



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 February 25, 2026

#### ATTENDANCE

Board members: Pamela D. Caraccioli, Reed Cleland, Elaine Denton, Edward Gilson, Kipp Hicks, Trisha Hiemstra, William McGovern, Mary Messinger, Paul W. Pinckney, Tim Stahl, Scott Steve, Kari Terwilliger, Melanie L. Vilardi, Martin E. Voss, Troy W. Waffner, Nicole Watts, Austin Wheelock, and Stephen Zabriskie.

Staff: Michael Boccuzzi, David Bottar, Erica Herman, Bruce Keplinger, Amanda Mazzoni, Aaron McKeon, Aaron Otis, Lindsay Speer, Isabel Willson. Guest: Julie Fleck

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Paul Pinckney 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. Pinckney 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 October 29, 2025 meeting as presented; the motion was approved unanimously.

#### 3. BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Pinckney directed members' attention to a schedule that listed the Board membership roster for 2026. In noting this document, several new Board members were referenced including William McGovern, Melanie Vilardi, Elaine Denton, and Nicole Watts.

#### **4. NOMINATING REPORT**

The next item discussed on the agenda was a Nominating Report presented by Mr. Bottar. Mr. Bottar referenced a memorandum with the following members nominated to serve as officers of the CNY RPDB for 2026:

Paul Pinckney, Cayuga County, Chairman  
Patrick Clune, Cortland County  
Mary A. Messinger, Madison County, Secretary/Treasurer  
Cydney Johnson, Onondaga County  
Pamela Caraccioli, Oswego County

Following a review, a motion was introduced and seconded to accept the Nominating Report as presented with the slate of officers for the CNY RPDB for 2026; the motion was approved unanimously.

#### **5. STAFF PLAN AND WORK PROGRAM FOR 2026:**

Mr. Bottar provided a summary of the planned economic development program. It was noted the program will continue to consist of several key elements including project development, regional marketing and business recruitment, small business financing, management of the CNY real estate site profile database, and completing the annual update of the CNY Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Mr. Bottar noted the program will also include focused attention on the major Micron semiconductor manufacturing plant project planned to be constructed in the region starting in January 2026. Mr. Bottar noted the work program will no longer include implementation of the NYS ConnectAll (CAO) Municipal Infrastructure Program broadband grant of \$26.1 million that was awarded to the agency on 2/16/25. Mr. Bottar indicated this initiative was terminated by the CAO in November 2025 over concerns that the project could not be completed by the contract deadline of December 31, 2026. Mr. Bottar noted that agency objected to the CAO decision to terminate the grant but was not successful in appealing this decision.

Amanda Mazzoni was introduced and provided a summary of planned activities in the agency's energy program for 2026. Ms. Mazzoni noted that staff will continue to support municipalities in completing clean energy actions through NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities program, a program that provides technical assistance and grant funds to municipalities who pursue clean energy actions. She noted that NYSERDA plans to relaunch this program in the spring with additional funding opportunities, and that NYSERDA is currently seeking feedback through RFI 6113 regarding the design of the planned program.

Ms. Mazzoni mentioned that municipalities will also continue to be supported through the CNY municipal solar procurement initiative in partnership with Abundant Solar Energy, and that support will be provided to remaining communities interested in converting streetlights to LEDs. She also noted resources available to assist municipalities in preparing for battery storage projects, as well as an exciting pilot project for a district thermal energy network in the Syracuse Lakefront district that CNY RPDB staff helped facilitate through a feasibility study. Finally, Ms. Mazzoni mentioned

continued support with DEC's Climate Smart Communities program before handing it over to Lindsay Speer to further discuss the Regional Clean Energy Hub Program, EnergySmart CNY.

Aaron McKeon was introduced and provided a summary of the environmental program for 2026. Mr. McKeon noted the program will consist of several components including watershed planning, grants assistance and management, stormwater and floodplain management, education, outreach, and training. Mr. McKeon noted that the agency will focus work on several key projects including preparation of the Oneida Lake EPA 9-Element Watershed Management Plan, an update to the Otisco Lake Watershed Management Plan, and implementing the Skaneateles Lake Watershed Plan that was approved in 2025.

Additionally, Mr. McKeon noted that, as the coordinator of the Central New York Stormwater Coalition, the CNY RPDB is in the middle of a project to map the region's stormwater drainage system. The Environmental Program is also once again presenting a workshop series for stormwater engineers, as well as coordinating working group meetings with other water quality staff from across New York.

Michael Boccuzzi was introduced and provided a summary of the agency's Sustainable Communities program 2026 activities. Mr. Boccuzzi noted the agency will be looking to complete several comprehensive plans for communities in CNY in 2026 including the Town/Village of Elbridge, Town/Village of Mexico, Town/Village of Hannibal, Town of Oswego, and the Town of Volney. Mr. Boccuzzi noted that in addition to working with communities to prepare comprehensive plans, the agency will be engaged in various initiatives to assist communities to secure grants implement various community sustainability and revitalization projects. These efforts include work led by Ms. Mazzoni through the Climate Smart Communities CSC Grant program to secure funding to funds several sidewalk improvement projects in communities across the region along with the construction of a new highway garage for the Town of Georgetown.

Mr. Boccuzzi provided information on the Central New York Community Forestry initiative, which is a \$9m US Forest Service grant to support the planting of 10,000 trees throughout CNY, tree canopy management, and workforce development. Finally, Mr. Boccuzzi provided information regarding a new initiative for the agency to serve a technical assistance coordinator in Central New York for the federal Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) program.

Mr. Bottar concluded the staff presentations regarding the agency's planned work program for 2026 by noting efforts to continue management of a comprehensive transportation planning program. Mr. Bottar also noted the agency's ongoing grants assistance work for communities across Central New York and referenced resources that remain available through the agency's communication and research programs to support planning efforts throughout the five-county region.

At the conclusion of the staff presentation, members and staff engaged in a productive discussion on a range of issues regarding the work program. Following further discussion, a motion was introduced and seconded to accept the staff and work program for 2026 as presented by staff; the motion was approved unanimously.

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

Mr. Bottar began his report by referencing a schedule dated 2/18/26, which presented a proposed operating budget for the agency for 2026. In presenting the budget, Mr. Bottar noted that revenues for the year are projected to total \$5,483,3557 (CNY RPDB Fund - \$3,533,357; SMTC Fund - \$1,1,950,000), expenses are projected to equal \$5,451,270 (CNY RPDB Fund - \$3,501,270; SMTC Fund - \$1,950,000) with an operating balance of \$32,087. Mr. Bottar noted this budget will support 23 full-time staff in 2026 and several major consultant studies and pass-through contracts to other organizations.

Following a review, a motion was introduced and seconded to approve the CNY RPDB 2026 budget as presented; the motion was approved unanimously.

The next item discussed on the agenda was a memorandum regarding the Chair's recommendation to appoint staff members David Bottar and Aaron McKeon to the SMTC Policy and Planning Committee, respectively. In addition, the Chair recommended appointments to the CNY Enterprise Development Corporation including Paul Pinckney, Patrick Clune, Mary Ann Messinger, Cydney Johnson, and Pamela Caraccioli. Following a review of this information, a motion was introduced and seconded acknowledging and confirming the appointments as presented; the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Bottar continued his remarks by referencing a schedule regarding the board and executive committee meeting schedule for 2026. Members directed staff to proceed with this schedule as presented.

## **7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Pinckney noted there was no 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,

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David Bottar, Executive Director