

**Meeting Notes of  
MetroHartford Brownfields Advisory Committee  
Subcommittee for Review of RLF Project Applications Meeting  
March 8, 2018  
CROCOG Offices, Hartford CT**

**Attendance**

Gary Anderson	Town of Manchester	Mary Ellen Kowalewski	CROCOG
Khara Dodds	Town of Glastonbury	Lynne Pike DiSanto	CROCOG
Jennifer Rodriguez	Town of Windsor Locks		
Mark Devoe	Town of Plainville		

**Overview of MetroHartford Brownfields RLF Program and Project Approval Process**

Ms. Kowalewski thanked the town officials in attendance for their assistance to serve on the subcommittee to help select projects to be funded under the MetroHartford Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Program. She provided a background on the EPA funded RLF program. She described the project solicitation process and the application and evaluation forms developed to help choose which interested parties would be funded.

**Funding Available and Funding Requested**

Ms. Kowalewski said the U.S.EPA had awarded CROCOG \$950,000.00 in late 2014 to develop a program which would provide subgrants and/or loans to owners of contaminated sites for environmental remediation. She said CROCOG had \$300,000.00 available to provide subgrants to municipalities for clean-up of sites contaminated with hazardous substances and \$100,000.00 provide subgrants to municipalities for clean-up of sites contaminated with petroleum. She explained that there was a \$200,000.00 cap on subgrants to any given municipal project. She said \$325,000.00 was available to loan to municipalities or private entities for clean-up of sites contaminated with hazardous substances and \$125,000.00 available to loan to municipalities or private entities for clean-up of sites contaminated with petroleum. She said CROCOG had received requests from three municipalities and two private entities. She said initial determinations of eligibility had been conducted by EPA, and in the case of sites contaminated with petroleum, by CT DEEP. She said those determinations had resulted in the finding that one site was ineligible for funding under the EPA Brownfields program.

**Overview of Proposed Projects**

Ms. Kowalewski then described the four sites which were found to be eligible and described the applicants' funding requests. The eligible sites discussed were: 889 Farmington Avenue, Berlin, CT, a town-owned site that was previously home of the former Pioneer Precision Products; 40 Maple Street, Somers, CT, the town-owned site of the former Somersville Mill; the former Rocky Hill Foundry, owned

by Riverfront Futures Partners; and the Silver Lane Plaza site in East Hartford, owned by East Hartford Ventures, LLC.

### **Overview and Discussion of Project Ratings**

Ms. Kowalewski said CROG staff had evaluated and rated the four applications and shared the results with the subcommittee. The selection criteria included factors utilized in the MetroHartford Brownfields Assessment Program project selection process, with additional factors added to establish priority for municipally-owned sites, and incorporated criteria unique to the Revolving Loan Fund Program, such as a required cost-share requirement of 20% or more and the sites' readiness for redevelopment. Subcommittee members asked questions about each application with answers provided by Ms. Kowalewski and Ms. Pike DiSanto. There was general agreement that municipal applicants should receive priority for funding.

### **Discussion of Recommended Funding Allocations**

Subcommittee members reviewed a table provided which showed funding requests and options for allocating available funding. There was general support for the option which would provide full funding as requested by the Town of Berlin because that option would provide the best opportunity for the Town to complete remediation on the site. Also, this was the highest rated project. There was also general support to provide a loan to the Rocky Hill Riverfront Futures Partners.

Ms. Kowalewski said CROG may have the opportunity of applying for supplemental EPA RLF funding later in the spring which could provide additional resources to meet the requested needs of all applicants.