**North Country Alliance Local Development Corporation**

**Education and Outreach Committee**

**February 1, 2019**

**Minutes**

The North Country Alliance Local Development Corporation held a meeting of the Education and Outreach Committee on Friday, February 1, 2019 at 1:00 PM via conference call.

**Present:** Michelle Capone, Rob Aiken, Eric Virkler, Garry Douglas, Patrick Kelly, Ryan Silva (NYS Economic Development Council)

The meeting began at 1:00 PM.

R. Silva provided an overview of the NYS Economic Development Council’s position on the prevailing wage discussion. Ultimately, if passed by the legislature, the bills would classify any project with public funds or incentives as a public project requiring prevailing wages. This could increase project costs by between 15-30%. He noted that the EDC opposes this measure. They are partnering with organizations like UnShackle NY, Business Council, Association of Builders, and others to promote its agenda. They are also reaching out to members in the majority to educate them on the negative impacts this would have on Upstate NY.

G. Douglass noted that he met with A. Stewart-Cousins recently and she noted that they are trying to find a balance between higher wages for working people and not stopping projects. He provided several examples as to projects that would not have happened if prevailing wages were required.

It was agreed by the committee that when meeting with elected officials you should give specific examples of projects that would not have happened if prevailing wages were required. These include projects that have received tax credits, PILOTs, and other public funds.

M. Capone adjusted the NCA Agenda to expand projects that might by affected to include affordable housing and historic rehabilitation.

R. Silva noted that the EDC is drafting an op-ed that will be region specific that he will share with NCA. He asked NCA members to send specific examples of projects that would not happen if prevailing wages were required to him.

M. Capone asked for confirmation that the language in the NCA’s Agenda was satisfactory. The committee agreed. She stated that she would send this to the NCA Executive Committee for their approval to be ratified at the next NCA meeting. She will then distribute to the committee and membership.

It was agreed that E. Virkler would share with K. Blankenbush and J. Griffo; P. Kelly would share with P. Ritchie, and M. Capone would share with M. Walczyk. We will request assistance from membership to share with B. Little, D. Stec, and B. Jones. It was also agreed that the agenda should be shared with the Governor’s Office.

The meeting adjourned at 1:29 PM.