



**Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board**  
126 N. Salina St., 100 Clinton Sq., Suite 200, Syracuse, N.Y. 13202 • Tel. (315) 422-8276 • Fax 422-9051  
Paul Vickery, Chairman David V. Bottar, Executive Director

## **AGENDA**

**October 21, 2009 Meeting**  
12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.

**Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board**  
126 N. Salina Street  
100 Clinton Square Building  
Lower Level Conference Room  
Syracuse, New York

*Chairwoman Kathleen Rapp, Presiding*

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|----|--|---------------|
| 1. | Call to Order  | Kathleen Rapp |
| 2. | Approval of Day's Agenda and<br>Minutes from the August 19, 2009 Meeting   | Kathleen Rapp |
| 3. | Central New York Emergency Management<br>Communication Consortium<br>- Michael Allen, Director, Oswego County<br>Emergency Communications Department | Michael Allen |
| 4. | Executive Director's Report  | David Bottar  |
| 5. | Old / New Business<br>- Appointment of Nominations Committee   | Kathleen Rapp |
| 6. | Adjournment  | Kathleen Rapp |



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## MINUTES

### Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board Board of Directors Meeting October 21, 2009

#### ATTENDANCE

**Board Members:** David Turner, Michael Treadwell, Stephen Zabriskie, Brian Donnelly, Daniel Schuster, Vijay Mital, Stephen Lynch, Ann Petrus, Larry Baker, Kathleen Rapp, Paul Vickery, Donal Spaulding, Danny Ross, Daniel Dineen, James Murphy, Shawn Doyle, Mary Ann Messinger, James Rafte, William Southern, and David Elleman.

**Guests:** Kipp Hicks-Madison County IDA, Gregory Hitchin - Onondaga County Office Economic Development, Robert-Trachtenberg-CNY Technology Development, Anthony Kolinski-Empire State Development Corporation, Chuck Murphy-Senator DeFrancisco's Office, Jason Chiesa-Congressman Maffei's Office, Neil Wakeman-Assemblyman Albert Stirpe Office, Mike Allen-Oswego County E-911, Paul Hartnett-Madison County E-911, and Paul Miller-Madison County.

**Staff:** David Bottar, Anne Saltman, Davie Kubek, Jeanie Gleisner, Christopher Carrick, and Bruce Keplinger.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

##### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Kathleen Rapp called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. at the office of the CNY Regional Planning & Development Board and stated that a quorum was present.

## 2. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA/ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The first order of business was a review of the day's agenda and minutes from the August 19, 2009 meeting.

A motion was introduced and seconded to accept the agenda and minutes as presented; the motion was approved unanimously.

## 3. PRESENTATION:

In preparing to introduce the guest speaker, David Bottar noted that there have been a number of articles in the Post Standard recently regarding the formation of a regional Emergency Management Communication Consortium in Central New York. Following these remarks, Michael Allen, Director of the Oswego County Emergency Management Communications Department, was introduced to describe the consortium.

Mr. Allen noted that the Central New York Interoperable Communications Consortium was formed in 2006 for the purpose of improving emergency communications among counties in CNY. He explained that the Consortium was formed in response to the state's lack of progress in building a statewide communication system called SWIN- statewide wireless network. After fifteen years of planning the state was unable to get the project off the ground.

Mr. Allen indicated that each county in CNY is currently planning to build a new emergency communication systems that will consist of a network of communication towers and upgraded equipment. It was noted that while each county is designing their own system, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed among the counties to ensure that the systems being developed will achieve 97% portable county-wide coverage, interoperability with other areas, a digital trunked infrastructure, an upgraded microwave system, new improved paging, new mobiles and portables for user agencies, delivery of this product and support of this system, and better pricing. It was noted that full development of this system in the five county area would cost approximately \$150 million.

Regarding individual county initiatives, Mr. Allen noted that Onondaga County is planning to build a trunk radio 15 site, 15 channels, 5,200 subscriber system. Onondaga County also has proposed development and stewardship of a master site controller system to benefit all five counties and is hoping to finance this facility with federal dollars. Paul Hartnett noted that Madison County is planning to build a 12 site, 5 channels, and 1,200 subscriber system and that the County is negotiating a master site sharing agreement with Onondaga County. Mr. Allen noted that Oswego County is planning a 15 site, 10 channel systems with 2,100 subscribers and is also working on a master site agreement with Onondaga County. It was also noted that Cayuga County is reviewing proposals for a 13 site, 8 channel system, and they have a signed MOU with member counties and that Cortland County has a signed MOU with member counties and has started a needs assessment.

Mr. Allen concluded his formal remarks by noting that with the demise of State's effort to develop the SWIN system, the State has approved the concept of a building an improved Statewide emergency communications system by relying, in part, on local initiatives being undertaken at the county and regional level. As part of this renewed commitment, the State has expressed an interest in helping to secure funding for these local initiatives.

Following his remarks, several questions were asked from Board members and guests. Regarding Consortium membership Mr. Allen noted that currently members are from 911 centers and the plan is to expand membership to other departments, for example Oswego public works, health and probation departments would like to participate. It is also likely that other agencies like Centro, the Coast Guard, park police, border patrol and other New York State agencies will become subscribers.

