



Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board
126 N. Salina Street, Suite 200, Syracuse, New York 13202 • Tel. (315) 422-8276 • Fax: (315) 422-9051
Paul W. Pinckney, Chairman David V. Bottar, Executive Director

MINUTES

Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board Board of Directors Meeting August 30, 2023

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Julie Abbott, Timothy T. Burtis, Pamela D. Caraccioli, Mary Ellen Chesbro, Edward Gilson, Beau Harbin, Trisha Hiemstra, Scott Ingmire, Daniel Kwasnowski, Stephen F. Lynch, Aileen M. McNabb-Coleman, Mary Ann Messinger, Christopher Newell, Paul W. Pinckney, Robert Shea, Eve Ann Schwartz, Tim Stahl, Scott Steve, Austin Wheelock

Staff: David V. Bottar, Chris Carrick, Jean Gleisner, Bruce Keplinger, Aaron McKeon, Patricia Wortley

1. CALL TO ORDER

Paul Pinckney called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm at the offices of the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board in Syracuse, New York. Mr. Pinckney noted that several members were participating in the meeting remotely via a zoom conference platform.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA AND MINUTES

A motion was introduced and seconded to accept the agenda as presented and the minutes from the April 28th meeting; the motion was approved unanimously.

3. SYRACUSE DISTRICT ENERGY SYSTEM FEASIBILITY STUDY

Staff member Chris Carrick, Energy Program Manager, was introduced and provided a power point presentation regarding district energy systems, also known as thermal energy networks (TENs), including what they are and why such community scale systems are beneficial compared to those for individual buildings.

Mr. Carrick noted that some of the benefits of TENs include greater energy efficiency, lower maintenance and operational costs and reduced emissions. Mr. Carrick also reviewed state support for the development of TENs, including legislation that allows utilities to develop, own and operate such systems, a series of online charrettes for municipal officials and staff sponsored by NYSERDA, and NYSERDA funding for feasibility studies and project implementation.

Brendan Hall, Senior Engineer, CHA Companies, was introduced and provided a power point presentation regarding a technical feasibility study completed for the CNY RPDB by CHA Consulting in September 2022 under NYSERDA's Community Heat Pump Systems Program Opportunity Notice (PON) 4614 Category A. Mr. Hall reviewed the scope of the study, which was to identify the best available technology to eliminate fossil fuel usage in the Syracuse lakefront and downtown business districts, to determine the value of the system as compared to individual buildings, and to identify business models and regulatory hurdles.

Mr. Hall noted that during the winter months, the TEN would recover heat from the discharge of treated water from Onondaga County's Metro wastewater treatment facility into Onondaga Lake and distribute it to heat pumps located in connected buildings. During the summer, the TEN would transfer heat from connected buildings to Metro's discharge into the lake without negative environmental effects. The system would replace the use of boilers during the winter and eliminate the need for cooling towers during the summer, thereby reducing overall energy usage by 25-35% and eliminating Legionella concerns. Mr. Hall also noted that the alternative approach to replace fossil fuel systems in downtown buildings would require the use of electric boilers and similar equipment, adding significant costs for customers and greatly increasing total electrical load, which would require an investment of at least \$10 million by National Grid to upgrade substations and utility services.

Mr. Hall concluded his remarks by summarizing a proposal submitted by National Grid to the New York Public Service Commission (PSC) for a pilot project to implement an initial phase of the TEN to serve the City of Syracuse lakefront area at a cost of approximately \$60 million. It was noted that the PSC approved the expenditure by National Grid of up to \$6.7 million to complete further analysis of the feasibility of the pilot project, including the preparation of bid-ready construction documents and an outreach plan to potential customers.

Mr. Carrick concluded the presentation by noting that information from the study provides the basis for a preliminary examination by staff of whether similar waste-to-energy systems could be deployed by communities across Central New York with wastewater treatment facilities and sufficient community building demand capacity. It was noted that work on this analysis will be conducted in 2024.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Bottar provided brief remarks regarding the range of programs and projects that staff are currently working on across the five-county region. As part of these remarks, Mr. Bottar noted that meetings continue to be held in the region regarding the Micron project, including those held by the Onondaga County Micron Development Committee, Oswego County Micron Strategy Steering Committee, and the Cayuga County Micron Steering Committee.

Mr. Bottar continued his remarks by noting that staff assisted the Madison County IDA and the Cazenovia Area Community Development Association to secure an EDA grant of \$166,000 for the Village of Cazenovia to help finance a consultant study to prepare a reuse plan for Cazenovia College, which was closed in May 2023. Mr. Bottar noted that significant progress is being made by staff, CenterState CEO, National Grid, and project consultant B&L Engineers to complete preparation of a regional site profile database that will feature 33 major development sites across the five-county region. Work on this project is scheduled for completion by December 2023.

Mr. Bottar continued his remarks by noting staff is closely monitoring work being done by the NYS ESD ConnectAll office regarding pending funding availability for broadband project in NYS. Also, referenced was a press release issued by the National Parks Service on July 18, 2023 regarding a study that was recently completed by the NPS evaluating 14 counties in Central New York for potential inclusion in the National Heritage Area System. Mr. Bottar noted he has reached out to the NPS to schedule a presentation about the study at a future board meeting.

5. BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Mr. Bottar noted the next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for September 27th and the next full board meeting will be held on October 25, 2023.

6. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Pinckney noted there was no old or new business presented to the board for discussion.

9. 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,

Mary A. Messinger, Secretary