

Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Via Zoom

Friday, October 14, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Katie Bronson, Ryan Davis, Sarah Davis, Jennifer DeVault, Steve Griffin, Joe Hamm, David Hewitt, Elaine Lewis, Andrea McGraw, Julie Maslyn, Todd Sloane, Mike Sykes, Sue Vary

Guest: Bridget O'Brien, Laura Fox O'Sullivan

Staff: Dréa Badger, Lynn Freid, Michael Woloson

I. Presentation: Laura Fox O'Sullivan, Regional Director, Empire State Development and Bridget O'Brien, Deputy Director, Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council

The 2022-2023 NYS budget includes the creation of the Office of Strategic Workforce Development to oversee a \$350 million in NYS workforce development funding, including a new \$150 million grant program to support employer-driven high skilled training programs. The Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council reactivated the Workforce & Talent Workgroup, comprised of over 60 individuals from the nine-county region. Updates on the workgroup's initiatives were provided and can be found at <https://youtu.be/dxzhmRoHnkc>, 10:00.

II. Economic Development Updates

Mr. Davis - Most of the summer was spent with travel and tourism partners, through the Visit Ontario Safely program; phase I of the program is coming to an end. Ontario County ED has been busy with their American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) strategy and housing plan.

Ms. Davis - Work continues to take plan regarding redevelopment of the Willard Drug Treatment facility. The IDA Board plans to meet later in the month to issue a RFP for a Best Use study of the property.

Ms. Bronson - The Kickstart Initiative contains three programs: Microburst program for new businesses, Adult Pitch Competition, and Student Pitch Competition. Wayne County has received funding from Empire State Development for a business feasibility study.

Mr. Griffin - Many projects are underway in Yates County, fueled by individuals originally from the county who have returned. West Coast companies are returning to the area, after getting shut out of California by regulations and other issues. The board has decided to use a majority portion of the large parcel that was purchased with the plan to build a corporate park instead for housing; the remainder will still be used for commercial endeavors.

III. Workforce Development Updates

Ontario County - Mr. Sykes - Twelve current OJTs since July 1st; one possible Customized Training. Wood Library Job Fair on November 8th to support businesses in Canandaigua.

Seneca County - Mr. Woloson - FLACRA will be providing adult and dislocated worker services and FLX Schools youth services.

Yates County - Ms. Lewis - The youth team are looking for better and more productive ways to attract youth.

IV. Finger Lakes WIB Update

FAME to host Annual Event on October 27th, at FLCC, Victor Campus, from 4-6 pm.

FLCC received grant from SUNY, Reimagine NY, that funds tuition for twelve different trainings.

Next meeting: Friday, December 15, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.