



# Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc.

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*Serving Counties of: Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida, Otsego, Schoharie*

## **GREATER MOHAWK VALLEY LAND BANK - GMVLB**

**minutes from: Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ 1:00 PM**

### **In Attendance:**

**\* Attended via Conference Call**

Tolga Morawski, Chair KMVB Land Bank Committee  
Dan Sullivan, KMVB Chair  
Brian Thomas, City of Utica, Comm. Urban & Economic Dev.  
Lynn Gray, KMVB LBC  
Sam Russo, KMVB LBC  
\*Karen Sullivan, Otsego County Planning Dept.  
\*Tammie Harris, Otsego County Planning Dept.  
Karl Gustafson, Montgomery County  
Ray Johnson, Herkimer County Legislator  
Steve Smith, Herkimer County IDA  
\*Steve Wilson, Schoharie County Administrator  
\*Meg Hungerford, City of Oneonta, Director of Finance  
Christina Brown, KMVB LBC  
Mark Blask, Mayor City of Little Falls  
\*William Rabbia, Exec. Director Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority  
Michael Brown, Exec. Director Rome Main Streets Alliance  
Jim Bintz, Rome Main Streets  
Joseph Caruso, Exec. Director MVEDD  
Janine Thompson, Administrative Director MVEDD

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Tolga Morawski called the meeting to order @ 1:08 pm followed by an introduction of those present.

- The documents provided for the meeting were;
  - ❖ Agenda
  - ❖ Minutes from GMVLB meeting held Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016
  - ❖ Sample Zone maps for identifying priority project areas
  - ❖ updated Inter-municipal Agreement (v5)
  
- Tolga asked everyone to review the minutes from the previous meeting held on June 28th and if there was any discussion. The minutes were approved on a motion made by Ray Johnson, seconded by Karl Gustafson. The motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

- Discussion then proceeded on the progress of the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank (GMVLB) effort since the last meeting.
  - Eric Schneiderman from the NYS Attorney General's office has advised that we did receive approval for the first round of funding which is the \$150,000. The money, coming from LISC, has been set aside for us. \$75,000 would be provided for start-up being staffing, office space, etc. and the remaining \$75,000 would be available once the initial amount is drawn down.
  - Tolga reminded everyone that for LISC Funding Application (a share of the \$17.3million available to new Land Banks) - each FGU will need to be compiling their list of prospective areas of interest and/or projects that they want included in the application.
  - The final date for the application has not been announced yet, so we are shooting for the earliest date for the completed project lists of August 15<sup>th</sup> and the latest date of August 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - Karl Gustafson reviewed the type of properties that Montgomery County is looking at for the benefit of Michael Brown & Jim Bintz and everyone else that was not present at last month's meeting. The next meeting for Montgomery County is August 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - A meeting was held earlier today (7/26) with Herkimer County in review of the IMA and advised on some revisions. Will have all changes (v6) ready for distribution on Wednesday, 07/27.
  - Steve Smith mentioned areas in Ilion or Little Falls that might be of interest to Herkimer County
  - For Schoharie Co., Tolga will follow up with Steve Wilson
  - For the City of Rome, there will be a meeting with Mayor Izzo on Tuesday, 08/02 to further discuss the Land Bank
  - Working with the Town of Caroga to get over 50% of Fulton County onboard supporting the resolution
  - Oneida County – scheduling a meeting with County Executive Tony Picente, further info tba

**New Business:**

- Roundtable on blight & the opiate epidemic with NYS Attorney General Schneiderman in Utica on 07/23. Discussion on capacity building funding confirmed, AF's office's commitment to fighting blight, zombie properties and the Abandoned Property Bill. There is \$17.3 million in funding for new land banks available, 24 AmeriCorps Staff, up to 3 per Land Bank and the project lists are due August 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Discussion on Zombie Property Law, – (effective July 1<sup>st</sup>) could hire the Land Bank work on/maintain the property or donate properties to the Land Bank
- New York States CFA grants are due on Friday, 07/29. Working with GEMS to complete the paperwork. We have received many letters of support for the 2016 Mohawk Valley Regional Land Bank Initiative.
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 1:00 pm @ the MVEDD office.

The meeting adjourned at 1:51pm.