

## MINUTES

### Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board Board of Directors Meeting February 26, 2025

#### ATTENDANCE

Board members: Julie Abbott, Pamela D. Caraccioli, Emanuel Carter, Patrick Clune, Edward Gilson, Jennifer Haines, Beau Harbin, Kipp Hicks, Scott Ingmire, Cydney M. Johnson, Aileen M. McNabb-Coleman, Mary Ann Messinger, Brendan O'Bryan, Scott Steve, Kari Terwilliger, Troy W. Waffner, Austin Wheelock, and Stephen Zabriskie

Guests: Shereen Androsko (for Jonathan Anna), Julie Fleck (for John Mannion), Jeanie Gleisner, Hannah Smith (ESF grad student)

Staff: Michael Boccuzzi, David Bottar, Bruce Keplinger, Amanda Mazzoni, Aaron McKeon, Allison Perry, Lindsay Speer, Isabel Willson, Patricia Wortley

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

Cydney Johnson called the virtual zoom meeting to order at 1:00 pm at the offices of the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board in Syracuse, New York.

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

A motion was introduced and seconded to accept the agenda and minutes from the 12/4/24 meeting as presented; the motion was approved unanimously.

#### **3. BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Ms. Johnson directed members' attention to a schedule that listed the Board membership roster for 2025. In noting this document, several new Board members were referenced including Jonathan Anna, Robert Shea, and Troy Waffner.

#### **4. NOMINATING REPORT**

The next item discussed on the agenda was a Nominating Report presented by Mr. Bottar. Mr. Bottar referenced a memorandum dated 2/21/25 with the following members nominated to serve as officers of the CNY RPDB for 2025:

Paul Pinckney, Cayuga County, Chairman  
Patrick Clune, Cortland County  
Mary A. Messinger, Madison County, Secretary/Treasurer  
Cydney Johnson, Onondaga County  
Pamela Caraccioli, Oswego County

Following a review, a motion was introduced and seconded to accept the Nominating Report as presented with the slate of officers for the CNY RPDB for 2025; the motion was approved unanimously.

## **5. STAFF PLAN AND WORK PROGRAM FOR 2025:**

The next item discussed on the agenda was a memorandum dated 01/01/25 which outlined the agency's proposed staff and work program for 2025. Following a review of this document, Mr. Bottar directed members' attention to a power point presentation dated 2/26/25, which served as the general outline for presentations from the agency's program managers and staff about the planned work program for 2025. Mr. Bottar began his remarks by noting the organization chart that presents the seven major program areas the agency will focus on in 2025.

Mr. Bottar provided a summary of the planned economic development program. It was noted the program will continue to consist of several key elements including project development, regional marketing and business recruitment, small business financing, broadband deployment, management of the CNY real estate site profile database, and completing the annual update of the CNY Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Mr. Bottar noted the program will also include focused attention on the major Micron semiconductor manufacturing plant project planned to be constructed in the region starting in 2025-26. Mr. Bottar noted a major focus will be on implementing the NYS ConnectAll (CAO) Municipal Infrastructure Program broadband grant of \$26.1 million that was awarded to the agency on 2/16/25.

Aaron McKeon was introduced and provided a summary of the environmental program for 2025. Mr. McKeon noted the program will consist of several components including watershed planning, grants assistance and management, stormwater and floodplain management, education, outreach, and training, and water resource data collection and analysis. Mr. McKeon noted that the agency will focus work on several key projects including preparation of the Skaneateles Lake EPA 9-Element Watershed Management Plan, and update to the Oneida Lake Watershed Management Plan. Mr. McKeon completed his remarks by noting the agency is seeking guidance from the new administration on the implementation of the USDA Forestry Service Community Forestry Program grant of \$ 9 million to the agency in September 2024 for a major tree planting program across the region.

Allison Perry was introduced and provided a summary of the proposed comprehensive planning program for 2025. In discussing this program, Ms. Perry noted that staff will provide pre-development site planning and design work to support various building renovations, streetscape improvements, public waterfronts developments, sidewalk, and recreation infrastructure improvements in strategic locations around the region. Ms. Perry noted that staff will also assist in the preparation of comprehensive plans for towns of Elbridge, Oswego, Hannibal, Mexico, and Volney. Also noted was planned work on implementing a new US DOT grant to the agency of

\$3.9 million to do engineering design work on elements of the proposed CNY Heritage bicycle trail network in CNY.

Ms. Perry continued her remarks by noting that staff will be working on several key community initiatives including the City of Oneida's Downtown Revitalization Initiative and NYS Restore funded mixed-use redevelopment project, the Lafayette mixed-use hotel conversion project, and completion of sidewalk and trail corridor projects in the Village of Pulaski and in the Homer-Cortland community. Reference was also made to work the agency is doing to assist the Town of Georgetown with the relocation of the Town's highway garage

Amanda Mazzoni was introduced and provided a summary of planned activities in the agency's energy program for 2025. Ms. Mazzoni noted that staff will continue to support municipalities involved in the SolarizeCNY municipal procurement program in partnership with Abundant Solar Energy. Also noted was ongoing staff work to provide technical assistance and support to municipalities related to NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities program, a program that provides technical assistance, education and outreach, community certification, and grant funds to municipalities who pursue clean energy high impact actions.

It was also noted that staff would continue to help municipalities in CNY who are interested in converting streetlights to LED technology through the CNY Bright Lights program. Reference was also made to work that will continue in the program year on the agency's regional clean energy Hub program.

Mr. Bottar concluded the staff presentations regarding the agency's planned work program for 2025 by noting staff efforts to support the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council, including work that is being directed to providing transportation modeling information for the environmental assessment of the Micron project. Also noted is a consultant study that will be initiated to evaluate options for a public transit corridor along Route 31 as part of the planned community response to the Micron project. Also noted are staff efforts that will be directed to updating the SMTC long range transportation plan.

Mr. Bottar noted the resources remain available through the agency's communication and research programs to support planning efforts throughout the five-county region.

At the conclusion of the staff presentation, members and staff engaged in a productive discussion on a range of issues regarding the work program. Regarding the environmental program, it was requested that staff facilitate a presentation regarding the new NYS DEC wetlands regulations and the ongoing effort to establish additional wetland mitigation resources in CNY to support the Micron project.

Following further discussion, a motion was introduced and seconded to accept the staff and work program for 2025 as presented by staff; the motion was approved unanimously.

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

Mr. Bottar began his report by referencing a schedule dated 2/4/25, which presented a proposed operating budget for the agency for 2025. In presenting the budget, Mr. Bottar noted that revenues

for the year are projected to total \$5,710,504, expenses are projected to equal \$5,556,200, with an operating balance of \$149,304. Mr. Bottar noted this budget will support 23 full-time staff in 2025 and several major consultant studies and pass-through contracts to other organizations. Following a review, a motion was introduced and seconded to approve the budget as presented; the motion was approved unanimously.

The next item discussed on the agenda was a memorandum dated 2/21/25 regarding the Chair's recommendation to appoint staff members David Bottar and Aaron McKeon to the SMTTC Policy and Planning Committee, respectively. In addition, the Chair's recommendation for appointments to the CNY Enterprise Development Corporation included Paul Pinckney, Patrick Clune, Mary Ann Messinger, Cydney Johnson, and Pamela Caraccioli. Following a review of this information, a motion was introduced and seconded acknowledging and confirming the appointments as presented; the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Bottar continued his remarks by referencing a schedule regarding the board and executive committee meeting schedule for 2025. Members directed staff to proceed with this schedule as presented.

## **7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Johnson noted there was no old or new business presented to the board for discussion.

## **8. 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