



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
August 26, 2026**

ATTENDANCE

Board members: Jonathan Anna, Pamela D. Caraccioli, Mary Ellen Chesbro, Reed Cleland, Patrick Clune, Elane Daly, Elaine Denton, Edward Gilson, Kim Malone, William McGovern, Stephen Selvek, Tim Stahl, Scott Steve, Kari Terwilliger, Melanie L. Vilardi, Nicole Watts, Stephen Zabriskie

Guests: Timothy T. Burtis, Calandra Cruickshank, Julie Fleck, Joshua Pearlman, and Morgan Spaulding

Staff: David Bottar, Sophia Fisher, Erica Herman, Carrie Hollis, Bruce Keplinger, Amanda Mazzoni, Aaron McKeon, Lindsay Speer, Isabel Willson.

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 link and that several members were participating in the meeting via the link.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA AND MINUTES

A motion was introduced and seconded to accept the agenda and minutes from the June 24, 2026 meeting as presented; the motion was approved unanimously.

3. STATEBOOK COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DATA RESOURCE CENTER

Mr. Bottar began the discussion regarding this agenda item by noting that the planned speaker, Calandra Cruickshank, President and CEO of Statebook, was unable to participate in the meeting because of an unreliable internet connection that Ms. Cruickshank was trying to use from a location in the country of Mexico.

Mr. Bottar provided a summary of the community and economic development data resources provided by Statebook. Mr. Bottar noted that the agency has a subscription service with Statebook

and the data provided by Statebook will be used to help inform the CNY Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update.

4. REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING FOR CNY

Mr. Bottar referenced a staff memorandum and provided a brief report summarizing several economic development plans that have been completed in recent years for Central New York including CNY Rising: From the Ground Up – Upstate Revitalization Initiative 2015, CNY Ascent: Reaching New Heights – Regional Strategy Plan 2023, and NYS ESD/Micron-Green Chips Community Investment Fund: Community Priorities Document June 2024, and the CNY REDC Annual Report 2025. Mr. Bottar noted that NYS ESD and the CNY REC engaged in extensive community engagement across the region to prepare these plans. Mr. Bottar noted these plans provide a solid foundation for economic development efforts in CNY and noted elements of these plans should be considered for integration into the CNY CEDC update.

5. CNY COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2020

Mr. Bottar continued his remarks by referencing discussions at the past two board meetings regarding plans to update the agency's CNY Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, which is a document the agency is expected to update every five years, in accordance with provisions and guidance provided by the federal Economic Development Administration. As part of the discussion, Mr. Bottar referenced the CNY CEDS 2020 and provided a review of the key elements of this plan, including the goals and recommendations for improving the economy in CNY.

In reviewing this information, Mr. Bottar noted that several of the key recommendations in the plan regarding shovel ready site development and public infrastructure improvements provided a basis for the region's efforts to help retain several major employers in the region and recruit new businesses to CNY, including Micron Technology to the White Pine Commerce Park in the Town of Clay. Members engaged in a discussion regarding the CNY CEDS update and it was noted that further review would continue at board meetings in October and December.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Bottar noted that information regarding the CNY Regional Site Profile database will be presented at a future board meeting. Regarding the USDA Forestry Service-CNY Community Forestry Initiative, Amanda Mazzoni provided a brief report summarizing the status of the \$ 9 million program; noting two proposals were received in August in response to an RFP issued by the agency in July 2026 for tree management consultant to help advise and implement the project and that a recommendation for a consultant will be presented by staff to the Executive Committee on September 23rd. It was noted that discussions are continuing with communities across CNY as potential hosting sites for treat planning. As part of this effort, a contract award is being finalized with the City of Syracuse for \$1.6 million for a major tree planting program in the City. Also referenced were ongoing discussions with Soil and Water Conservation Districts in CNY as partner organizations and with Onondaga Earth Corp. for training components of the project.

Mr. Bottar concluded his remarks by noting the next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for September 23rd and the next Board meeting is set for October 28th.

7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

It was noted there was no other 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,

David Bottar, Executive Director