

**MADISON COUNTY PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Meeting Agenda - Wednesday, May 29, 2024

Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 11:01 am by Supervisor Joe Wicks.

Attendance: Cindy Edick, Mark Scimone, Scott Ingmire, Joe Wicks, Ronda Winn, Dave Jones, Candy Morgan, Emily Burns, Ryan Chaires, Melissa Felton, Trey Gates, Sam Field, Kaytlynn Lynch, Jocelynn Gavitt, Kyle Reger, Dana Krueger, Jamie Kowalczyk, Larkin Podsiedlik, Anna Hardiman, Ellen Bowe, Jim Cunningham, Loren Corbin, Mary Cavanaugh, John Pinard.

Zoom Attendance: Wendy Marsh from Hancock Estebrook, Melissa During, Peggy LeClair.

Approval of Minutes

May 1st Meeting Minutes Reviewed and Approved.

1. May 1st Minutes

Sales Tax Update - Cindy Edick

Cindy reported following review of 2024 first quarter as compared to 2023's first quarter the County is up 0.5% about 1.9% ahead overall.

1. Sales Tax Thru May 2024

Real Property Update - Ryan Chaires

Ryan Chaires reports the department is currently trying to reach out to property owners that are delinquent and help them get back on track. They're also working with the payment company to update foreclosure letters in order to comply with new laws. This year's auction will occur this September, but currently there is no exact timeline.

Melissa stated she attended a County Attorney's meeting last week to review the new foreclosure legislation but that the language used is hard to grasp and is still being deciphered. She continued to say they're working through updating the process as a whole and that the biggest questions are about the excess monies after the sale of the foreclosed properties. Titles from 2021 and 2022 will go to auction this year. Moving forward, the 3-year hold will remain for all other properties.

Career Center Update - Ellen Bowe

Ellen reported:

1. Our Carpenter Union customers are doing great and expected to be completed in July.
2. The next job fair will be held on 06-05-2024 from 11am-2pm at the Town of Sullivan Veterans Memorial Building.

3. We are working with our WIB to apply for the Northern Grant proposal; this covers the workforce and Northern NY; we are applying for assistance for Healthcare. Letter provided by Crouse and have reached out to Oneida Health and Hamilton Hospital as well for support.

4. Hiring for Summer Counselors.

5. Received 90 applications for the Summer Program.

IDA Update - Kipp Hicks

Kipp was unable to attend but sent along his notes with updates for Scott to read:

- Albany Street Holdings is on the agenda to review the SEQRA findings of the Village. A final approving resolution for IDA tax abatement benefits will also be considered.
- Good Nature Brewing Company has new ownership, and they are expected to request a continuation of the PILOT from the previous owners. A formal application is still pending.
- All Seasonings Ingredients has asked the IDA to allow for the approval of additional borrowing capacity to help the company to continue its growth trajectory.
- Still waiting on a copy of the Village of Hamilton's Planning Committee's SEQRA findings. This is needed prior to authorizing an approving resolution to pursue bond funding for Community Memorial Hospital's expansion and growth.
- The Village of Canastota is considering a CDBG to help Canastota Dairy with energy efficiency upgrades and new equipment to allow for future growth.

CCE Update - Larkin Podsiedlik/Sarah Rosenthal

Larkin reported for CCE:

Ag & AED

- April Education Hours & Reach: 57 hours of technical assistance and programming for 161 people.
- Upcoming courses cover soil, sweet corn, irrigation, and more. The CNY Regional Team will be holding several local courses, including another round of fecal analysis. There are also two active surveys recruiting input on cash rent and custom harvest rates to inform research and best practices.
- Recent Technical Assistance: The most common technical assistance requests this month included following up with farmers around the regional late blight outbreak (no cases reported outside the affected farm but now is likely to be a high-risk time for spread to potatoes), zoning questions and issues around farm stands in multiple municipalities, disease and soil testing support on multiple specialty crops, and irrigation installation questions.
- Heavily focused on marketing, including finalizing the Open Farm Day lineup and starting outreach. Our goal is to extend Open Farm Day into a year-round approach connecting consumers and farmers with seasonal events and farmers' markets.

- Sarah Rosenthal is also starting to meet with municipal planning boards to answer questions around how towns can better support ag producers. She can come to any town meetings to discuss agriculture and food systems.
- We are working with CCE Oneida on an Amish produce auction in Deansboro, right on the border between Madison & Oneida Counties.

Environment & Gardening

- Anna Hardiman, Environment & Nature Educator, started last week. Her goal is to execute the environment-focused parts of our Strategic Plan for youth, adults, and landowners. This includes supporting technical assistance for non-farming land and forest questions as well as providing youth, adult, and family outdoor education opportunities.
- Master Gardeners answered 10 gardening inquiries in April.
- Presented a talk on Native Plants & Pollinators at the New Woodstock Library with 15 people attending and many questions and interest in more programming.

4-H Youth Development

- 4-H held 16 workshops in April, including Dairy in the Classroom in Canastota, Brookfield, DeRuyter, Chittenango, Morrisville, and Stockbridge.
- We had 3 youth take the Tractor Safety class this spring. This is an important certificate so that youth can work on farms and operate machinery safely.
- 4-H staff are presenting at the National Ag In the Classroom conference in June using a workshop they developed about lavender in partnership with Monica Cody from Farmstead in 1868.

