



Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board
126 N. Salina St., 100 Clinton Sq., Suite 200, Syracuse, N.Y. 13202 • Tel. (315) 422-8276 • Fax 422-9051
Paul Vickery, Chairman David V. Bottar, Executive Director

AGENDA

April 2008 Meeting Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board

Wednesday, April 16, 2008
Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Metropolitan Water Board
Alexander F. Jones Administration Center
4170 Route 31, Clay, New York

Chairwoman Kathleen Rapp, Presiding

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| 1. | Call to Order | Kathleen Rapp |
| 2. | Approval of Day's Agenda and Minutes from the February 13, 2008 Meeting | Kathleen Rapp |
| 3. | Presentation
- Metropolitan Water Board Onondaga County Water Authority | David Fitch
Geoff Miller |
| 4. | Executive Director's Report | David Bottar |
| 5. | Old / New Business | Kathleen Rapp |
| 6. | Adjournment | Kathleen Rapp |



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MINUTES

CNY RPDB APRIL 16, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Daniel Dineen, David Elleman, Mark Lynch, Stephen Lynch, Mary Ann Messinger, Vijay Mital, Ann Petrus, James Rafte, James Murphy, Danny Ross, Clarence Rycraft, Daniel Schuster, Paul Vickery, Shawn Doyle, Barry Leeman, David Turner, and John Kruk, Jr., Morris Sorbello, Michael Treadwell, Terri Bridenbecker, Lawrence Baker, Donal Spaulding.

Guests: David Fitch - Metropolitan Water Board, Geoff Miller - OCWA, Lisa Bunnell - The Open Atelier, Elizabeth Tracy - NYS DEC, Joanne Month - NYS DEC, Bob Trachtenberg - CNY TDO, Christa Glazier - Rep. James Walsh's Office, Christian Slocum - Assemblyman Stirpe's office, Tony Kolinski - Empire State Development, Gregory Hitchin - Onondaga County Office of Economic Development, Dan Young - NYS Governor's office, James D'Agostino -SMTC.

Staff: David Bottar, Kathleen Bertuch, Sarah Bullock, Bruce Keplinger, Kristy Lamanche, Lisa Meaney, Karen Novak, Mike Rosanio, Anne Saltman, Theresa Stephen, Paul Thompson, and Anne Saltman.

BUSINESS MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Secretary-Treasurer David Elleman called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. at the Metropolitan Water Board conference room and stated that a quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA/OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Elleman asked if Board members had any changes to the day's agenda and minutes from the February 13, 2008 Board meeting. A motion was introduced and seconded to approve the minutes as presented; the motion was approved unanimously.

3. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director David Bottar provided some brief remarks regarding the water supply system in Central New York and how this system represents a successful regional initiative that was undertaken over 50 years ago. Mr. Bottar then introduced David Fitch, the Director of the Metropolitan Water Board.

4. **FEATURE PRESENTATION**

David Fitch opened his remarks and power point presentation by noting that the Metropolitan Water Board (MWB) was established in 1962 by the Onondaga County Board of Supervisors for the purpose of serving as the advisory governing body of the Onondaga County Water District.

The MWB and the Onondaga County Water District were established by Onondaga County for the purpose of financing and developing Lake Ontario as an alternative water supply for residents of Onondaga County and Central New York. Mr. Fitch noted that Lake Ontario was chosen because it offered the community an inexhaustible supply of high quality water. Mr. Fitch noted the system includes a major intake facility in the City of Oswego with the capacity of 125 mgd. and water is pumped through a 54 inch water main along the route of the Oswego River to a terminal reservoir on Route 31 in the Town of Clay. Water from the terminal reservoirs is then pumped to eastern and western reservoirs located in Onondaga County.

Mr. Fitch noted that the MWB is a wholesale supplier of water to municipal corporations and public authorities. The primary customer for the MWB is the Onondaga County Water Authority. Other customers include the City of Syracuse and the Town of Hannibal. Water rates currently average \$0.96/thousand gallons.

Mr. Fitch noted that the original financing structure used by Onondaga County for development of the MWB water supply system included a concept based upon three zones of assessment and allocation of costs and the use of the property tax base of the community. Today, the operating costs of the MWB is primarily covered by the revenue realized from water sales. Mr. Fitch indicated that annual sales exceed 8 billion gallons per year and have ranged from 8-10 billion gallons over the past 20 years.

Some capital improvement projects currently being undertaken by the MWB include covering the reservoirs (this new EPA regulation may cost \$90 million to cover all reservoirs), providing stand-by power at all 3 pumping stations (this improvement may cost \$2 million at each station), and building a Southwest Branch pumping station to increase the supply to the City of Syracuse (this may cost \$42 million).

Mr. Fitch noted other improvements being considered include building a fifth pumping station and/or adding a parallel pipeline. In conclusion, Mr. Fitch stated that it was Onondaga County leaders' forward thinking that solved Onondaga County's long-term water resource issues and provided a tool for comprehensive system development with room to expand.

Mr. Fitch introduced Mr. Geoff Miller of the Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA).

Mr. Miller explained that OCWA is a public authority that was created in 1951. OCWA is one of the largest public retail water suppliers in the U.S., providing drinking water to consumers in four counties of Central New York including Onondaga, Oswego, Madison, and Oneida, 29 towns, and 15 villages.

Mr. Miller noted that OCWA currently has 1700 miles of water mains, 31 pumping stations and 40 water tanks. These facilities are connected to a monitoring system. Average daily demand of water from the OCWA totals 38 MGD. When combined with the resources of the MWB, the system has treatment capacity of 70 MGD and a storage capacity of 200 MGD. Mr. Miller noted that OCWA gets 58% of its source water from Lake Ontario and 41% from Otisco Lake. In 2007, the OCWA sold 12.780 billion gallons of water including 42% commercial, 27% industrial, 21 % wholesale, and 10% residential. The OCWA has 126 employees. The OCWA system has grown from less than 200 miles of water main installed in 1955 to 1700 miles in 2008 and the number of customer accounts during this period increased from 10,000 to almost 90,000 accounts. OCWA residential water rates are approximately \$2.78 per thousand gallons – and \$1.10 for industrial customers, which is significantly less than many other major public water suppliers in the nation. All operating and capital improvement costs for OCWA is paid for directly from water sales.

Mr. Miller noted that OCWA has efficiencies built into their system to keep the water rates down. In addition, the OCWA is concerned with emergency preparedness. It has storage and generators and keeps five days of water in storage.

Recent capital improvements undertaken by OCWA include new and replaced water mains, six new or upgraded pump stations, replaced tanks, and a monitoring system upgrade. Water treatment plant improvements include new filters, instruments and controls, security improvements, radio read meter, GIS in laptops for meter readers, and better leak detection.

Mr. Miller concluded his remarks by noting that OCWA is continuing to improve their system and will consider request directly from communities to expand their system.

Both presenters responded to some follow-up questions regarding the Great Lakes pact to prevent the diversion of Great Lakes water and OCWA's development of rate schedules for the sale of water to the counties, wholesalers, and retailers.

5. **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

There was no old or new business to report.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

David Bottar thanked everyone for attending and invited interested parties to join David Fitch for a tour of the MWB's terminal reservoir, pump house and transmission line.