



**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

**CNY RPDB Meeting  
October 20, 2010  
12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.**

**Cayuga-Onondaga County BOCES  
1879 West Genesee Road  
Auburn, New York 13201**

## **AGENDA**

- |    |   |                    |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 1. | Call to Order   | Kathleen Rapp      |
| 2. | Approval of Day's Agenda and Minutes from the June 14, 2010 Meeting   | Kathleen Rapp      |
| 3. | Welcome to Cayuga County<br>-Peter Tortorici, Chairman of the Cayuga County Legislature   | Peter Tortorici    |
| 4. | Cayuga-Onondaga County BOCES – LEED Silver Building<br>-William Speck, BOCES District Superintendent of Schools                         | William Speck      |
| 5. | BOCES Distance Learning Demonstration<br>-Anthony Abbatiello, BOCES Coordinator of Technology   | Anthony Abbatiello |
| 6. | Cayuga County Regional Methane Biodigester Facility<br>-Ronald Padolak, Executive Director of the Cayuga County Soil and Water District | Ronald Padolak     |
| 7. | Cayuga County Biogas Pipeline Feasibility Study<br>-Steven Lynch, Executive Director of the Cayuga County Planning Department           | Steven Lynch       |
| 8. | Executive Director's Report   | David Bottar       |
| 9. | Old / New Business<br>- Appointment of Nominating Committee   | Kathleen Rapp      |



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## MINUTES

### **Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board Board of Directors Meeting October 20, 2010**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

**Board Members:** Ann Petrus, Roger Mills, Morris Sorbello, Bill Southern, Mary Ann Messinger, David Turner, John Kruk, Walter Tennant, Paul Vickery, Danny Ross, Dan Dineen, Stephen Zabriskie, Dave Elleman, Steve Lynch, Vijay Mital, Peter Tortorici, William Myer, and Kathleen Rapp.

**Guests:** Hal McCabe, Fran Mitchell, Elizabeth Tracy, Bruce Natale, Terry Masterson, Bill Speck, Jennifer Haines, George Fearon, Paul McKinney, and Cynthia Aikman.

**Staff:** David Bottar, David Kubek, Anne Saltman, Kathleen Bertuch, Jeanie Gleisner, Bruce Keplinger, Kay Wakeman, Samuel Gordon, Christopher Carrick, Karen Novak, Brian Pincelli, Theresa Stephen, Bruce Keplinger and Mike Rosanio

#### **BUSINESS MEETING**

##### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairwoman Kathleen Rapp called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM at the Cayuga-Onondaga County BOCES in Auburn, New York and indicated a quorum was present.

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

The first order of business was a review of the day's agenda and minutes from the June 14, 2010 meeting. A motion was introduced and seconded to accept the agenda and minutes as presented; the motion was approved unanimously.

### **3. WELCOME TO CAYUGA COUNTY**

Ms. Rapp introduced the Chair of the Cayuga County Legislature, Peter Tortorici, who thanked everyone at BOCES for their hospitality. He introduced Roger Mills, Anne Petrus, Fran Mitchell, George Feron, Cynthia Aikman, and Paul Mitchell from the Cayuga County Legislature. Mr. Tortorici went on to welcome the members of the CNY RPDB to Cayuga County and concluded his remarks by briefly reviewing the major topics being discussed at this meeting.

### **4. PRESENTATIONS:**

The next item discussed on the agenda was two presentations regarding the Cayuga-Onondaga County BOCES. William Speck, Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES District Superintendent of Schools, was introduced and asked to provide some remarks. Mr. Speck welcomed everyone to the new Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES Center and introduced Anthony Abbatiello, BOCES Coordinator for Technology, to demonstrate the capabilities of the BOCES Distance Learning Center.

Mr. Abbatiello noted that the Center's distance learning capability provides students with the opportunity to participate in virtual field trips across the country or around the world. Mr. Abbatiello demonstrated the Centers' two-way visual and audio communications with a demonstration link with the Buffalo Zoo. The Buffalo Zoo's instructor engaged in a ten minute interactive session with members and guest during which she discussed the general programs the zoo provides for schools with the distance learning technology. .

Mr. Abbatiello then connected live with the Indianapolis Zoo and a conservation instructor who provided a general overview of the zoo's distance learning capabilities. The instructor noted that the zoo has been conducting telelearning programs for the past 16 years and currently has the capability to take "visitors" throughout the zoo with multiple camera locations.

Mr. Abbatiello noted that seven of nine school districts participating in the Cayuga-Onondaga County currently have the capability to access the Center's distance learning resources. He also noted that the Center has acquired rights to various digital media programs which can be downloaded to local schools and the Center can present a program to four sites at one time or use a bridge for presentation to twenty sites.

Mr. Abbatiello concluded his remarks by noting that the technology for distance learning is improving with HD, HD Internet 2, telepresence, and wireless. In response to a question from the audience, it was noted that the costs for teleconferencing sessions vary with the host party but generally in the range of \$150 per hour, though this fee is often waived if the programs are underwritten by various public and private sponsors.

Ms. Rapp re-introduced William Speck, who spoke enthusiastically about the BOCES Center and its mission to promote communitywide education, training resources, and services. Mr. Speck noted the Center consist of 200,000 square feet, cost \$42.1 million to build, and has achieved silver certification as a Leadership in Energy and Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) facility. To help achieve LEED certification, Mr. Speck noted that during construction 90% of construction waste was recycled amounting to 130 tons of materials, local manufacturing products were used when possible, and various types of monitoring devices have been installed

throughout the facility to control energy use. The landscaping and run-off were also part of the effort and over 200 wells were drilled for geothermal heating and cooling. Mr. Speck indicated these building components are expected to reduce energy costs by \$100,000 per year

Mr. Speck noted this BOCES was the first public high school in the State of New York to be Silver LEED certified. Mr. Speck explained that the certification is based on point system established by the U.S. Green Building Council that requires a third-party verification of all building components and construction techniques. It was noted that the silver certification required audit reviews for sustainability, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation and design. Mr. Speck noted the building is projected to be 42% more energy efficient than standard building.

