



**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  
James J. Murphy, Jr., Chairman David V. Bottar, Executive Director

**CNY RPDB Meeting**

**June 28, 2017**

**1:00 – 2:30 p.m.**

**126 N. Salina Street  
Syracuse, New York 13202**

(100 Clinton Square Building -Lower Level Conference Room)

**AGENDA**

- |    |   |              |
|----|---|--------------|
| 1. | Call to Order   | James Murphy |
| 2. | Approval of Day's Agenda and<br>Minutes from the April 26, 2017 Meeting | James Murphy |
| 3. | Executive Director's Report   | David Bottar |
| 4. | Old/New Business  | James Murphy |
| 5. | Adjournment   | James Murphy |



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James J. Murphy, Jr., Chairman

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### MINUTES

## Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board Board of Directors Meeting June 28, 2017

### ATTENDANCE

**Board Members:** Cynthia Aikman, Larry Baker, Keith Batman, Joseph DeForest, James Denkenberger, Dan Dineen, Bethaida Gonzalez, Cydney Johnson, Don Jordan, Steve Lynch, Mary Ann Messinger, Peggy Mousaw, Jim Murphy, Roy Reehil, Michael Todd, Michael Treadwell, and David Turner.

**Staff:** Kathleen Bertuch, David Bottar, Chris Carrick, Jeanie Gleisner, Bruce Keplinger, Janet Neumann, Debbie Phillips, Anne Saltman, and Amanda Mazzoni.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

David Bottar called the meeting to order at 1:20 pm at the offices of the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

### 3. MODERNIZE AND RESTRUCTURING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Bottar introduced Dr. Mildred Warner, Professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning at Cornell University. Dr. Warner provided a power point presentation which summarized key findings from several research reports issued by her office in recent years including:

- What Causes Local Fiscal Stress? What can be done about it? - May 2017
- Do Municipalities Share Services with Poorer Neighbors? Factors Explaining Levels of Service Sharing Among Municipalities in NYS – November 2014
- Shared Services in NYS: A Reform that Works – August 2013

In presenting her findings, Dr. Warner noted that while the political narrative is a simple one of too many inefficient local governments, her research finds that one of the key causes of local fiscal distress is State managed policies and actions. In discussing this research, Dr. Warner noted that after the Great Recession in 2008-09, NYS cut aid to localities, pushed down additional expenditure responsibilities to local government, and limited local government's revenue raising powers with the implementation of a tax cap. Dr. Warner indicated her research shows that NYS decentralized more expenditure and service responsibility onto local governments in recent years than any other states, except Nevada.

To help address these issues, Dr. Warner noted that several recommendations were presented in the Local Fiscal Stress report issued in May 2017 including a new state partnership where the state assumes more expenditure responsibility for the services it mandates and allows local governments to generate additional revenue and explore innovative approaches to service delivery. Building on these recommendations, Dr. Warner referenced other studies completed by her program that focused specifically on shared service opportunities and experiences in NYS.

Dr. Warner noted these reports document that shared services is a popular reform that NYS municipalities have been using for decades but more service sharing is still needed. In reviewing these findings, it was noted that larger municipalities exhibit a slightly higher level of inter-municipal service sharing and that fiscal and demographic differences across prospective partners undermine their propensity to share more. Also noted was a tendency for organizations participating in regional associations of local government and with previous sharing experience, to significantly promote government level of service sharing.

To conclude her remarks, Dr. Warner noted that their study findings underscore the important role that state government plays in creating an environment to promote shared services at the local level. As part of this effort, it is recommended that state aid and authorizing legislation be updated to establish an administrative structure to facilitate intermunicipal cooperation. Additional recommendations were presented for differentiated state aid to make higher need and higher cost municipalities more attractive as cooperation partners and for the state to craft meaningful incentives to encourage local governments to participate in regional service delivery associations.

#### **4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:**

Jeanie Gleisner was introduced and provided a summary of a plan the agency has been working on for the past year called the CNY Regional Recreation and Heritage Plan. In discussing this project, Ms. Gleisner noted that work on the plan was funded through a grant from the NYS Department of State's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and involved partnerships with county planning offices and community representatives across the five-county region. Ms. Gleisner noted the draft plan contains detailed mapping and description of 29 touring corridors and 76 revitalization opportunity areas in Central New York. It was noted that the plan is designed to connect the region's heritage with outdoor recreation resources. Members were directed to information where the full plan can be viewed on the agency's website.

Mr. Bottar noted that the plan will be presented for Board member approval at the next meeting scheduled for August 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was also noted that additional funding from the NYS DOS has been secured through Oswego County so that staff can begin work on Phase II of the project, which involves pre-development site planning and design work to support various building renovations,

streetscape improvements, public waterfronts developments, and infrastructure improvements for key projects recommended in the plan.

Mr. Bottar provided a brief summary on the status of the SolarizeCNY – Municipal Solar Procurement project. It was noted that staff and the CNY Solar Advisory Committee has recommended that Abundant Solar from Toronto, Canada be selected as the preferred developer for the regional solar project. It was noted that the next step in the development process is for participating organizations/municipalities to sign a letter of intent with Abundant, for Abundant to complete a detailed pre-development site analysis for all 45 sites incorporated into the project, and for all parties to begin formal negotiations for a power purchase agreement. It was noted that the pre-development work is scheduled to be completed by October 2017 and the executed PPA to be secured by December 2017.

Mr. Bottar continued his remarks by noting that staff is working on the completion of several NYS Consolidated Funding Applications, which are due on July 28, 2017. Applications being prepared include a funding request in partnership with Madison County to update the Oneida Lake Watershed Management Plan, a request in partnership with the Town of Dewitt to continue work on the CNY municipal stormwater mapping project, and an agency request to the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets to assist agriculture businesses with the capital costs to participate in the State’s Certified producers and growers program.

Mr. Bottar directed Members attention to a flyer announcing the 2017 World Canals Conference that will be held in Syracuse, New York from September 24<sup>th</sup> – September 29<sup>th</sup>. Reference was also made to the next Executive Committee meeting which is scheduled for July 29<sup>th</sup> and the next Board meeting set for August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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

Mr. Murphy reported that he has completed a review of the current membership on the Board of Directors of the CNY Enterprise Development Corporation – a non-profit corporation formed by and affiliated with the CNY RPDB, and selected for renewal the one-year terms of office on the board for Mary Ann Messinger, Steve Zabriski, and Joe Russo and selected new members Kathleen Rapp and Linda Hartsock. A motion was introduced and seconded to confirm these selections as presented; the motion was approved unanimously.

## **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,

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Lawrence Baker, Secretary