



Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board

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Kathleen A. Rapp, Chair

David V. Bottar, Executive Director

MINUTES

Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board Board of Directors Annual Meeting December 10, 2013

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Cynthia Aikman, Daniel Dineen, Shawn Doyle, Steven Lynch, Mary Ann Messenger, Jim Murphy, Paul Pinckney, Kathleen Rapp, Danny Ross, Michael Treadwell, Paul Vickery, and Steve Zabriskie.

Guests: David Aitken, DestinyUSA; Brian Anderson, National Grid; John Bartow, Tug Hill Commission; Chris Beck, Synapse Partners; Zach Benjamin, Scolaro, Fetter, Grizanti, McGough & King; Charles Bertuch, Bergmann Associates; John Bianchini, OCWA; Tom Blanchard, CenterState Corporation; Taylor Bottar, Barton & Loguidice; Deanna Boudov, Al Stirpe's Office; Constance Brace, QPK Design; Deb Cacaro, Center for Watershed Protection; John Camp, C&S Companies; Diane Carlton, NYSDEC; Michael Cartini, First Niagara; Christina Cerio, USDA; Andrew DeLuca, Dan Maffei's Office; Vita DeMarchi, Synapse Partners; Ronald Detota, C&S Companies; Bob Doucette, Armory Development; Jim Doring, Town of Preble Supervisor; Paul Driscoll, City of Syracuse; Sharon Driscoll; Peter Dunn, Community Foundation; Steve Eckler, O'Brien & Gere; Keith Ewald, Barton & Loguidice; Tim Faulkner, CHA; Jim Fayle, NYSESD; Bart Feinberg, Sutton Companies; John Ferguson, Assemblyman Magnarelli's Office; Tavia Gilbert, OCWA; Alex Grant, Sam Roberts Office; Brenda Griffin, Syracuse Center of Excellence; Stephanie Harrington, NYSDEC; Mark Hettler, The Foundry; Kristen Holeck, Cornell, Michael Hooker, OCWA, Maggie Hoose, New York Water Environment; Isabelle Harris, Senator DeFrancisco's Office; Rhea and Dan Jezer, SUNY ESF; Jarred Jones, Senator Gillebrand's Office; Jim Keib, Northeastern Economic Developers Association; Pete King, King & King Architects; Ken Knutsen, Barton & Loguidice; Tony Kolinski; Maureen Kozol, New York Water Environment; Paul Legnetto, Onondaga County Stormwater Management; Orin MacMurray, C&S Companies, Brian Macrae, Synapse Partners; David Manikewicz, CenterState Corporation; Andy Maxwell, Syracuse-Onondaga Planning Agency; Kate McCarty, Great Granddaughter of Rhea Eckel Clark; Karen McDonnell, USDA; Wayne McFarland, GHD; Linda McShane, ED/ONC/ONGOV; Frank Mento, CHA Companies; Edward Mills, Cornell; Dr. Cornelius Murphy; Rob Neimeier, O'Brien & Gere; Laura Oassalia, CHA; Cindy Oehmigen, Central New York TDO; Emily Pellicano, King & King; Patricia Reehil, NY Water Association, Roy Reehil, Town of Constantia;

Holly Rosenthal, Metro Water Board; Mary Sennett, Skaneateles Town Supervisor; Mary Shane-Eckel, Rhea Eckel Clark's daughter; Susan Sinclair, Cayuga County; Kristi Smiley, Onondaga County Office of Economic Development; Honora Spillane, Onondaga County Office of Economic Development; Sarah Stephens, Synapse Partners; David Tessier, Town of Manlius; Robert Trachtenbert, Central New York TDO; David Turner, Oswego County Community Development; Kevin Vorhees, Barton & Loguidice; Jim Zecca Madison County Department of Solid Waste, Keith Welch, Cayuga County

Staff: Michael Alexander, Kathleen Bertuch, David Bottar; Kevan Busa, Christopher Carrick Mario Colone, James D'Agostino, Jason Deshaies, Jeanie Gleisner, Samuel Gordon, Liz Hassett, Bruce Keplinger, Kevin Kosakowski, Danielle Krol, David Kubek, Aaron McKeon, Karen Novak, Debbie Paciga, Brian Pincelli, Michael Rosanio, Anne Saltman, Meghan Vitale, and Patricia Wortley.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Kathleen Rapp called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm at the Doubletree Hotel in East Syracuse, NY. Ms. Rapp provided a brief outline summarizing the agenda and format for the meeting. Following these introductory comments, members and guest participated in a holiday luncheon.

