



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
April 28, 2021**

ATTENDANCE

Dan Dineen, Julie Abbott-Kenan, Mary Ann Messinger, Keith Batman, Pamela D Caraccioli, Linda Dickerson Hartsock, Gregg Diebold, Martin E Voss, Stephen F. Lynch, Kevin Fitch, Paul Heider, Kipp Hicks, Scott Ingmire, Daniel Kwasnowski, Andy Lukasiewicz, Cydney M. Johnson, Eric Mulvihill, Christopher Newell, Paul Pinckney, and David R. Turner,

Guest: Joe Starks – ECC, Mark Scimone

Staff: Tom Bardenett, Kathleen Bertuch, David Bottar, Chris Carrick, Jean Gleisner, Bruce Keplinger, Amanda Mazzoni, Patricia Wortley

1. CALL TO ORDER

Paul Pinckney called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and noted the meeting was being conducted as a virtual zoom meeting only.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA AND MINUTES

A motion was introduced and seconded to accept the agenda as presented and the minutes from the meeting on February 28, 2021; the motion was approved unanimously.

3. CNY Regional Broadband Internet Access Study

Joe Starks, President and CEO of ECC Technologies was introduced and asked to provide a presentation regarding the regional broadband study that ECC Technologies is conducting for the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board.

Mr. Starks began his presentation by referencing a power point presentation which was available for members to review during his remarks. Mr. Starks began his presentation by noting that ECC Technologies was formed over 25 years ago in Rochester, New York and has been engaged in the planning, engineering design, and deployment of over \$2.5 billion in broadband networks in Upstate New York, North Carolina, and other parts of the country.

Mr. Starks noted that the CNY regional broadband study is needed because State and federal efforts along with private sector companies have been unable to close all of the broadband service gaps that still exist in Upstate New York. It was noted the purpose of the study is to identify where those service gaps exist in Central New York and to develop a plan to eliminate the gaps in service. Mr. Starks noted the study is broken up into several components including a physical inventory of the broadband infrastructure that currently exist in each county. Reference was made to several preliminary maps that ECC has prepared showing the results of the inventory for each county. Mr. Starks went on to note the next steps in the process are to conduct a public survey campaign to assess issues regarding broadband adoption and use in Central New York at the individual home and small business location throughout the region. It was noted that the results of the physical inventory and survey are put into a GIS database and used to model and develop plans to address the broadband issues in each county.

Mr. Starks concluded his remarks and addressed numerous questions and comments from members. Key issues addressed broadband technology options in the 21st century, public-private partnerships that are being used successfully across the country to address broadband issues, and available public funding resources at the federal and State level.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Bottar noted that agency staff is fully engaged in a range of program activities across the region. Regarding the broadband study, Mr. Bottar noted the agency will be releasing the public survey on its website on April 30th in partnership with its member counties and community organizations across the region. Mr. Bottar noted that board members will be receiving information about the campaign and public survey directly from the agency and asked that members use their community contacts to encourage residents and businesses to complete the survey.

Mr. Bottar continued his remarks by noting a board meeting was being added to the schedule for May 26th to hear a presentation from the National Parks Service regarding a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area in Upstate New York. Also noted was the regularly scheduled board meeting which is set for June. 23rd.

7. 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,

L. Michael Treadwell, Secretary/Treasurer