



Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board
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James J. Murphy, Jr., Chairman David V. Bottar, Executive Director

MINUTES

Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board Annual Meeting November 2, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Cynthia Aikman, Larry Baker, John Becker, Pamela Caraccioli, Joseph DeForest,, Dan Dineen, Bethaida Gonzalez, Scott Ingmire, Don Jordan, Steve Lynch, Mary Ann Messinger, Jim Murphy, Roy Reehil, John Salka; and Morris Sorbello

Staff: Kathleen Bertuch, David Bottar, Chris Carrick, Jeanie Gleisner, Bruce Keplinger, Janet Neumann, Debbie Phillips, Mike Rosanio, Anne Saltman, and Amanda Mazzone; and additional guests

1. CALL TO ORDER

Executive Director David Bottar called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm at the Double Tree Hotel in East Syracuse, New York. Mr. Bottar invited members and guests to participate in a luncheon and noted the business meeting would begin shortly.

2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Bottar began his remarks by thanking everyone in attendance for their support throughout the year and for their participation in the CNY RPDB's annual meeting.

Mr. Bottar referred to a power point presentation and noted some of the agency's major projects and accomplishments this past year including a range of comprehensive planning initiatives, support for various economic development projects, numerous land use and transportation planning studies, administration of an environmental management program, and ongoing administration of a comprehensive energy program. As part of his presentation, Mr. Bottar referenced a slide showing data regarding the region's economic rankings across four major comparative criteria.

Regarding project development work, Mr. Bottar highlighted staff efforts to assist CenterState CEO in submitting a proposal in response to the Amazon HQ2 initiative. It was noted that this proposal included several major elements including a net-zero energy campus concept and plans for the region's unmanned aerial system initiative. Also referenced was a video clip which provided information regarding an innovative transportation technology that was included in the proposal called a HyperLoop.

Mr. Bottar continued his remarks by noting some of the major projects being advanced across the region in 2017. These projects included the Sunoco 1886 Malt House, the NYS Clean Energy Standard for Nuclear Power, the City of Cortland Downtown Revitalization Initiative, plans for the development of the Harriet Tubman National Park in Auburn, renovation of Syracuse Hancock International Airport, the merger of the Onondaga County Water Authority and the Metropolitan Water Board, and the submission of the National Maritime Heritage Sanctuary Nomination for Eastern Lake Ontario.

As part of the region's comprehensive planning efforts, Mr. Bottar noted several projects that have been advanced or completed by the agency. These initiatives include Icon Tower, the CNY Bright Lights Municipal LED Lighting program, the CNY municipal solar procurement project, Walkable Owasco, North Syracuse Complete Street Plan, and assistance in retaining federal earmark funds for the Onondaga-Syracuse Loop-the-Lake trail.

3. KEYNOTE SPEAKER PRESENTATION

At the conclusion of his remarks, Mr. Bottar introduced the keynote speaker, Andrew Zepp, Executive Director of the Finger Lakes Land Trust.

Mr. Zepp began his presentation by referencing a power point presentation which provided information regarding the FLLT. Mr. Zepp noted that the FLLT is a nonprofit conservation organization that works across a 12-county region in Central New York to permanently protect the region's scenic farmlands and treasured natural areas. As part of this effort, Mr. Zepp noted the FLLT has protected nearly 20,000 acres of land and they currently own and manage more than 35 conservation areas that are open to the public for recreation and they hold more than 120 conservation easements on protected lands that remain in private ownership and on local tax rolls.

Mr. Zepp continued his remarks by referencing a new initiative being advanced by the FLLT that is presented in a comprehensive brochure recently published by the organization titled "Lakes, Farms, & Forests Forever – Ten Conservation Strategies for the Finger Lakes Region". Mr. Zepp reviewed elements of this conservation initiative that consist of ten major strategies to invest \$100 million over the course of the next decade in the Finger Lakes region. Major priorities highlighted in the plan include buffering streams and create new wetlands, save undeveloped shoreline, protect Syracuse drinking water supply, save threatened farms and wineries, protect scenic vistas and designated byways, maintain the region's rural character, create the Canandaigua Skyline Trail, complete Cayuga Lake's Emerald Necklace, create the Chemung River Greenbelt, and save the south end of Skaneateles Lake.

Mr. Zepp concluded his remarks by noting that the FLLT is anxious to work with organizations like the CNY RPDB to implement the Forever Plan.

4. RHEA ECKEL CLARK CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Chairman James Murphy came to the podium to present the CNY RPDB's annual Rhea Eckel Clark Citizenship Award to Rhea Jezer. Mr. Murphy noted that Ms. Jezer has been an active community representative in the Central New York area for many years and noted her work as an advocate for environmental issues in the region, an Adjunct Associate Professor at SUNY ESF, and as the founder and director of the Symposium on Energy for the 21st Century. Ms. Jezer offered her thanks for the award and provided a brief summary on the upcoming Symposium on Energy which will be held on April 20th.

5. OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Larry Baker, Secretary