

Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board, Conference Room B
Via Zoom
Friday, October 15, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Kathy Bailey, Katie Bronson, John Celso, Joseph Davis, Sarah Davis, Steve Griffin, Michael Manikowski, Rick Plympton, Todd Sloane, Michael Sykes

Guest: Matt Hurlbutt

Staff: Lynn Freid, Michael Woloson, Jen May

I. Greater Rochester Enterprise presentation

Mr. Hurlbutt, President and CEO of Greater Rochester Enterprise, joined the group to discuss the impact GRE has had on the nine-county region. Mr. Hurlbutt's presentation is attached to these minutes.

II. Economic Development Updates (State of the County – Impact from COVID-19)

Ontario County – Mr. Manikowski shared that the county received a \$1,000,000 grant that will be devoted to the hospitality sector, to assist businesses with less than 25 employees with COVID related expenses.

Seneca County – Ms. Davis stated that the county has selected an engineering firm to complete a feasibility study on a potential new industrial park. Thus far in 2021, at least six IDA projects have gotten to some point of approval and \$1,066,000 in private funds have been invested in the county. The county has also been focused on implementing its strategic plan, with an emphasis on the need for additional infrastructure.

Wayne County – Ms. Bronson shared that the county has been working on broadband within the county. Two small business programs are currently underway: Start Up Pitch program and the Microburst program. Wayne County continues to partner with EdgeFactor, with Wayne County has the Edge videos.

Yates County – Mr. Griffin informed the group that the county recently closed on a new corporate park and are in the beginning process of expansion for another corporate park. Greenidge Generations is facing opposition from environmentalists regarding their bitcoin mining operation in Dresden but are hiring from the local population and providing competitive wages. Broadband is also expanding in the county. The Penn Yan DRI projects are moving forward.

III. Workforce Development Updates

Ontario County – Mr. Sykes – More customers are coming into the center, mostly for assistance with resume writing. Employment opportunities are abundant. Businesses have reported that OJTs and Customized Trainings have been helpful, as the businesses are hiring employees that they normally wouldn't have hired without the program.

Wayne County – Mr. Celso – They are not seeing the foot traffic that was expected after the end of extended UI benefits. Companies are reportedly upskilling existing employees to combat the lack of new applicants.

FLCC – Mr. Sloane – After standardizing data collection, the college will now be able to start reporting on economic impact of their programs.

Yates County – Mr. Davis – The county is starting to see a surge in hiring and Lisa Principio is leaving her current position and Mr. Davis will process all ITAs and OJTs until a replacement for Ms. Principio is hired.

IV. Finger Lakes WIB Update

Ms. Freid expressed interest in meeting with Greater Rochester Enterprise and Matt Hurlbutt to share Finger Lakes Hires information.

Mr. Woloson stated that the Performance and Evaluation Committee will meet on Tuesday, October 26th to approve updates to the Demand Occupation List.

Next meeting: January 2022

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.