



Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board
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Paul W. Pinckney, Chairman David V. Bottar, Executive Director

MINUTES

Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board Board of Directors Meeting October 29, 2025

ATTENDANCE

Board members: Julie Abbott, Emanuel Carter, Mary Ellen Chesbro, Reed Cleland, Patrick Clune, Jennifer Haines, Beau Harbin, Kipp Hicks, Cydney M. Johnson, David Knapp, Mary Ann Messinger, Paul W. Pinckney, Tim Stahl, Scott Steve, Troy W. Waffner

Staff: Michael Boccuzzi, David Bottar, Carrie Hollis, Bruce Keplinger, Amanda Mazzoni, Aaron McKeon, Aaron Otis, Lindsay Speer, Isabel Willson, Patricia Wortley

Guests: Julie Fleck, Karina Freeland, Jeanie Gleisner, Owen Kerney, Morgan Spaulding, Jan Tighe

1. CALL TO ORDER

David Bottar 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. Bottar noted the meeting included a Zoom meeting link and that several members were participating in the meeting via the link.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

A motion was introduced and seconded to accept the agenda and summary of the August 27, 2025 Board meeting as presented; the motion was approved unanimously.

3. NYS COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Amanda Mazzoni, Energy Program Manager at the CNY RPDB, was introduced and presented a power point presentation on behalf of NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) summarizing the state's Comprehensive Climate Action Planning (CCAP) process, funded through the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Ms. Mazzoni explained that NYS received \$3 million in federal funding through the EPA's CPRG program in 2023 for climate action planning work. The planning grants were non-competitive and offered to every state and the 67 most populous Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) in the country to develop jurisdictional climate plans. The planning grants require awardees to complete three deliverables: a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), and a Status Report.

Ms. Mazzoni noted that the PCAP outlined near-term, high-impact greenhouse gas emission reduction measures, whereas the CCAP will further touch on all significant GHG emissions sources from all sectors, establish near and long-term GHG emission goals, and provide strategies to achieve those goals. These two planning activities are drawing heavily on the Scoping Plan from the Climate Action Council, which was developed to implement the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Ms. Mazzoni explained that the State had completed the PCAP in March, is now in the final phases of drafting the CCAP, and is looking for input from the municipal perspective to incorporate. Ms. Mazzoni paused to execute a brief poll, asking attendees 1) to describe the state's Scoping Plan, or what they know about the state's climate goals, in one word, 2) which area they have seen the most successes with in terms of executing projects or policies to reduce emissions in their communities, 3) which area they have had the most barriers with in terms of executing projects or policies to reduce emissions in their communities, and 4) what resources would be the most helpful in overcoming barriers to completing projects or policies to reduce emissions in their communities.

The poll results indicated that there were mixed feelings about the State's Scoping Plan and climate goals, ranging from "groundbreaking" and "awe-inspiring" to "over reaching" and "absurd," with the most common word being "ambitious." Many attendees had successes with building projects, whereas many attendees saw challenges with transportation projects. Overwhelmingly, the resource that attendees felt would be most helpful in overcoming barriers was additional funding.

The remainder of the presentation focused on reviewing the recommended strategy themes and highlights across various sectors and receiving input and feedback from the attendees. Board members and guests shared some of their experiences with successful projects, including Syracuse's LED streetlight project, Pulaski, Preble, and Pompey's air source heat pump projects at municipal buildings, Auburn's geothermal project at a municipal building and other geothermal projects in the City of Syracuse, Cortland's methane capture at the wastewater treatment facility, charging stations installed in Pulaski, personal electric landscaping equipment, and community solar projects developed across the region.

There were also some concerns raised, including the safety of solar on agricultural lands, and Ms. Mazzoni noted research shows that solar panels can coexist alongside livestock and with edible crops, otherwise known as agrivoltaics, and that there is no danger associated with solar panels on farmland or elsewhere as long as they are properly managed and maintained. Other questions came up regarding the lifecycle of batteries, to which Ms. Mazzoni explained the lifecycle depends on the battery and usage, though electric vehicle batteries typically have a 10-year, 100,000 mile warranty, and there is an emerging market for EV battery recycling.

Ms. Mazzoni concluded her remarks by sharing some final resources, including an online survey to provide additional direct feedback, and explaining that she will compile feedback into a report for DEC to incorporate into their CCAP.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The next item discussed on the agenda was a brief program status report as presented by Mr. Bottar. Mr. Bottar began with a brief discussion about Micron's impact and opportunities for the region, noting the significant public infrastructure investments that are being made or under consideration across the region to support the Micron project.

Mr. Bottar continued his remarks by highlighting the Onondaga County aquarium project, noting the project is under construction and scheduled for completion by July 2026. Mr. Bottar concluded by explaining that the agency's NYS CAO Municipal Infrastructure Program – Phase 3 broadband project is continuing forward, though with some uncertainties and challenges in working with the state and current federal funding shutdown.

5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Pinckney noted there was no old or new business presented to the Board for discussion. It was noted that the next Executive Committee is scheduled for December 3rd, and the next Board meeting will be scheduled in 2026.

6. 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