Tourism Update - Kaytlynn Lynch

Kaytlynn reported for Madison County Tourism:

- Launching tomorrow a brand-new ice cream trail for the summer in partnership with CCE, starting in Bouckville with the Cobblestone Trading Company. Currently, there are about 10 businesses signed up to participate so far with hopes of more. Featuring one business each week highlighting locations that align with annual events when possible. For instance, starting with Cobblestone Trading Company because this weekend is also the June Antique Weekend Show in Bouckville.
- Excited to begin work with local food and travel writer, Dani Benjamin, trying to increase awareness of events throughout the county. Dani is considered a micro influencer in our area, her handle is @wandercuse.
- Coming up on June 15th is the Old Erie Canal Boat Float n' Folk Fest at the Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum. Partnering with Chittenango Landing to do a ticket giveaway, 10 tickets total for 3 lucky winners. The social media

contest will be announced on June 3rd, closing on June 7th.

- Oz-Stravaganza is this weekend in Chittenango.
- June 1st, the Oneida Community Mansion House will host its Annual Car Show.
- June 6th-9th the International Boxing Hall of Fame will celebrate their 35th anniversary. Visit ibhof.com for a full schedule of events and don't miss the Parade of Champions on Sunday, June 9, at noon
- June 7th Hamilton Village hosts their First Fridays: many businesses will be open late, there are special sales, live music, family-friendly activities and more!
- June 8th and 9th the 13th Annual CNY Fiber Arts Festival in Bouckville.
- June 15th Cazenovia Pride Fest 2024. Parade at 11:30am with a festival to follow and an after party at Meier's Creek from 4-9 p.m.
- Also on June 15th is the Summer Solstice Bonfire & Food Truck Rodeo at Critz Farms.
- Starting a new phased project with Black Cub to help capture more video and photo assets to drive increased awareness and visitation to Madison County. Integrating new content gathering with a focus on sports and recreation in the next few months.

PCD/HUB Update - Dana Krueger/Jocelyn Gavitt

Jocelyn first reports that Madison County and PCD partnered to apply for the CDBG Microenterprise Grant for local small businesses, being awarded \$200,000. NYS has identified the projects it will move forward with as part of Hamilton's NY Forward Grant, 20 Utica Street is one of the projects. The PCD also secured funding from ESD to assist with that project and the building has just begun construction.

Dana started off by saying that on May 23rd she helped host, in collaboration with WISE, a Fireside Chat at the Brewster Inn. The event was a huge success with over 40 attendees – women who currently own businesses and women who want to start businesses. The Rural Equity Group met and did some strategic planning for the next year. Continuing work on creating public summits, offering two tracks-- one for business startups, the other for current business owners. Also continuing to offer the Roadshow/networking events featuring focused topics hosted at fun Madison County locations. The current contract with WISE ends in June, therefore looking into possible funding sources to extend that contract.

BUY Madison - Sam Field

Sam reports on continued efforts to build the Madison County website. The idea is to make the website a "one-stop shop" for county business information and events. Collaborating with CCE and PCD/HUB and WISE to make those updates.

Planning Update - Scott Ingmire

Currently, there are no planning updates. Scott will discuss the resolutions individually.

MCPLUS - Update

Mark reports, unfortunately, work has kind of stalled at present, but he has hopes of the

NY Grant coming. They asked for additional information to be submitted for the recent application. The grant, if awarded would put \$28 million towards the Re-Connect Broadband project, with hopes of completion by 2026.

Resolutions

1. Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a grant agreement with the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation.

Environmental Facilities Corporation. Septic System update grant, NYS approached the county with the opportunity to provide funding for the outskirts of Canastota and Cazenovia Lake watershed areas. Funds will total up to \$10,000 for updates to be completed.

2. Authorizing Chairman to sign an agreement for a New York State Community Development Block Grant for a Madison County Microenterprise Program.

Community Development Block Grant for a Madison County Microenterprise Program. \$200,000 grant received by PCD/HUB.

3. Authorizing a MOU with the Madison County Chapter of Trout Unlimited for a trout habitat improvement project on Chittenango Creek.

Trout habitat improvement project on Chittenango Creek. \$16,000 grant to Trout Unlimited

4. Authorizing a MOU with the Village of Cazenovia for the Cazenovia Lake Back Flow Project

\$25,000 for the project granted by the state.

5. Authorizing a contract with Madison-Oneida BOCES for the 2024 Summer Youth Employment Program

100% funded by TANIF giving the program about \$78,000 for the year.

6. Authorizing the Chairman to sign a MOU with the local Workforce Development Board of Herkimer, Madison & Oneida Counties

Continued collaboration with Herkimer, Oneida, and Madison counties.

Other Committee Business

1. Town of Eaton CFA Grant - Joe Wicks

Joe Wicks discussed the Eaton Town Park CFA grant obtained by his predecessor, Cliff Moses. This is an ongoing but very slow project. Currently looking to Kipp at the IDA for some assistance finding more funding for the project. Although the total grant is \$495,000 more is needed to complete the project, therefore could end up having to ask the committee for about \$100,000.

Next Meeting

1. June 26, 2024

Preferred Agenda

Adjourn

Joe adjourned the meeting at 11:46am.