

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

Meeting Agenda - Wednesday, July 29, 2026

Call Meeting to Order

The Board convened at 9:34 a.m. in the Supervisors Chambers, second floor, County Office Building, Wampsville, NY. All Supervisors were present except for Supervisor Krueger.

Attendees: Cindy Edick, Mark Scimone, Joe Wicks, Scott Ingmire, Melissa Felton, Loren Corbin, Candy Morgan, Emily Burns, Pete Walrod, Jamie Kowalczk, Ryan Chaires, Kaytlynn Lynch, Melissa During, Greg Reuter, Ellen Bowe, Kipp Hicks, Tom Daviau, Sam Field, Matt Roberts, Jim Cunningham, Ryan Coe, Joanne Miller, Chelsea Scheuerman, Katie Livingston, Melissa Davis, Jocelyn Gavitt.

Approval of Minutes

1. June 24, 2026 Final Minutes

On motion by Supervisor During, seconded by Supervisor Roberts, the motion was made to Approve. The motion was Passed.

Sales Tax Update - Cindy Edick

1. Sales Tax Report thru July 2026

Cindy was happy to report that these numbers are no different from the July board meeting. We are halfway through the year. That is ahead 800k or about 3.4% from this time last year. The third quarter is typically the highest, with the County in line to hit \$12 million for the first time ever. In addition to sales tax, there is a new occupancy tax policy moving forward, although slower than hoped for. Recent challenges with folks not wanting to increase the rate from 4% to 5% has presented initially but is felt will resolve with time.

Real Property Update - Ryan Chaires

Ryan reported for the Real Property Department that all postings were done over the last 2 weeks for foreclosure properties, only about 50 parcels in non-compliance. Ryan wanted to extend a "Thank you" to the Sheriff's and Facilities teams for help with posting the foreclosed properties. The County will be taking title of the parcels on August 6th if not paid before then. September 14–17 are the proposed auction dates for this year.

Career Center Update - Ellen Bowe

Nascentia Health reached out to share that they are offering free HHA, PCA or CNA training. Currently, the training is offered in downtown Syracuse, which may be a bit distant for our residents. Therefore, Ellen offered to have them use the Career Center space, if they have enough Madison County residents interested.

This year's Summer Youth Program is going well. Offering 14 of the counties 16+ year

old's to continue working at private worksites:

- i. Boat Museum
- ii. Maintenance
- iii. Cazenovia; subsidized housing. Thank you to Kipp for making the connection.
- iv. Sullivan Town and Rec
- v. The Crusty Cup
- vi. Rippleton Wood Products
- vii. YMCA
- viii. Schoolhouse Dog Grooming

There are several kids interested in continuing to work at the various sites.

Ellen recently met with Lakeside Innovative Technologies; Thank you Kipp for sharing their intentions. Funding for training was discussed, Ellen will bring updates as they are known.

3.8% is the current county unemployment rate.

IDA Update - Kipp Hicks

Kipp Hicks gave an update for the IDA:

The update to the Economic Development Strategic Plan is coming along. Camoin & Associates were on the ground in Madison County for two days last week. They held focus groups and launched a survey for residents.

PILOT termination and confirmation were mailed to 120 Barlow Street. Johnson Brothers Lumber billing issues were identified, and the IDA is assisting the Town of Lincoln to make things right.

CRC issued a grant for a commercial kitchen at SUNY Morrisville. Grant funding was a revenue sharing agreement associated with bond financing.

CRC issued a grant to the Village of Cazenovia to assist with an engineering study on stormwater infrastructure, associated with the reuse of the college campus.

A FOIL request was received for commercial scale renewable energy projects – seems like a law firm from western NY is phishing for what other IDAs are doing throughout the state.

Hoffman Wind Farm updated their application for IDA assistance and provided copies of their Host Community Benefits and Road Use Agreements. The IDA will be scheduling public hearings to get comments from taxing engages and the public regarding the requested tax breaks.

Held meetings with Empire State Development regarding existing and future business parks in Madison County. And potential funding through the FAST NY program.

Tour of Canastota Dairy (along with the Mayor and Village Administrator) to look at energy efficiency and production and possible expansion opportunities.

Presented at the NYSEDC on closed college campuses – case studies of Cazenovia College and the College of St. Rose in Albany.

Co-Chairing the Downtown Redevelopment Initiative (DRI) with Mayor Wheeler for the Village of Cazenovia.

CCE Update - Larkin Podsiedlik/Katie Livingston

Katie reported being busy in the office, and Larkin had another meeting to attend today. Open farm day was a success, still hearing the feedback, but overall, there were longer and more meaningful visits. The most popular farm hosted about 1000 visitors. Nature and the environment, 3 educational classes were held to teach folks growing options. The 4H team held 56 hours of programming and engaged 400 kids and hosted a field trip to the Farmstead 1868. Another program took kids for 3 days to Colgate for an Ag education introduction. Ag ventures 250 kids coming in to the Madison County fair, with the kids being able to learn about the possibilities of farming and ag.

