
 - vi. Next steps: Continued outreach, draft review of CEDs by stakeholders in May, and complete stakeholder review and finalization of CEDs by June/July. Ms. Pomeroy indicated that Board members will be notified of meetings occurring in their county. Ms. Pomeroy will share the “skeleton” of the CEDs update format with the Board.

- b. Programmatic & Municipal Funding Opportunities Updates: HVRC staff provided the below updates on various programmatic areas.
 - i. Economic Development Administration: Ms. Pomeroy provided an update on several current EDA applications that HVRC is supporting, including Hyde Park, Steward Airport, an industrial park in Sullivan County, and a film “boot camp” in Orange County. Ms. Pomeroy also spoke with Senator Schumer’s aide, Lori Nguen.
 - ii. Northern Border Regional Commission: Ms. Pomeroy provided an update on the funding streams available to eligible counties and noted that the Commission inquired regarding HVRC’s availability to work with Columbia and Green counties. Per HVRC’s By-Laws, both counties are eligible to join HVRC; currently both fall within the Capital District REDC region, but are not members of CDRPC.
 - iii. 604(b): Ms. Pomeroy stated that HVRC is awaiting renewal of the new 4-year contract. The current contract ends March 31, 2019. HVRC subcontractors are currently developing an MS4 training for the MS4 communities in our region. HVRC was awarded a Hudson River Estuary Program grant to facilitate mediation with the property owners adjacent to Brown’s Pond as a precursor to a potential future dam removal project. HVRC is serving as a fiscal sponsor for the Newburgh Clean Water Project. Ms. Pomeroy will attend the NY Floodplain manager conference in Rockland County in May.
 - iv. Clean Energy Communities Program: Ms. McGovern provided an update on NYSERDA’s Clean Energy Communities Program.
 - v. Kingston Organics & Putnam Clean Heating & Cooling: Ms. Castillo provided updates on the Kingston Organics NYSDEC grant and the Putnam Clean Heating & Cooling partnership opportunity with Westcop and Bright Energy Services.
3. County Updates: Counties present provided updates on important current work in a roundtable discussion format. Counties discussed general infrastructure, roadways, Climate Smart Communities projects, water and sewer infrastructure, cobra head streetlight conversion to LEDs, remediation needs for undeveloped waterfront land, and deep water ports.
4. Organizational:
 - a. 401k Plan/NYS Retirement System & Health Care Insurance Updates: Ms. Pomeroy provided updates on the discussions with two member counties.
 - b. By-Laws Update: Ms. Castillo presented additional research conducted as part of the By-Laws update process. This research included recommended updates regarding conformance of HVRC By-Laws and Articles of Agreement, updating of language on legal basis for HVRC creation, and quorum and voting requirements as stipulated by NYS Open Meetings Law. Additional research will be conducted to identify number of annual Board meetings and to clarify audit requirement. Ms. Castillo also presented next steps in this process.
 - c. Personnel Policies Update: Ms. Castillo informed the Board of preliminary research being conducted for updating of HVRC Personnel Policies, which were last updated in 1999.
 - d. Website Update: Ms. McGovern shared that HVRC’s website is also being updated this year.
 - e. HVRC Board Officers Update: Ms. Pomeroy discussed HVRC’s 2019 Board Officer appointments. Mr. Rolison indicated that he would serve another term as Board Chair if no other Board member offered to serve.

- f. 2019 Speaker Series: Ms. Castillo provided an update on the top three speaker series topics identified by 13 Board members via SurveyMonkey. The viability of this proposed meeting component was discussed, including concern regarding the potential the elongation of Board meetings.
5. Public Comment & Adjournment: Ms. Pomeroy requested public comments; no comments from the public made. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Porr, seconded by Chairman Rolison, and unanimously passed at 5:22 PM.

Minutes submitted by Europa McGovern / Carla Castillo.

Minutes reviewed and approved by Board Secretary Ira Steingart.

Attendance at the Hudson Valley Regional Council Board Meeting Thursday, March 14, 2019

Dutchess County

Eoin Wrafter (for Marc Molinaro, proxy
for Pulver)
Greg Pulver *
Rob Rolison (proxy for Adams, Noble)
Jim Constantino (phone)
Shirley Adams *

Orange County

Harry Porr (for Steve Neuhaus)
Torrance Harvey
Steven Brescia *
Janet Sutherland

Sullivan County

Ira Steingart (phone)

Ulster County

Tracey Bartels
Steven Noble *

Westchester County

Bridget Gibbons * (for George Latimer)
Wilson Kimball *
Christopher Crane (phone)
Peter McCartt

Others

Josh Potosek (phone)
Mario Caruso (phone, proxy for Kimball)

* Present by Proxy.

HVRC Staff: Pat Pomeroy, Carla Castillo, Europa McGovern.