



Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board
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Paul Vickery, Chairman David V. Bottar, Executive Director

MINUTES

CNY RPDB Board Meeting 20 October 2004

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members: Lawrence Baker, Terri Bridenbecker, Daniel Dineen, David Elleman, Brian Frazier, Linda Hartsock, Theodore Jerrett, Joe Mareane, Mary Messinger, William Meyer, David Miller, James Murphy, John Ozolins, Royden Parratt, Ann Petrus, Louis Pettinelli, Kathleen Rapp, Danny Ross, William Southern, Walter Tennant, Bruce Trexler, and Paul Vickery.

Guests: Cynthia Aiken, City of Auburn Office of Planning & Development; Barbara Blanchard, MEGA; Gordon Boyd, Salerni & Boyd, Inc.; Lee Brew, Clerk of the Cayuga County Legislature; JoAnn Cucci, FOCUS Greater Syracuse; William Dugan, Auburn-Cayuga Development Corporation; Vijay Mital; Nate Smith, Office of U.S. Senator Charles Schumer; Stuart Stein, MEGA; Scott Steve, Cortland County Legislative Chairman; and Ben Walsh, Maxwell School.

Staff: Kathleen Bertuch, David Bottar, Carol Faucher, Stephanie Harrington, Benjamin Manton, Lisa Meaney, Karen Novak, Pam O'Malley, and Anne Saltman.

BUSINESS MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Paul Vickery called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. at the office of the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board (CNY RPDB) and stated that a quorum was present.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA/MINUTES OF THE 15 SEPTEMBER MEETING**

Chairman Vickery asked if Board members had any changes to the day's agenda and minutes from the 15 September 2004 meeting. Hearing no comments, Chairman Vickery asked for a motion to approve the day's agenda and minutes from the September 2004 meeting as presented, so moved by Mrs. Petrus; seconded by Mr. Pettinelli; unanimous approval.

3. **FEATURE PRESENTATION**

Executive Director David Bottar introduced the day's feature speakers Ms. Barbara Blanchard, Tompkins County Legislator; Stuart Stein, Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance; and Mr. Gordon Boyd, Salerni & Boyd, Inc. who described an energy purchasing alliance that has been formed by the counties in the southern tier to reduce their energy costs.

Due to the deregulation of electric power in New York State in 1999 by the Public Service Commission, the market for gas and electricity is open to cost competition. This deregulation has led to the southern counties of Tompkins, Tioga, Schuyler, Otsego, Cortland, and Broome forming an energy alliance corporation known as the Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA). MEGA's primary purpose is to achieve the best terms and the lowest and most stable rates for electricity and gas commodities for its members. MEGA has approximately one thousand participants in the program including 60 municipalities and school districts. MEGA is an aggregator which goes to the open market to seek prices that are lower than individual customers could achieve by purchasing these commodities on their own. MEGA then pools potential customers and takes bids from private companies to supply the participants. The chosen supplier agrees to supply gas and electricity at the accepted bid price.

Mr. Stein then introduced MEGA's energy consultant Mr. Gordon Boyd, Salerni & Boyd, Inc. (S&B). Salerni & Boyd, Inc. consists of a team of professionals whose success has brought significant savings to a wide range of energy consumers in health care, higher education, business, industry, government, and residential sectors. S&B works as a buyer's agent to establish and manage group energy buying programs for consumers and helps customers evaluate and access innovative conservation, on-site generation and renewable energy options. S&B's mission is to bring the benefits of energy markets and competition to consumers by helping them lower their energy costs and to increase efficiency.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Boyd and Ms. Blanchard responded to several questions from the audience.

4. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Board Treasurer David Elleman presented the September 2004 financial statement, noting the year to date balance of (\$16,126.11) on the revenue and expenditure report. Mr. Elleman stated that the total revenue for 2004 has decreased and thus expenditures reduced as well noting the absence of two staff positions. Mr. Elleman expects a year-end projection for the agency to be approximately \$7,205.55. After hearing no questions, Treasurer Elleman asked for a motion to accept the September 2004 financial statement as presented; so moved by Ms. Petrus; seconded by Mr. Jerrett; unanimous approval.

5. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director David Bottar stated he is in the process of meeting with each legislative body regarding the CNY RPDB's 2005 budget request from its member counties.

Mr. Bottar noted that nominations are being accepted for the annual Rhea Eckel Clark Award. This award allows the CNY RPDB to recognize an individual or organization affecting positive community change in the CNY Region. Deadline for the receipt of nominations is 1 November 2004. The award will be presented at the Board's Annual Meeting.

Mr. Bottar stated that program committees would convene in November to review work conducted over the past year and to establish a work plan for 2005. The meetings are identified below:

Environmental Management Committee – 2 November 2004, 9:00 a.m.
Land Use/Transportation Committee – 17 November 2004, 8:30 a.m.
Executive Committee – 17 November 2004, 9:00 a.m.
Economic Development Committee – 17 November 2004, 12:30 p.m.

Executive Director Bottar announced that Chairman Vickery has appointed the 2005 Nominating Committee. Board Members serving on this Committee include Stephen Zabriskie, representing Cayuga County; Danny Ross representing Cortland County; James Rafté representing Madison County; Roy Parratt, representing Onondaga County; and Ted Jerrett representing Oswego County. The Committee will meet immediately following today's Board meeting.

Lastly, Mr. Bottar asked members to mark your calendar for the Annual Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 15 December 2004, Noon, at the Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel and Conference Center.

6. **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Paul Vickery asked Executive Director David Bottar for a status report on the Base Relocation Alignment Committee (BRAC). Mr. Bottar stated formal package containing resolutions from our five member counties was submitted to the MDA Base Relocation Alignment Committee. A formal response was received from the Metropolitan Development Association acknowledging the efforts of the CNY RPDB.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no additional business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Vickery thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.