

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

Meeting Agenda - Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Call Meeting to Order

The Board convened at 11:02 a.m. in the Supervisors Chambers, second floor, County Office Building, Wampsville, NY. All Supervisors were present except for Eve Ann Schwartz, John Pinard and Dave Jones.

Attendees: Joe Wicks, Mark Scimone, Cindy Edick, Jenny Keville, Sam Field, Mary Cavanaugh, Scott Ingmire, Loren Corbin, Thomas DaViau, Kipp Hicks, Kyle Reger, MaryEllen Sheehan, Jocelyn Gavitt, Hannah Reece, Ellen Bowe, Candy Morgan, Jamie Kowalczyk, Melissa Felton, Jim Cunningham.

Approval of Minutes

On motion by Supervisor Reger, seconded by Supervisor Cunningham, the motion was made to Approve. The motion was Passed.

1. March 21, 2025 Minutes

Sales Tax Update - Cindy Edick

Cindy reported with the sales tax update sharing news of a really good 1st quarter this year. It was the highest 1st quarter ever recorded for the county. Compared to 2024, the county is ahead \$746,000 or about 8%.

1. Sales Tax Report

Real Property Update - Ryan Chaires

Ryan was not in attendance today, he is busy working on collecting and settling unpaid taxes. Cindy reported they are continue to look for an appropriate software to best navigate the laws and regulations surrounding occupancy tax and short term rental properties.

Career Center Update - Ellen Bowe

Ellen was happy to report today for the Career Center, the next Job Fair will be held in Cazenovia on 05.01.2025.

She will be presenting to the City of Oneida on 05.06.2025 about the Working Solutions department and all that they have to offer.

There is no state budget for summer program as of yet, they are trying to work on plans but are unable to make anything final until the budget comes through.

An RFP has been requested by 04.25.2025 in time for the May Board meeting for the educational piece, typically O

Currently, they're being advised we will need to spend 50%, not 30% next year as expected. This will require difficult decisions to be made.

IDA Update - Kipp Hicks

Kipp Hicks gave an update on IDA/CRC/GFC:

- CRC closed on the refinance of bonds for Colgate University.
- DCC Ranger hasn't closed on tax breaks yet. If it doesn't, the property will go 100% onto roll section 1.
- Several projects are still active, but waiting movement in downtown Oneida.
 - Lerman Building on Madison.
 - BAF for Asian restaurant, still questionable on eligibility.
 - Hotel Oneida and All Seasoning Ingredients – both parking lot transfers and tax breaks (for hotel).
- Downtown Canastota
 - Still no word on NY Forwards announcements.
 - CDBG for Canastota Dairy is still active – plant updates and equipment upgrades.
- Looking at potential Upstate Revitalization Initiative applications for both Peterboro and ClearPath for Veterans.
- NY Farm Viability Institute – Grown & Certified Infrastructure, Technology, and R&D grant program.
 - 59 applications from CNY and Finger Lakes regions; \$1.7MM available, \$7.5MM requested.
- PARIS reports were completed on time and submitted to the OSC and ABO.
- Audits are completed and have been uploaded to NYS, and shared with Cindy and Emily at the County.
- Loan for the build-out of The Hub in Hamilton has received approvals from the County and CFC.
- The Kendrick might look at fee sharing with the CRC for commercial space build-out.

CCE Update - Larkin Podsiedlik

Larkin was not in attendance today; Mary Ellen Sheehan was here in her place reporting for the CCE. They've been wrapping up a lot of the winter programming and then working ahead on the summer programming. Trying to keep it flexible, based on what's happening in the area and the needs that are shown. Looking back, their regional team has been doing a lot of work. They've been coming in for a lot of calf health, cow health. Working on some field crops and lpm in vegetable workshops, helping folks get their DEC credits this year. On the dairy front, CCE is bringing in a bilingual specialist. She's been doing a lot of like supervisory training programs in Spanish to kind of up the workers on farms so that they're better able to meet the work force demand. She's also been answering a lot of questions about current deportation challenges both from farmers and from farm workers.

CCE has a lot of folks doing gaps training right now. They've been meeting one on one with a lot of farmers. There's training and third party audits you have to have before you can sell products to stores like Tops or any sort of wholesale or box stores. Therefore, it's a challenging hurdle for any farm to get over even some of the bigger farms. So CCE has been giving a lot of helping them get ready to pass those audits and be able to expand markets.

Tourism Update - Kaytlynn Lynch

Kaytlynn is in Canandigua this week attending the New York State Tourism Conference 2025 Annual Meeting she left some notes with Scott.

MCT welcomed over 70 attendees to this year's annual meeting at Meier's Creek.

Kaytlynn wanted to thank Kyle for his participation in the event and for his support of MCT, and to everyone here who attended as well.

MCT will attend the Central NY Legislative Networking Breakfast on May 9th from 9-11 a.m., hosted by Oneida County Tourism and the New York State Hospitality & Tourism Association (NYSHTA) For more information and to register, please visit

<https://web.nyshta.org/atlas/events/1124/details> or email Kaytlynn at kaytlynn@madisontourism.com

On May 10th Kaytlynn will speak briefly at the Region 9 Historian's Meeting at Delphi Falls. Then later the same day from 10a-5p, please join MCT at the Oneida Nation's Spring Festival which will be held at the Shako:wi (sa-go-ee) Cultural Center in Oneida. There will be social dancing, Haudenosaunee arts and crafts for sale, and traditional foods to enjoy as well CNY Travel Trade Update.

