



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING # 12 - April 5, 2013, 9:00 – 11:00 AM
Niagara County Center for Economic Development, 6311 Inducon
Corporate Drive, Sanborn, NY

In attendance: Ben Bidell (Niagara County Economic Development), Bill Parke (City of Buffalo Office of Strategic Planning), Hal Morse (Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council), Kelly Dixon (Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council), Brenda Stynes (University at Buffalo Regional Institute), Bart Roberts (University at Buffalo Regional Institute), Darren Kempner (Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority), James Bragg (City of Niagara Falls), Laura Smith (Buffalo Niagara Partnership), Jason Knight (Erie County Department of Environment and Planning), Bob Shibley (University at Buffalo Regional Institute), Bradshaw Hovey (University at Buffalo Regional Institute), Mike Riegel (Belmont Housing Resources), Tyra Johnson (Blue Sky/Daemen CSCE), Larry Cook (The John Oishei Foundation).

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Greater Buffalo-Niagara Transportation Council (GBNRTC) welcomes everyone to the meeting.
- Something to add to the Agenda?

1RF Preferred Sustainability Application has been submitted.

- Submitted by the Buffalo Urban League last night; the submittal form was distributed to the Steering Committee for their review. Bart Roberts from UBRI provided a brief overview of the application submission.

Questions and Discussion:

- Overall, steering committee supports the application
- Questions were raised on whether PSS applications could receive partial 2-point endorsement; Darren Kempner responded that it is 2 points or nothing.
- Questions were raised on how we will deal with applications that don't support 1RF. It's believed that since most of the programs are supportive with what we are doing, most PSS applications would be received favorably.
- Discussion on process for distributing applications – when these applications come in, Darren will email them out to the steering committee and ask for comments or objections. These have only been met with just a few approvals (no objections).
- It was suggested we develop a 1 page report with the approval to tell PSS applicants how we'd like them to stay engaged.
- No objections to Darren approving the application.

2. One Region Forward Working Teams – Meeting #1

- Hal Morse from GBNRTC opened the agenda item, and asked UBRI to provide an update.

UBRI update:



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Working Teams:

- Bob Shibley opened the meeting describing the process and depth of engagement on the Working Teams. Stated how our Consortium has grown from about 20 institutions and organizations to about 100. There is a lot of engagement and commitment in the groups.
- Bob asked each chair or member that attended any of the Working Teams to give their opinion on the meeting.
- After that we can move to the next level on how to structure the next round of meetings.

Land use and Development:

- Laura Smith, Land Use and Development Chair:
 - Congratulated on the way the meeting was managed. There was a great amount of participants and the meeting was good organized and worked really well.
 - There was a good mix of public and private sectors. It was really comfortable and all members contributed and shared opinions.
 - There is need to find a common definition and approach for the group to adopt. Need for a broad statement to capture the idea of development encouraging sustainability. Develop to keep people in the area, create walkable communities, not hurt our environment, etc. Statements as a start point for implementation.
 - Implementation was the main topic and also Education. Local communities were really concerned on these education sessions and they believe there is need for more educational sessions (More often and sooner).
- Next steps for the group?
 - Scenario modeling as a tool to tell us how the Smart Growth principles will make our region look.
 - When talking about goals they were getting to tasks. They are ready to get into it, if there is an update on data collection to see how and what to do to achieve new changes.
 - There's a need to think beyond municipal lines. At times, members were worried more about the local than the regional view. It is important to think as a region. Remind members is about ALL and not SPECIFICS.
 - Show the regional impacts to remind people the importance of the global view.
 - Think in 50 years from now. One participant: make understand it is impacting to the new generations. It will affect your grandchildren. Remind participants to think about the future, what it won't affect-impact them in the near future will affect their grandchildren.



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- The Teams had good ideas on specific town-local plans. They want to see things change and are really engaged.
- Ben Bidell added it is important to visualize data. What the data tell us? Showing vacant and demolished parcels. Maybe showing pictures to show more reality as addition to the maps.
- Continuing localizing and visualizing what data tell us.