2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

David Bottar began the formal portion of the annual meeting by providing an Executive Director's report that summarized the agencies accomplishments for 2013. To begin his remarks, Mr. Bottar recognized members, guests, representative of the Executive Committee, and staff for their attendance at the annual meeting and for their support and efforts throughout the program year. Mr. Bottar also recognized two special guests in the audience including Mary Eckel Shane, the daughter of Rhea Eckel Clark, a founding member of the Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board, and Kate McCarty, the great-granddaughter of Rhea Eckel Clark. Mr. Bottar also took a moment to recognize several people who passed away this year including board members David Elleman and Clarence Rycraft, Eugene Saloga, the former community development director in the City of Oswego and a member of the steering committee that helped establish the CNY RPDB in 1966, and Linda DiFichy, who served as the Onondaga County Director of Community Development for many years.

Mr. Bottar continued his presentation by noting several trends at the international and national level that are currently impacting the region. Items noted in these summary remarks included improvements in the national economy, developments of the nation's energy supplies, plans by Toyota Corporation to begin mass production of a fuel cell car, and progress made toward implementation of the Affordable Care Act. At the state level, Mr. Bottar referenced the completion of the new world trade center in NYC – the Freedom Tower, and progress being made on a \$15 billion project in the metropolitan area to construct three new subway tunnels. Also noted was work that has started on the New NY Bridge to replace the Tappan Zee Bridge across the Hudson River and plans that have been announced by the SUNY College of Nanoscience and Engineering in Albany to construct a major nano-manufacturing center in the outside of Utica in the Town of Marcy at the SUNY IT campus.

On a regional basis, Mr. Bottar referenced several developments including plans for the largest private solar array in the north country by the Davidson Auto Group in Watertown and work that has been completed by Novelis on a \$200 million expansion at the company's aluminum manufacturing plant in Oswego. Also noted by Mr. Bottar was the completion of major upgrades to the 911 emergency communication systems in each county in CNY, development of the new WCNY headquarters facility in the Syracuse Near Westside, completion of the new emergency center at St. Joseph's Hospital, construction of an innovative mixed-use development called the Pike Block and the opening of two new hotels in downtown Syracuse, and the construction of the new Gateway building at SUNY ESF and the new science center at SUNY Oswego. Mr. Bottar continued his summary by noting several other projects which are currently underway in the region such as three new dairy processing facilities, ongoing improvements to Onondaga Lake, plans for a mixed-use development in the Syracuse Inner Harbor, work that is being advanced for the CNY Intermodal Rail Transportation Center, planned infrastructure improvements at the Port of Oswego, and work that has been successfully completed on the transition of operating responsibility for Hancock International Airport to the Syracuse Regional Transportation Authority.

Mr. Bottar noted that the agency was very active in 2013 helping to advance numerous projects and program initiatives in the region. A key element of this work that was highlighted by Mr. Bottar was completion of VisionCNY- Central New York Regional Sustainability Plan. Also noted was the completion by SMTC of a major public outreach and engagement program called the I-81 Challenge, completion of renovation activities for the Kallet Theater in Pulaski, and completion of activities regarding the successful conversion of the former Skaneateles fire hall into a municipal office that is the first municipally owned building in NYS to achieve a net-zero status. Mr. Bottar also highlighted the agency's work with the administration of the CNY Enterprise Development Fund small business loan program, the NYSERDA EDGE and EPA Climate Showcase Communities Program, and the CNY Intermunicipal Stormwater Management and Green Infrastructure Program. Mr. Bottar also noted the agency completed work on two consultant led studies including a regional site profile database and a conceptual master plan for the proposed intermodal rail inland port project in Syracuse.

3. KEYNOTE SPEAKER PRESENTATION

At the conclusion of his director's remarks, Mr. Bottar introduced the keynote speaker for the annual meeting Dr. Cornelius B. Murphy, President of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Dr. Murphy began his power point presentation by noting the successful work the agency completed this past year on the CNY Regional Sustainability Plan and referenced the importance and value of the target goals that were incorporated in the plan. Dr. Murphy noted the title of his presentation as "Moving the Needle – The University and Sustainability". In framing his remarks, Dr. Murphy noted Higher Education's responsibility in advancing sustainable practices on campus by educating a new generation of sustainability directors, demonstrating what is possible through physical plant infrastructure, conducting applied research, and through a range of community outreach initiatives.

