**North Country Alliance Local Development Corporation**

**Education and Outreach Committee**

**August 26, 2021**

**Minutes**

The North Country Alliance Local Development Corporation held a meeting of the Education and Outreach Committee on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 2:30 PM via Zoom.

**Present:** Michelle Capone, Leigh Rodriguez, Rob Aiken, Garry Douglas, Carol Calabrese, Jeremy Evans, Ben Dixon, Elizabeth Cooper, Joe Russo

The meeting began at 2:30 PM.

J. Evans, chair of the committee, opened the meeting. He asked how often the committee meets. M. Capone responded that in the past the committee met after the first of the year when the Executive Budget was released to discuss and formulate the Education and Outreach Agenda for the coming year. The committee also went to Albany to present the Agenda to local State officials. J. Russo agreed that the committee has met as needed around the legislative session.

G. Douglas suggested that the NCA update its Agenda for 2021 with its most pressing issues to present to Governor Hochul. It was agreed that this should be done and sent out within two weeks.

M. Capone shared the 2021 Agenda with the meeting participants.

It was recommended that cell service be included with the need for additional broadband in the region.

It was agreed that the NCA should recognize NYS’s connection with Canada and support re-energizing efforts at all levels to work with Canada.

It was agreed that we needed to express our concern and need for parity in the North Country when it comes to federal infrastructure funding with downstate.

It was agreed that we support a continued regional approach to economic development.

B. Dixon also noted we should support investment in workforce, childcare, and housing as these are significant issues in the region.

M. Capone stated that she would update the Agenda and email to the committee for their review. A meeting was set for September 2 at 2:30 PM to review with the committee. If approved by the committee it will be sent to the Executive Committee to approve. G. Douglas recommended that we email to Governor staff as well as mail, and copy our local elected officials.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.