Mr. Speck noted that teachers are developing curriculum to capitalize on the Center's advanced energy systems. As part of this effort, it was noted that the Center host a green energy camp in the summer where students have had the opportunity to build solar powered ovens, model cars, and alternative fuel engines – with guidance from engineers based in India. Also highlighted was a senior curriculum in the applied electrical program which focuses on green energy, renewable energy, solar, and wind.

Regarding general student attitude, Mr. Speck noted the facility has been very well received by students and faculty and it appears at this very early stage of its operation that student test scores have increased, vandalism has been reduced, and attendance has improved. He reported that there are 600 students between the special education and adult students and 470 high school 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students that currently attend the Center.

In response to several questions, Mr. Speck noted that under the current U.S. Green Building Council system it would be difficult for the Center to lose its LEED certification. It was also noted that it cost approximately \$15,000 for the third party verification of the LEED application submitted by the Center. Mr. Speck concluded his remarks by noting the Center is considering the addition of photovoltaic panels and a methane gas energy system to the Center which if completed would increase their LEED certification to gold.

Ms Rapp introduced Bruce Natale to speak on the Cayuga County Soil and Water District's regional digester project.

Mr. Natale, Environmental Engineer with the Cayuga County Planning Department, noted he was making this presentation on behalf of Ronald Padolak who was unable to attend this meeting. Mr. Natale opened his remarks by noting the county has been engaged in the development of a major centralized biodigester project since a feasibility study was completed in 2004. In discussing the project, Mr. Natale noted that a goal of the project is to develop a regional biodigester with the capability of helping farmers in the Auburn area improve their waste management practices while at the same time providing a renewal energy source in the county.

Mr. Natale showed slides that depicted that basic physical structure and operation of biodigester project. He noted that currently three farms are expected to provide "feedstock" for the biodigester in the form of manure and potato waste, which will be trucked to the biodigester on a

daily basis. Mr. Natale said there will be three tankers a day for a five day week bringing the material to the biodigester facility. It was noted that plans are also in the works to collect restaurant grease and possibly household grease to add to the mix of material processed at the biogester.

Mr. Natale said the facility is under construction at a cost of approximately \$10 million. The facility has tanks, a generator, cooling tower, gas holding bubble, and various curing pads and pasteurizing facilities. It was noted that a significant amount of federal and state grant funding was obtained for the project which was needed to make the project financially feasible. Mr. Natale noted that upon completion, the biodigester is expected to generate a sufficient amount of electricity to meet a significant portion of the electrical needs and a portion of the heating requirements at the county's campus on County House Road, which includes a correctional facility, nursing home, and selected county offices. Mr. Natale noted that any excess electricity generated by the biodigester will be sold into the electrical power grid and processed manure will be returned to area farmers or sold as compost.

The next item discussed on the agenda was plans being developed by the County for a biogas line project. Steven Lynch, Executive Director of the Cayuga County Planning Department, was introduced and asked to provide this presentation.

Mr. Lynch initiated his remarks by noting that Cayuga County is strategically positioned to take advantage of local renewable energy resources and use them simultaneously to produce clean renewable energy to protect the environment and create economic development. Mr. Lynch noted that the proposed biogas pipeline project has been under discussion in the county for the past ten years and involves the construction of a major biogas pipeline from anaerobic biodigesters located on several large dairy along the Route 34 corridor to the county industrial development site in the town of Aurelius. Mr. Lynch noted some of the key participants in the project with the County include several large farms that have partnered through the Cayuga Renewable Energy Cooperative, Cayuga County Public Utility Service Agency, Cornell University, Cornell Cooperative Extension and state, local and federal partners are involved in the project.

Mr. Lynch said four farms have constructed biodigesters and three others will be completed in 2011. The County envisions purchasing excess biogas generated from these on farm biodigesters and piping this gas along Route 34 to the county IDA's 150 acre business park in Aurelius. Mr. Lynch explained that the methane gas will be converted into heat and electricity at a cogeneration facility constructed near the BOCES Center. Mr. Lynch noted this project would provide the farmer community with better nutrient management practices and a revenue source, lessen the impact on the environment by reducing non-point source pollution and improving water quality, and provide local industry with access to renewable energy at a reduced cost.

At the conclusion of his formal remarks, Mr. Lynch noted that the County is prepared to begin a detailed technical feasibility study for this project. In this regard, it was noted that a request for proposals for consultant services has been drafted and will be issued by the County by the end of the year. Mr. Lynch noted the study is expected to take 6-9 months to complete. He also acknowledged the \$30,000 funding support that is being provided by the CNY RPDB's for the study through the agency's EPA-Climate Change Innovation program.

In answer to several questions, Mr. Lynch noted that the biogas will be purchased from participating farmers at a negotiated contract price which will be determined by the project cost and debt service. Mr. Lynch went on to comment that it will be very hard to develop the project unless the county can identify potential purchases of the energy that would be developed at the co-generation facility built in the industrial park.

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

David Bottar thanked the speakers and William Speck. He announced the next Executive Committee Meeting as November 17th and the Annual Meeting as December 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **6. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Rapp announced the Nominating Committee to nominate officers to serve the CNY RPDB in 20011 as Roger Mills, Jim Murphy, Scott Ingmire, Clarence Rycraft and Paul Vickery.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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David Elleman, Secretary