Housing and Neighborhoods:

Mike Riegel, Housing and Neighborhoods Co-Chair:

- There was a lot of participation and interest in the room.
- There was a consensus that we need to build more involvement from the private sector.
- Was concerned that the group doesn't fully understand what we are really going to do at the end of the day with this plan.
- There were comments on how those goals work with the various types of communities in our region.
- Bart Roberts, Housing and Neighborhoods Facilitator:
 - Added that there was an interest and conversation on the concept of complete neighborhoods, as a framing mechanism for the work. What do we need to do to make our neighborhoods "complete" and accessible for all?
 - Look at housing on the regional level is a challenge. Most people got it and agreed we need to think regionally regarding housing, but it is often thought about and planned for at a much more local level.
 - Reiterated the need to better communicate how this fits with broader HUD policy.

Transportation and Mobility:

Kelly Dixon, Transportation and Mobility Co-Chair:

- Members mention a lot about the need for complete streets and walkability.
- Talking about guiding principles before getting into goals. The group was comfortable with the draft goals but needed more information on financial forms. They are worried of suggesting recommendations that are not possible.
- Implications from Canada. Cross boarder impacts.
- Where they oriented for a short term implementation or 50 years?



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- Both, short and long.
- Reflecting the “Grandkids’ impacts” will help them understand and make them get involved.

Climate Change Action:

Teresa Bosch de Celis, Climate Change Action note-taker:

- The Team focused on 7 important issues affecting Climate and the region. From these issues they can create-find the necessary goals.
- They mentioned the importance of implementation, policy and funding.
- Great participation in understanding the issues that climate is bringing to the area. A lot to say about the Great Lakes and water issues.
- Felt it was very important for them to see and make comments/suggestions to all of the working teams’ goals since climate change is such an overarching topic.

Food Access and Justice:

Bart Roberts, UBRI – reporting second hand based on feedback from the team’s facilitator:

- Reports indicate the meeting was very successful.
- Wide range of participants representing different geographies, sectors, perspectives, etc. - rural farmers, nonprofit organizations, etc.
- Group felt they were missing representation from retail industry and perhaps some chefs. Matt Hartrich from BNP is reaching members from Tops and 7-eleven to be part of the Team.
- In general there was a positive view.

Overview:

- One of the things we are working on is how to shape next steps. Most of the groups goals where close to be done. There is a real desire to keep going. “Strategies” is the next step. What’s the balance between the members in the groups to create strategies out of their own experiences? Are they getting to where we need from the brainstorming or we need to show them the stuff done before, examples?
- We should probably get better answers from the team to know what they want to see next.
- We need to show best practices. They are experts but they need some critical options to test on and directions on how to move forward.



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- **Gap.** No climate change and food access reporting in the Steering Committee. We need people from those teams. Bill Smith is in climate, and is out of town, but we don't have representation for Food Access and Justice.
- Discussed pulling somebody out from the team and bring it to the steering committee. If there is someone in the team already with the ability to be in the committee will be better than finding someone new.
- We still have the doors open to add more people to the teams if they really want to participate.
- The quality of nominees is important for the success of the Working Teams. We got a really good team. New faces and familiar faces all together make a good mix.

3. Local Government & Private Sector Council Liaisons

- The goal of seeking members from our Private Sector and Local Government councils to serve as Chairs to these groups was discussed.
- For Local Government Council, the consensus was not to select someone already from our steering committee, but instead to reach out to someone else. The recommendation was to reach out to Glenn Nellis, Supervisor of Eden. That suggestion had been seconded by several members of the steering committee, including Tom Dearing of ECDEP.
- For the Private Sector Council, Laura Smith has reached out to Steve Ricca from Jaeckle Fleischman to serve in that capacity.
- A brief discussion was had on what we would ask them to do. Overall, the goal is to leverage their partnerships to help bring the message out to these groups.
- We also have representatives from these groups on the Working Teams and they can also be great messengers.
- Our hope is this approach will get the most private and public councils when they meet again.
- We had events to get councils involved. There is no other events planned until the fall.
- A part of the communication strategies is to send information and keep them involved or we will lose them.
- A question was asked about Glenn Nellis and why he was recommended. Several members spoke to his strong involvement and support of the Framework for Regional Growth, his perspective on agricultural and rural issues, his understanding of land use issues, and his overall experience and broad perspective.