Tourism Update - Kaytlynn Lynch

Last week, work was done on creating two video production days with creative partners at Black Cub Productions. Focusing the summer shoot on a trail town experience of bikers along the Old Erie Canal and Empire State Trail in Chittenango, with stops also at the Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum, Serendipity Café, and The North Pole ice cream shop. On Day 2, filming was completed at 3 more locations: boating on DeRuyter Reservoir, camping at Lebanon Reservoir Campground, and a cozy sunset experience at Oweria Winds B&B in Cazenovia. All content produced ties back to several of the travel personalities or key audience personas as developed during our strategic marketing planning process last year. This week, Trove Tourism Development Advisors out of NYC will make their way to Central New York for a summer shoot in 4 of 8 counties in the Central New York vacation region. The local champion interview will be with Cody, Taproom General Manager at Meier's Creek. If time allows, Kaytlynn recommended a few additional stops for the film crew as well in the Cazenovia area. The main goal of the local champions campaign is around the Brew Central brand that they participate in regionally.

The work with social media influencers continues to be successful and proves to be an excellent way to get in front of new audiences. Over the past few months, they've partnered with:

Kwasi Hope, @kwasihope, hidden history traveler, to highlight offerings in Peterboro, Oneida, and more; he's NYC-based

Anthony of @eatlocalnewyork, featured a trip to Ray Brothers; he's based in the Syracuse area.

Chantilly of @chantillysongs, your road trip bestie highlighting hidden gems, boutique travel, shopping, dining & lifestyle, just dropped out yesterday, showcasing a multi-day itinerary mostly in Hamilton and a little in Caz; she's also NYC-based

Visitor Insights

So far this quarter to date, 29% of people in our destination are visitors; this is a 12% increase over this point in the year last summer.

And of that 29% visitor pool, 65% are from out-of-state, reflecting a 16% increase as compared to this time last year.

The top out-of-state visitors are traveling to us from: Richmond, VA, Boston, MA, Washington D.C., Manchester, NH, and Philadelphia, PA

45% of this visitation occurred in Hamilton, followed by 15% in Bridgeport, and 10% in Cazenovia.

PCD/HUB Update - Jocelyn Gavitt/Melissa Davis

Jocelyn reported being busy engaging with all the communities in the county, working in different capacities in each different area. Working on grant plans and helping to form project ideas. Feedback received from the communities shows concern over school district issues and if they're changing, how the community identity is attached to the school and talks about consolidation of the schools. Housing needs are coming up a lot, with housing studies being done now. For the participatory budgeting, people brought ideas such as stabilizing the homes of low-income families, an initiative to help social isolation that could lead to mental health issues, and the need for community centers. Literacy programs are needed to make K-adults stronger readers. There is no centralized place for local communication, lots of info out there but nothing is centrally based.

Melissa shared HUB metrics since January 29th of the economic impact, about 35 hours of business counseling done by Melissa. Please share that the HUB is here to help. No one seems to know about the HUB, therefore Melissa is working on a marketing campaign. The Tri-county committee for Micron is now the quad-county economic steering committee, meeting on the 6-week cycle, with lots of talking and research about the history of Oswego done to get to where they are now in preparing for the incoming Micron. Center state meeting to talk about housing studies and see what is happening across the region. On August 4th at 11am Angelino Assemblyman will be hosted at the HUB to meet with local business owners. Rex shared that a DeRuyter school member recently mentioned the enrollment is down about 25%. These decreases are being seen everywhere. Rex is asking the county to be aware of this ongoing problem.

BUY Madison - Samantha Field

Sam reported for Buy Madison. Progress is moving forward with the support of small businesses recently completing the 2nd taping of Women Farmers. Editing is now being done with hopes of releasing soon. After this, there are two more recordings planned for this month.

Sam toured the lower Madison County area to get some updated photos on hand for upcoming marketing features. The Madison County board office and Tourism will be partnering for the annual photo calendar contest. It will be more history focused, showing the history of their community. Working with Matt Urtz to start collecting stories and first-hand accounts from Sept 11th 2011, this year being the 25th anniversary, they wanted to put out a bigger call from folks to share their story. The county page survey was posted for the Economic Strategic Development Plan.

MCPLUS - Update

Scott reported work is continuing to move along in the field. Residents are calling with their thoughts on the project, people are seeing it and are not exactly happy with the slow progress. All the work is finally coming to fruition, the DOT permits are finally in order, so that more progress in the field can continue. Contractors are hoping to start the testing of the lines in August, with an upcoming ribbon cutting and a press release to showcase the completion. The only real delay on the MIP side. We did get a 6-month extension. 140 miles of fiber was ordered, but the making and shipping of that material has held up some progress.

Planning Update - Scott Ingmire

Scott reported working with the IDA and PCD to write for an ACHIEVE grant. Jamie is working with Canal Corp. and Ben Walsh to find ongoing opportunities. The applications submitted for \$3 million for Lewis Point and the \$1 million for Cazenovia College grant funds should be heard about soon. Lots of grants are being written and ongoing work with the county transit, snowmobiles, and parks. Presenting the board with one resolution regarding ECC, to amend the agreement for MIP, from the \$10 million initial fund with an additional \$2.5 million. This amendment adds the new funds of the \$2.5 million.

Resolutions

1. Authorizing Madison County to Amend an Agreement with ECC Technologies for Network Engineering and Program Oversight for the Implementation of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant

On motion by Supervisor During, seconded by Supervisor Daviau, the motion was made to Approve. The motion was Passed.

Other Committee Business

Preferred Agenda

Next Meeting

1. August 26, 2026

Adjourn

1. Executive Session - Melissa Felton

Melissa Felton asked to enter into Executive Session at 10:30 a.m.