



**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 15, 2009 Meeting**  
12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.

**Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board**  
126 N. Salina Street  
100 Clinton Square Building  
Lower Level Conference Room  
Syracuse, 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 18, 2009 Meeting   | Kathleen Rapp |
| 3. | Energy Initiatives in Central New York <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chris Carrick, Senior Planner – CNY RPDB</li></ul> | Chris Carrick |
| 4. | Executive Director's Report   | David Bottar  |
| 5. | Old / New Business  | Kathleen Rapp |
| 6. | Adjournment   | Kathleen Rapp |



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## MINUTES

### CNY Regional Planning and Development Board Board of Directors Meeting April 15, 2009

126 North Salina Street  
Syracuse, New York

#### ATTENDANCE

**Board Members:** James Murphy, David Turner, Kathleen Rapp, Walter Tennant, Brian Donnelly, Ann Petrus, Lawrence Baker, James Rafta, Morris Sorbello, L. Michael Treadwell, Daniel Dineen, Danny Ross, Donal Spaulding, Shawn Doyle, Jack Miller, Mary Ann Messinger, Paul Vickery, Steve Lynch, and Stephen Zabriski

**Guests:** Charlotte Holstein-FOCUS Greater Syracuse, Tracy Driscoll-Assemblyman Magnarelli's Office, Kathy McLaughlin-Senator Schumer Office, Mayor Ernest Wheeler of Pulaski, Anthony Kolinski-ESDC, Daniel Young-Governor's Regional Representative, Robert Trachtenberg-CNY Technology Development Organization,

**Staff:** David Bottar, David Kubek, Kathleen Bertuch, Anne Saltman, Theresa Stephen, Karen Novak, Chris Carrick, Bruce Keplinger, and Jeanie Gleisner

#### BUSINESS MEETING

##### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Kathleen Rapp called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. at the office of the CNY Regional Planning & Development Board and stated that a quorum was present.

##### 2. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA/ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The first order of business was a review of the day's agenda and minutes from the February 18, 2009 meeting. A motion was introduced and seconded to accept the agenda and minutes as presented; the motion was approved unanimously.

### **3. PRESENTATION: ENERGY INITIATIVES IN CENTRAL NEW YORK**

Mr. Bottar opened the discussion regarding energy initiatives in CNY by noting that the agency was designated by the NYSERDA in 2007 as their regional energy smart coordinator in Central New York and since that time the agency has been building its staff resources and program services in this field. Mr. Bottar noted that part of the agency's approach in this program area is to develop its information and technical skill base so that staff can assist communities with the planning and implementation of energy projects across the region. Mr. Bottar went on to remark that the day's presentation is very timely in light of the activities taking place at the federal and state level and the increased funding that is being made available through the federal stimulus program. At the conclusion of his remarks, Mr. Bottar introduced Chris Carrick, who serves on the staff of the CNY RPDB as a senior planner focused on the agency's energy program.

Mr. Carrick's provided a power point presentation to summarize his remarks. While introducing this topic, Mr. Carrick provided information regarding current national, regional, and state energy trends and policies. Mr. Carrick also spoke about a number of energy projects that have been undertaken at the local level in recent years. It was noted that this work has gone beyond energy audits and building conservation efforts and has included the development of several alternative energy projects in the region including those using hydro, wind, solar, and biomass energy.

Specific facilities noted in the presentation included hydroelectric power facilities at the Oswasco Outlet and along the Oswego and Salmon River. Also highlighted were the Maple Ridge Wind Farm in Lewis County and the wind farm in the Madison County Town of Fenner. Regarding solar, Mr. Carrick commented how this resource has been developed extensively in Germany – an area with a climate similar to Upstate New York. It was noted that several solar projects have been initiated in the state including those found at SUNY ESF, NYSERDA, and in the Towns of Greenburgh and Hempstead. Regarding biomass, Mr. Carrick noted there are several projects which have been undertaken in CNY including a major biodiesel facility that is being redeveloped by Sunoco Oil at the Northeast Biofuels Center in the Oswego County Town of Volney. Also mentioned were the eleven biodigester facilities that have been developed in the region including one at Patterson Farms, a major dairy operation in Cayuga County, and at SUNY Morrisville. Mr. Carrick also commented on a new land-fill to gas energy facility that was recently developed by Madison County in a public-private partnership with Waste Management. In discussing these initiatives, Mr. Carrick noted there are a range of incentives available at the federal and state level to facilitate development of energy conservation and alternative energy projects in Central New York, including stimulus funds that are being used to capitalize an energy block grant program for local communities. Mr. Carrick noted various websites that have excellent information about these incentives and indicated agency staff are available to help communities understand and access these resources.

In concluding his remarks, Mr. Carrick indicated the agency is currently working with several community and municipally based groups to plan for and undertake specific energy projects. It was also noted that the agency has made application for federal funds to underwrite the costs of a major biomass willow-based project in CNY and is seeking funds for development of community wind farms in the region.

Following his remarks, several questions were asked from Board members and guests. Regarding a question on the government's use of carbon credits as an incentive, Mr. Carrick noted the credits could help reduce green house gases over time and may provide a useful funding stream for

alternative energy projects. Regarding grid connections and the net metering laws in New York, Mr. Carrick said the laws are generous in New York State and utility companies are evaluating how they are going to proceed regarding renewable energy. He said it's challenging for smaller projects, negotiating with the utility company, especially since wind is an intermittent source.

Regarding a question about the expense of electricity in NYS, Mr. Carrick noted these high costs are driven by several factors including a reliance on imported fuel, imbedded legacy cost charged by commercial utility companies, aging utility infrastructure, the structure and operation of the State's energy management system, and significant state taxes rates.

Regarding several questions about wind energy, Mr. Carrick noted the agency is developing a database of model municipal ordinances to that can be used to help facilitate development and regulation if this energy source. It was also noted that Jack Miller, Madison County Planning Director, is an excellent resource for information on this topic given the wind farms that have already been developed in Madison County. On decommissioning of wind turbines, it was noted that the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets has regulations that can be used by municipalities to help address this issue.

#### 4. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Bottar noted that Mr. Carrick's power point presentation will be placed on the agency's website.

Mr. Bottar also commented on a feature story that is in the current issue of the CNY Business Exchange magazine regarding development of the Greek Peak Resort at Hope Lake in the Cortland County Town of Virgil. It was noted that the Board met at this facility for its August 2008 meeting.

Mr. Bottar concluded his remarks by noting the next Executive Committee is being scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup> and the next full Board meeting will be held in Syracuse on June 17<sup>th</sup>. It was also noted the August 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting will be held in Pulaski, New York and will be hosted by Board member Shawn Doyle.

#### 5. **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

There was no old or new business.

#### 6. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was introduced and seconded to adjourn the meeting; the motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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David Elleman, Secretary