

# **Rutland Economy Pitch**

**February 9, 2015**

## **Summary**

### **Otter Creek Engineering**

**Mark Younstrom, Principal**

- ~~Engage with~~ Utilize Vermont's consulting engineering firms to suggest improvements to existing permitting procedures
- ~~Prioritize enforcement of~~ Focus on enforcing stormwater management regulations on large pollution contributors
- Explore municipal administration of local transportation projects to expedite the process

### **Castleton State College**

**Lyle Jepson, Dean of Entrepreneurial Programs**

- ~~Vermont needs~~ Need a vibrant marketing plan to compete with New York; we're being "out-marketed"
- ~~We should support~~ Support rail, which is vital to the Rutland region
- Streamline the state's permitting processes

### **John A. Russell Corporation**

**John Russell III, President**

- ~~Vermont's permitting~~ Permitting process is ~~negatively impacting~~ stopping businesses and oftentimes not achieving the environmental protections it's meant to
- ~~We should create~~ Create panels, independent of the legislature, to look at different parts of state government in order to assess whether or not they're being effective
  - o Governor Snelling did this

### **Enman-Kesselring Consulting Engineers**

**Blair Enman, Principal**

- Reduce the permitting ~~process~~ burden for applicants
  - o Every applicant for an Act 250 permit is ~~currently~~ subject to two hearings: one for the municipality, one for Act 250
  - o Consolidate the process so ~~that~~ either the municipality or Act 250 has jurisdiction, but not both
- Treat all Act 250 permit applications ~~initially~~ as "minor permits"
  - o ~~A Means a~~ permit would be issued within 30 days without a public hearing (if it ~~is compliant passes~~), ~~but and~~ allow interested parties to request a hearing
    - ~~Currently, all applications are classified as "major" or "minor", with "major" projects subject to a public hearing~~ All applications currently classified as "minor" or "major," with "major" requiring a public hearing

### **Green Mountain Power**

Betsy Ide

- We need to attract the key 25-45 demographic group
- GMP is working ~~Working~~ on microgrid projects, and is using existing infrastructure more efficiently
  - GMP would ~~Would~~ like to see state policies which allow for flexibility in pursuing these types of projects

### **Omya, Inc.**

Wayne Wilmans, Plant Manager

- Permit conditions create a huge regulatory burden
  - Omya needs to maintain 500 permit conditions in order to operate in Vermont
- Vermont frequently adopts permitting standards which are more stringent than effective federal standards
  - Stringent doesn't always mean better
  -
- Being "first" or "unique" in the nation is not always best for all Vermonters
- The costs ~~Costs~~ of living and doing business are a huge deterrent
  - High electric costs High cost of living
  - "When I moved from Arizona to Vermont in 2013, my personal property tax bill quadrupled."
- Vermont is "using" businesses to raise new money for new initiatives

### **GE Aviation**

Dan DiBattista, Plant Leader

- State should facilitate the development of ~~help develop~~ Rutland
  - This would ~~Would~~ help corporations recruit people into the area
- Montpelier should understand the impact of the Export-Import Bank
- Very pleased with how things turned out on single-payer

### **Paramount Theatre**

Bruce Bouchard, Executive Director

- Create tax credits for the film industry
  - From 2003-2013, North Carolina had 487 film productions, which grossed \$3.7 billion in state revenue
  - People would love to film in Vermont
- New York has a great "bring your business to New York" advertising campaign. We should - create a smaller Vermont version of this
- Recreate a Vermont Film Commission

### **Vermont Farmers Food Center**

Greg Cox, President

- ~~Vermont The state~~ often defers to USDA regulations which hurt farmers
- Need to invest in infrastructure to grow small farm businesses into large farm businesses
- Reducing regulations on farmers at the state level would help
- Agriculture is one of Rutland County's largest assets
  - ~~It attracts Attracts~~ many young people ~~to in~~ the area

### **Foley Companies/Foley Distributing Corporation**

Mark Foley Jr., President

- ~~Vermont should invest in Need more~~ workforce training
- ~~We should provide more Need more~~ entrepreneurial support
- ~~We should have more Need more~~ access to capital
- ~~We need Need~~ more predictable permitting

### **NewGrassRoots**

Ben Brown, Founder

- "Rutland is a sports team going through a rebuilding phase"
- Technology is a huge component of attracting people to the Rutland area
- Smart City Initiative (which exists in several states): leverages emerging technologies to provide the infrastructure so that many economic amenities are possible
  - The better the technology that we bring to the area, the better we can attract entrepreneurs, improve our communication, and boost our economy

### **Ryan Smith & Carbine**

John Valente, Esq., Attorney

- Revamp the Vermont brand
  - Embrace our natural and economic environment
  - Talk about our history of innovation
- Get a group of marketing people together to figure out the best ways to market Vermont

### **The Bookmobile**

Ruthellen Weston, Co-owner

- Like New York, we should allow businesses to pay sales or withholding taxes at a time that best fits them and do filing quarterly
- Invest in public transportation, which is not prevalent in many towns throughout Vermont

### **Giancola Family of Companies**

Joe Giancola, President

- ~~There is limited~~ **Limited** capital available for start-up companies
- New York is a good model: they've reduced the deficit and set up a marketing campaign for businesses with tax incentives
- We've lost a number of manufacturers
- We don't have charter airplanes to bring people to Rutland

### **Rutland Economic Development Corporation**

Jamie Stewart, Executive Director

- Industrial real estate development has ground to a halt in Vermont
- Demographic challenges create a problem for businesses
- Create enterprise zones (~~with~~ streamlined permitting process ~~and/or~~ tax and business incentives)
- ~~Supporting~~ **More support of** workforce training programs **should be a priority**