One member suggested that there could be a revenue source from private agencies, utilities, and private ambulance companies. Mr. Allen said the Consortium is willing to entertain any idea for funding as the proposed cost for Madison County is \$20 million and Oswego County is \$25 million, which are very large investments for the counties. Regarding ongoing operating and maintenance costs, Mr. Allen noted members of the Consortium are discussing a regional maintenance contract with a single vendor to reduce costs. It was also noted that the Consortium could be a stepping stone to new levels of shared services like sharing back up facilities and sharing call volumes in an emergency.

Regarding several questions concerning funding, Mr. Allen noted that State has earned over \$177 million from cell phone fees that could be used for financing these county system but has not made this funding available in recent years. It was also noted that the State's decision to use this fees for general operating costs has made the State ineligible for federal stimulus funding in this program area.

Regarding a question on local government funding for the system, Mr. Allen explained that the counties are putting fees on land lines and cell phones and using these fees as the basis to bond for this major capital improvement projects. It was noted that these fees require approval by the State legislative and that recently Onondaga County received approval to apply these charges. Mr. Bottar commented that it might be beneficial to bring the entire CNY State legislative delegation together to consider similar request from other counties.

Responding to a question regarding the type of subscribers/radios – users of the emergency communication system, Mr. Allen noted the 2,100 subscribers/radios in operation in Oswego County including police, fire, EMS services, and ambulance service. SUNY Oswego has subscribers/radios but the County system is not their primary communication source. Mr. Allen noted most counties would welcome more subscribers.

A question was asked regarding an opportunity to have broadband piggyback on the new systems being developed in each county. Mr. Allen noted plans have been presented to use federal funds to connect 911 centers together with broadband service. As part of this effort, it was noted that Motorola agreed to do a small demonstration project to expand public broadband in rural areas in Madison County. Regarding this issue, it was noted that the Consortium is considering broadband service to improve public safety service in each county and that such a system would not be available for general public use.

Regarding the Consortium's process for applying for funds, Mr. Allen said they have applied both independently and as consortium. Mr. Bottar offered that the CNY RPDB, as a regional entity, could be an eligible applicant on behalf of the Consortium. Mr. Allen said the Consortium might be interested in forging a relationship with the CNY RPDB to improve their prospects for securing federal and state funds.

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

David Bottar highlighted some funding announcements:

- The Restore NY grant was approved for the Village of Pulaski for \$817,000 to rehabilitate three key buildings. This grant is similar to the \$700,000 the RPDB assisted the Village of Phoenix receive last year. Jeanie Gleisner is managing this project.
- The EPA approved a Green Infrastructure grant to the CNY RPDB for \$237,500 to identify green infrastructure practices to reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality. Kathy Bertuch is project manager.
- The EPA approved a Climate Showcase Communities Program grant to the CNY RPDB for \$499,880 to help municipalities complete energy efficiency projects in their communities. Chris Carrick is project manager.
- The USDA approved an RBEG grant to the CNY RPDB for \$95,000 to purchase three met towers that will then be loaned to land owners to make measurements to get wind energy data for future purchase of a wind turbine. Chris Carrick is project manager.

Mr. Bottar noted that the merger between the two non-project corporations currently administering the CNY Enterprise Development Loan Fund - COMCO Development Corporation and the Central New York Enterprise Development Corporation, should be completed by the end of December 2009.

David Bottar also noted that he has initiated discussions with ECC Technologies, the consultant who completed a regional telecommunications inventory of the region for the agency in 2003, regarding making application for federal stimulus funding for a major broadband initiative in Central New York.

Mr. Bottar also commented on the recent press announcement regarding the grand opening of the new Greek Peak Hotel Resort and Water Park, which is scheduled to open in early December 2009. Mr. Bottar reminder members that the CNY RPDB held a board meeting to discuss this \$44 million project at Greek Peak in the Cortland County Town of Virgil in August 2007.

Dan Dineen commented on a major 45 tower wind farm project that is currently under investigation in Cortland County. Mr. Dineen noted this project is being sponsored by TCI Renewables out of Montreal, Canada and involves potential sites in four towns and possible use of land adjacent to the county landfill.

Mike Treadwell commented on a \$13 million expansion to the Thermal manufacturing plant in the Oswego County Town of Richland that will create fifty new jobs. It was noted that this project is being financed with IDA tax exempt bonds and a 5 year \$1.5 million loan from Empire State Development. Mr. Treadwell thanked Anthony Kolinski with ESDC for his help in securing funds for this project.

Mr. Bottar noted that the next Executive Committee meeting is November 18<sup>th</sup> and the annual Board meeting is December 16<sup>th</sup> at the Doubletree Hotel in Dewitt.

## **5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

At Ms. Rapp's request, a resolution was introduced and seconded to accept a federal stimulus EPA/NYS DEC grant in the amount of \$237,500 for a green infrastructure program in Central New York; the motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Rapp announced that she is appointing the following Board members to serve on the Nominating Committee: Steve Lynch, Linda Hartsock, Elizabeth Moran, Brian Donnelly, and Sean Doyle.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was introduced and seconded to adjourn the meeting; the motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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David Elleman, Secretary