**North Country Alliance Local Development Corporation**

**Education and Outreach Committee**

**January 24, 2018**

**Minutes**

The North Country Alliance Local Development Corporation held a meeting of the Education and Outreach Committee on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at 2:00 PM via conference call.

**Present:** Michelle Capone, Matt Siver, Carol Calabrese, Mary Margaret Small, Rob Aiken, Eric Virkler, Dave Zembiec, Garry Douglas

The meeting began at 2:00 PM.

M. Capone presented and reviewed the 2017 NCA Education and Outreach Victories report. There were few comments on the report. M. Capone asked that if there were any additional comments that they be emailed to her. She noted that under ‘Other’ that ESD was successful in changing the regulations to allow Regional Revolving Loan Trust Funds to keep the interest earned on loans receivable to be used for operating expenses. The NCA has been requesting this change for almost 7 years.

M. Capone presented an overview of the Governor’s 2019 Executive Budget. The group then compared the Executive Budget to the NCA’s 2018 Agenda. The Committee asked for some revisions to the 2019 Agenda specifically relating to the following:

* Excluding the language on life sciences as it is not specific enough to the region;
* Adding language specific to infrastructure development in rural communities in the North Country to enhance economic development to include broadband infrastructure;
* Consider regionally-weighted goals for MWBE on state grants;
* Support, at a minimum, level funding for community colleges;
* Consider flexible workforce training funds for the Regional Councils to award.

M. Capone was going to follow-up with D. Zembiec on additional information for workforce training and with J. Russo on the energy section.

The group discussed whether we should go to Albany to speak with elected officials regarding issues or whether we should discuss in their home offices. It was agreed that we would reach out to membership once the agenda is finalized to make appointments to meet with elected officials in their home offices.

The next meeting of the Education and Outreach Committee is scheduled for Friday, February 2, 2018 at 11 AM via conference call.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.