

**Planning, Economic Development,
Environmental and Intergovernmental Affairs
Wednesday, August 23, 2023 @ 11:00 AM
Oxbow Falls Disc Golf Course**

AGENDA

11:00 AM Call Meeting to Order

Approval of Minutes

- July Minutes Approval

Department and Agency Reports

1. Sales Tax Update
2. Real Property Update
3. Career Center Update - Ellen Bowe
4. IDA Update
5. CCE Update
6. Tourism Update
7. Planning Update
8. MCPLUS Update

Resolutions:

1. Authorizing A MOU with the Madison County Chapter of Trout Unlimited for a Trout Habitat Improvement Project on Chittenango Creek
2. Approving a Development Agreement Amendment with Savarino Companies

Other Committee Business

1. Chittenango Trout Unlimited Conservationist Article

Preferred Agenda

Next Meeting:

1. September 27, 2023

Adjourn

**Planning, Economic Development,
Environmental and Intergovernmental Affairs
Wednesday, July 26, 2023 @ 11:00 AM
Chambers**

MINUTES

**11:00 Call Meeting to Order
AM**

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Pinard at 11:04 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Joseph Pinard, Joe Magliocca, Eve Ann Schwartz, Joe Wicks, and Ronda Winn.

Others Present: Becky Marsala, Kristin Guinto, Emily Burns, Jamie Kowalczyk, Candy Morgan, Ryan Chaires, Melissa Felton, Ryan Coe, Larkin Podsiedlik, Scott Flaherty, Kipp Hicks, Scott Ingmire, and Mark Scimone.

Approval of Minutes

- June Minutes Approval

Approval of June Minutes. Motion by Eve Ann Schwartz to Motion.
Second by Joe Magliocca. The motion was Passed.

Department and Agency Reports

1. Sales Tax Update

Cindy Edick reports the 2nd quarter numbers are ahead 1.2 million or about 6.5% from last year. It seems the states estimates are making it hard to predict the quarters. At this time the numbers are of cash in the bank, making this year the 2nd highest in many years past.

2. Real Property Update

Becky Marsala reports the previously stated moratorium is still pending, the bill is at the governors office to be signed. Therefore at this time the department will continue onward in their processes so that when the legislation is passed the county will be prepared to move forward. Currently have 48 parcels, some of these will most likely be paid before making it to auction. Typically the county takes title of these parcels next week or so but due to the pending legislations Melissa Felton thinks it best to wait for now.

3. Career Center Update - Ellen Bowe

Ellen was not in attendance today, Scott gave quick updates: Summer youth is winding down by next week, a few students have placement through the month of August. The drone program is

moving along in progress but nothing big yet.

4. IDA Update

Kipp Hicks reported on IDA activities. The Canastota Business Incubator has been shown to 2 perspective businesses – an agricultural processing business and a tech company. Only one bay is available at the moment, and the other prospect will need to wait for the next available space. Hamilton's NY Forward program has held local planning committee meetings, which will continue through the end of the summer and into the early fall. On the Oneida DRI front, The Oneida (hotel) has presented its site plan and has received tentative approval pending a parking plan. A brewery start-up has toured the Oneida Dispatch building in downtown Oneida. Johnson Brothers Lumber site in Cazenovia is potentially available for sale, and Hicks has toured it twice; once with a manufacturer out of Oneida who is in need of larger space. Queensboro Dairy in Canastota has a new owner as of 7/31/2023 - Lowville Dairy Co-Op. Lastly, Cazenovia College has established a lease agreement for 2-years with the NYS Police, with an estimated student base of 275 recruits and 115 instructors.

5. CCE Update

Larkin reports they are ready for Open Farm Day. The table set up in the lobby downstairs has the Passport books or they can be downloaded digitally.

The county fair went well, lots of the youth activities were very successful.

The Madison Idea Lecture series is working with local universities to develop the program further.

Working towards an updated strategic plan CCE the Vision statement has recently been updated and is reflective of the state guidelines the Mission.

6. Tourism Update

Scott Flaherty reports the statistics sent by the US Travel Association shows a decline of overall tourism spending. NYS Travel Association registered a double digit decrease in travel. Actively working on the marketing website with some new upgrades using funds from the county. Attempting to condense the multiple business listings on their website. Trying to streamline each business listing into single listings. Weddings will be kept separate but everything else will be grouped.

April 8th 2024 at 3:24 pm will commence the next solar eclipse, I Love NY is anticipating higher inbound traffic. Need to start considering what can we do to make people come to this area for the celestial event.

Currently have a lot of video and photos that we are trying to get usage rights for to move forward on more marketing.

Running a few local ads, wants to make 6 seconds videos for social

media posts. Hoping to pair those videos with existing blogs. John Pinard asked about Airbnb taxes, are they collected? Is it good for the community? States locally a lot of zoning issues are coming up as a problem with regard to these types of short term rentals within the communities. Giving notice of upcoming member mixer on September 14th at 6pm more details will follow.