Building on these general comments, Dr. Murphy provided a summary of the steps which have been taken at SUNY ESF to build on these principals in recent years. Projects highlighted by Dr. Murphy included the development of an on campus biodiesel facility, the use of ESF diesel fueled

vehicles, installation of a fuel cell generator, several photovoltaic solar installations, installation of a wind turbine at Heiberg forest and a wood chip boiler at the ESF Ranger School, construction of an on campus green roof, and development of several rain garden with porous pavement areas. In reviewing these projects it was noted that according to the SUNY ESF Climate Action Plan, that ESF has established a goal to be carbon neutral by 2015.

Dr. Murphy continued his remarks by providing some detailed information regarding the sustainability design elements that were incorporated into a major new academic facility that was just completed on campus called the Gateway Building. Elements noted regarding the LEED platinum facility included a green roof, various passive energy systems, and a wood pellet fueled combined heat and power system with the capacity to meet 65 % of the heating needs on campus and 20% of the electrical needs. It was noted that the Gateway Building energy system costs of \$3.2 million is projected to generate \$366,000 in annual fuel cost savings. Dr. Murphy concluded his remarks by referencing a graph that presents a timeline for how ESF will reach its goal of being carbon neutral by 2015. The graph summarized several initiatives being implemented by the College including energy conservation measures, alternative energy generation, forest carbon sequestration, green building systems, and campus action campaigns.

4. RHEA ECKEL CLARK CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Ms. Rapp returned to the podium, along with Mary Eckel Shane, to present the CNY RPDB annual Rhea Eckel Clark Citizenship award. To introduce the award, Ms. Rapp noted that Rhea Eckel Clark was a founding member of the regional planning board and served as the organization's first chairperson in 1966. Besides her work with the regional planning board, Rhea Eckel Clark served as executive secretary for the NYS Citizens Council, assistant to the dean for the New York University School of Education, and as President of Cazenovia College for 14 years, until her retirement in 1971.

Ms. Rapp noted that in recognition of Rhea Eckel Clark's contributions and service to the community, the agency established a citizenship award in her honor 1985. Ms. Rapp went on to note that since the award was established, the Board has taken time each year at the annual meeting to recognize someone in the community who has helped carry on the spirit of citizenship and community service exemplified by Rhea Eckel Clark.

Ms. Rapp noted that in reviewing nominations for this award, the selection committee looks at four major criteria including the individual's efforts to promote regional leadership, intergovernmental cooperation, civic participation, and community service. Based on these criteria, Ms. Rapp announced that the recipient of this year's citizenship award was the keynote speaker - Dr. Cornelius Murphy.

In presenting the award, information was provided regarding Dr. Murphy's background and service to the community. Ms. Rapp noted that Dr. Murphy began his academic training by obtaining a bachelor of arts degree from St. Michael's College and a Ph.D. in chemistry from Syracuse University. Following his academic work, Dr. Murphy began his professional career as a laboratory technician at O'Brien and Gere Engineers. From that position, Dr. Murphy rose through the ranks at this well know firm and began President of the O'Brien and Gere Companies in 1993. Following a seven year tenure in this leadership position, it was noted that Dr. Murphy returned to his academic roots and became President of the SUNY College of

Environmental Science and Forestry. Ms. Rapp indicated that Dr. Murphy is retiring at the end of the year after a thirteen year tenure in his current position and has plans to teach several courses at the College in the coming years.

Ms. Rapp noted that in reviewing Dr. Murphy's qualifications for the Board's annual citizenship award, what clearly stands out is his lifetime of service to the community and his commitment to helping advance so many of the principals communities across CNY must follow if the region is to have a prosperous future. As part of her remarks, Ms. Rapp also referenced Dr. Murphy's community service which included board membership on the Upstate Medical University Foundation, the Boy Scouts of America's Hiawatha Council, CenterState CEO, the Audobon Society of New York, the Say Yes Scholarship Governance Board, and Co-Chair of the SUNY Energy Smart New York Innovation Team. Also noted were the many awards that been given to Dr. Murphy including being recognized with the Post-Standard Achievement award, the Salvation Army Community Spirit award, the FOCUS Greater Syracuse Wisdom Keeper Award for Citizenship Trustee, the Greening USA Sustaining our Community award, and the Adirondack Environmental Education Leadership award.

Dr. Murphy was presented with a framed certificate in recognition of the award. In accepting the award, Dr. Murphy acknowledged the exemplary work done by Rhea Eckel Clark in service of citizens across Central New York and thanked Mary Eckel Shane for sharing this honor with him.

5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no information presented or items discussed under old or new business.

6. OTHER BUSINESS AND 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,

James Rafte, Secretary