

Rutland Economy Pitch
February 9, 2015

Otter Creek Engineering

Mark Younstrom

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

Castleton State College

Lyle Jepson

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

John A. Russell Corporation

John Russell III

- Permitting process is stopping business and oftentimes not achieving the environmental protections it's meant to
- 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
 - Governor Snelling did this

Enman-Kesselring Consulting Engineers

Blair Enman

- Reduce the permitting burden for applicants
 - Every applicant for an Act 250 permit is subject to two hearings: one for the municipality, one for Act 250
 - Consolidate the process so either the municipality or Act 250 has jurisdiction, but not both
- Treat all Act 250 permit applications as "minor permits"
 - Means a permit would be issued within 30 days without a public hearing (if it passes), and allow interested parties to request a 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
- Working on microgrid projects, using existing infrastructure more efficiently
 - Would like to see state policies which allow for flexibility in pursuing these types of projects

Omya, Inc.

Wayne Wilmans

- 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
- 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

- State should help develop Rutland
 - 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

- Create tax credits for the film industry

- o From 2003-2013, North Carolina had 487 film productions, which grossed \$3.7 billion in state revenue
 - o People would love to film in Vermont
- New York has a great “bring your business to New York” advertising campaign, create a smaller Vermont version of this

Vermont Farmers Food Center

Greg Cox

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

Foley Companies/Foley Distributing Corporation

Mark Foley Jr.

- Need more workforce training
- Need more entrepreneurial support
- Need more access to capital
- Need more predictable permitting
- Need natural gas just to level the playing field

NewGrassRoots

Ben Brown

- “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: leverages emerging technologies to provide the infrastructure so that many economic amenities are possible
 - o 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

- Revamp the Vermont brand
 - o Embrace our natural and economic environment

- o 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

- Like NY, 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

Giancola Family of Companies

Joe Giancola

- Limited capital available for start-up companies
- New York is a good model: they 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

- Industrial real estate development has grinded to a halt in VT
- Demographic challenges create a problem for businesses
- Create enterprise zones (streamlined permitting process, tax and business incentives)
- More support of workforce training programs