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4. Communications & Engagement Update

Economic and Sustainability Series – Next Event

- Summary from members from last session. Opportunities for them to write on the topics.
- 2 topics: opportunities, timing, infrastructure funding and its application. How to keep safe communities and maintain costs. How other communities deal with these issues.
- Ideas of potential speakers.
- Historic preservation: talking about historic structures and fabrics. What tools are out there to determine what is historic? Working for a summer or early September event.
- Historic preservation working close with PBN.
- Grant from SHIPO for study on Buffalo and will be completed by the same time. Will be really helpful.
- UB Dept. of Architecture and Planning is opening a Historic Preservation Curriculum. Hiring architects and planners on historic preservation. UB is in a good position to add value to this discussion of Hist. Preservation.
- Component of the 2050 plan.
- Private sector council together to talk about these topics, probably in May.
- Try to get some local government involved on these sessions too.
- Mechanisms of development for Public and private partnerships.

- Laura: had a meeting with PUSH Buffalo to work with NYSERDA and help residents and commercials to become more sustainable and energy efficient. How to get 1RF into all these groups. PUSH is meeting with groups to give them a lot of information. They will share with us the information to work with 1RF and work together.

Ongoing presentation Update

- 2 presentations requested. April 27th the Town of Royalton and May 7th Alden Econ. Dev. Committee. Bart and Kelly will coordinate to find someone to present at these meetings.
- Bob talked about how a representative from the Erie, PA grant consortium reached out to him about doing reciprocal talks to each other's consortiums, and consider working with them and Northeast Ohio about maybe bringing someone from HUD to each of our regions.

Citizen planning School Update



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- The talk has been centered around working with existing organizations that are doing education programs in person or online, with a big range of topics. Proceed in near future to combine all this organizations to do a scan on what is out there and complete curriculum for sustainability will be filling blanks and keeping in mind the expectations from HUD. Potential in the long run for sustainability certificate, a way to institutionalize, and people can get a university-approved certificate on sustainability. We are moving pretty quickly and will have more information soon. There is a lot of material out there.
- Suggestion for the curriculum: We should teach about how people's decisions affect sustainability. This could be explored by explaining the concepts of multiplier effects and the input-output matrix. Local groups like Buffalo First could be a resource to help explain these concepts because that is part of the work they do. We can talk a lot about sustainability but if people don't truly appreciate the impacts of their decisions, achieving sustainability will remain an elusive goal.

5. One Region Forward RSPD and County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Kelly Dixon, gave a brief presentation on the shifting policies at EDA that are allowing for leveraging RSPD activity to meet CEDS requirements:

- Showed some slides from a presentation in Utah from NADO's. They showed examples of what is happening in other communities to meet the CEDS requirement through their RSPD.
 - EDA proposed Rule Changes for 2013 to eliminate mandatory formula for EDD and CEDS.
 - We don't have EDD right now, should we consider one?
- Only mandatory requirements of proposed new rules – need to have a summary of regulatory conditions, 2- SWOT analysis 3- Strategy and implementation plan. 4-Performance measures.
- REDC plan has each of the above.
- Consensus was to get EDA on the line and get more details on the changes and EDD process. We have lots of pieces already and lots of data put together so may be a matter of getting data into our process. Maybe the existing projects could be the regional sets for the pieces that we have.
- Suggested a smaller group for the economic development discussion. No opposition.

6. Good of the Order



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- Hal closed the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and to Ben Bidell and the Niagara County Center for Economic Development for hosting.

7. Adjournment