Over the past month, the CNY vacation region MCT belongs to has embarked on a new project with Travel Alliance Partnership for the travel trade market, including group sports. This is funded through an EDA grant (or Economic Development Administration federal grant). The 3 main goals of the campaign include: Elevating awareness of the Central New York Region and its assets to travel trade sectors Driving traffic to a new website landing page via visitcentralnewyork.com that speaks to each target market with unified messaging followed by regional content And creating demand for future group bookings by solidifying CNY's reputation as a thriving destination.

PCD/HUB Update - Jocelyn Gavitt/Hannah Reece

Jocelyn started off with a Thank you to Kipp with the IDA and the County for being open to the loan agreement. To offer bridge loans for reimbursable grant projects it's a much needed thing. So thank you for all the cooperation.

We have 13 different members in the PCD all of whom meet together and talk about different things and way to make community improvements.

We have found that as we're publicizing events or trying to really get word out to local businesses so that we can offer them help or let them know the resources available to them. The PCD would like to try a new outreach strategy, with hopes of maybe 20 to 30 people or businesses to treat as a sort of ally in the marketing of information. People use the same trusted sources for information and our goal is to make that information line larger, to reach more community members. After last week's meeting Jocelyn spoke to Mary Cavanaugh, she was able to immediately offer three good names that are upstanding in the community and have a wide reach. So she is asking for all of you to think if you know of one or two people who may be interested in helping spread the word.

Hannah reported for the HUB. The Community Conversations, educational networking series, that the HUB has been putting on. She said they had a great turnout for the Quickbooks event last month.

Some upcoming offerings are: Building Capacity and Community on May 12th from 10a

to 12p at the HUB. Then, June 9th they are offering Mastering Sales Craft with Adam Feck. He mainly teaches business leadership.

Recently Hannah met with Leah Wheeler. She's really passionate about helping rural communities and agricultural families with financial education, there's more to come from her in the future.

The HUB is putting together a Hamilton Art Walk, which they've done in the past. So I'm excited to have the hub be a part of that. They're looking for 12 local artists in Madison County.

An idea Hannah is looking to pursue, is for a Madison County Farmers Market Tour which they hope to collaborate with Madison County Tourism as a sponsor in partnership to help support the plan. It's essentially a videography marketing service, outlining a few different farmers markets. Hannah has a list started of the area markets but if there are any thoughts on others to include that she should feature or have any ideas, please send them her way.

BUY Madison - Sam Field

Sam reported continued work with CCE and The HUB to promote the upcoming Farm Markets. She wants to showcase the various offerings throughout the County. She continues to look for someone to do a County blog for social media outreach. Any ideas are welcome.

MCPLUS - Update

Progress continues with the fiber installation process although it is very slow. The County is applying for another grant, due this Friday, for up to \$10 million. The funds would be used for a Phase 3 to cover the southern most part of the County.

Planning Update - Scott Ingmire

Delphi Falls County Park is very near its finish. The Ribbon Cutting will be held on June 5th at 11 am. Please join us for some light refreshments and the cutting. Final reservation and logistics details are being worked out to be ready for the June 5th opening. An updated webpage as well as information sheet will be ready for viewing at that time as well. We will have the Facilities Department for help with cleaning and maintaining the building and the Sheriff's Office will be staffing an SRO on the weekends. The building will comfortably seat about 60 people.

1. DISCUSSION: Modification of the 2025 Adopted County Budget

Scott discussed about two past CCE grants that we have to clean up. So back in like 2007 and 2008 the county was an applicant on a grant for an agricultural Revolving Loan Fund, CCE put it together but they were not an eligible entity. Madison County was so the county stood in and accepted the hundred thousand dollar grant in order to create a Revolving Loan Fund for CCE for the local agricultural businesses. The funding is completely off of USDA's radar screen and there no longer any reporting. The county has a bank account that this money sits in, and, due to its lack of activity, they keep getting notices saying "If you're not doing something with this account it will be turned over to the State for collections because it's lack of use. So occasionally the county will write a check to keep it active.

So between both grants the county has about \$13,000 in the account. The Finance Department wants to get these things off the books and put them somewhere else that they're going to be used. Ultimately the funds will go into the Ag Revolving Loan Fund. So I think what the proposal would be is that we do something where as the county has to kind of write off both of these to move the Ag Revolving Loan Fund money into our existing Revolving Loan Fund. We'll still treat it separately. We'll still use it for agricultural purposes. But that way it's in an account that's active. I think ultimately this will take a resolution, and I can work with finance on that. But I just wanted to kind of get this before the committee and see if it makes sense. Scott is aware it's a little bit complicated but being from 15-16 years ago this needs to happen. Maybe there's an opportunity to put it to good use.

Resolutions

Other Committee Business

Lee Yardley from the public appeared today to discuss her findings of a Vinca plant growing in the Oxbow Park field. She says it is invasive and should be eradicated before becoming too much of a problem. Currently, the area is small, but it spreads quickly.

Jamie wanted to share the June 14th date for this year's annual Boat Float n Folk Festival on the Old Erie Canal at Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum.

Preferred Agenda

Next Meeting

1. May 28, 2025

Adjourn

On motion by Kyle Reger, seconded by Jim Cunningham, the Board adjourned.