7. Planning Update

Scott Ingmire reports last month we introduced our newest addition now he would like to introduce Nick Sidles to the team. Nick recently graduated, joining the team on July 17th. Finally full staffed again within the department after 18 months, its been a long road but ready to move forward.

The phase I of Delphi Falls park is wrapping up within the next week or so. The park is remaining closed at this time. Next week a meeting will be held with the new constructors to start phase II. The CFA application was completed and submitted today, with hopes of \$750,000 to be awarded within the next 12-18 months. Jamie also submitted CFA for pedestrian bridge for Canastota pocket neighborhood project. Working with Bill Zupan to work towards more funds secured through Assembly Stirpe office.

8. MCPLUS Update

John reports the huts are supposed to be put into place by September maybe October. Currently the pads are being completed. One of the resolutions today is for the electrical contractor to complete their work at the sites. Hoping to continue moving along with good progress with this project.

Resolutions:

1. Authorization to Submit a Grant Application to the New York State Office of Community Renewal for Community Development Block Grant Funding

Motion by Eve Ann Shwartz to Motion. Second by Joe Wicks. The motion was Passed.

2. Authorizing the Chairman to Award Bid 23-25 and Enter into an Agreement with BH Electric Company

Motion by Eve Ann Shwartz to Motion. Second by Joe Wicks. The motion was Passed.

3. Approving a MOU with the Cazenovia Lake Association

Motion by Eve Ann Shwartz to Motion. Second by Joe Wicks. The motion was Passed.

Other Committee Business

Scott Ingmire asked about upcoming August meeting, has been in years past a picnic at one of the county parks, would the committee like to continue this tradition? Also this year asking to have the meeting catered. Members agreed the picnic and catering are desired for August 23 meeting.

Preferred Agenda

Next Meeting:

1. August 23, 2023 11:00 a.m.

Adjourn

**Madison County
Sales Tax Distributions
Actual Cash Receipts**

<u>Distribution Date</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Increase/ (Decrease)</u>	<u>%</u>
February 7	\$2,135,685	\$2,518,274	\$382,589	17.91%
February 13	509,931	532,314	22,383	4.39%
March 7	1,909,780	2,194,836	285,056	14.93%
March 13	367,632	435,145	67,513	18.36%
April 7	3,295,431	2,902,658	(392,773)	(11.92)%
April 13	608,178	667,201	59,023	9.70%
May 5	2,449,667	2,457,377	7,710	0.31%
May 15	771,217	553,273	(217,944)	(28.26)%
June 7	2,640,072	2,466,965	(173,107)	(6.56)%
June 13	529,437	488,160	(41,277)	(7.80)%
June 30	1,149,550	1,974,749	825,199	71.78%
July 3	1,365,707	1,519,973	154,266	11.30%
July 13	876,582	1,100,504	223,922	25.54%
August 7	2,579,110	2,694,993	115,883	4.49%
August 13	544,741	590,603	45,862	8.42%
Total	<u>\$21,732,720</u>	<u>\$23,097,025</u>	<u>\$1,364,305</u>	<u>6.28%</u>

Notes:

2023 Budget - \$35,000,000

2022 Actual - \$39,218,004

Percent shared with towns & villages - 42%

RESOLUTION NO. ____

**AUTHORIZING A MOU WITH THE MADISON COUNTY CHAPTER OF TROUT
UNLIMITED FOR A TROUT HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ON
CHITTENANGO CREEK**

WHEREAS, Madison County presently contracts with the Finger Lakes Association, Inc. to receive a Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FL-LOWPA) grant from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund; and

WHEREAS, for a number of years, Madison County has used these FL-LOWPA grant funds in conjunction with Trout Unlimited to improve habitat and stream conditions in Chittenango Creek (work which has in the past received recognition in the New York State Conservationist magazine); and

WHEREAS, Madison County will provide \$14,200 of these grant funds to the Madison County Chapter of Trout Unlimited for a habitat improvement project on Chittenango Creek; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Madison County Board of Supervisors authorizes the Chairman to sign a MOU (a copy of which are on file with the Clerk of this Board) with the Madison County Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Dated: September 12, 2023

Joseph J. Pinard, Chairman
Planning, Economic Development,
Environmental and Intergovernmental
Affairs

RESOLUTION NO. ____

**APPROVING A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT AMENDMENT WITH
SAVARINO COMPANIES**

WHEREAS, On October 3, 2018, Madison County was awarded a grant of \$1.5 million towards implementation of a “Reimagine the Canals” pocket neighborhood grant in the Village of Canastota, to be funded by the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and administered by the New York State Canal Corporation (NYSCC); and

WHEREAS, the County has acquired on January 2, 2020 a certain parcel within the Village of Canastota in order to develop the canalside pocket neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the County has issued RFQ 1-20 (the “RFQ”) to solicit qualifications from interested parties regarding the redevelopment of a certain county-owned parcel within the Village of Canastota and formed a Selection Committee to review submittals; and

WHEREAS, the response to RFQ 1-20 Stage II from the team led by Savarino Companies (“Savarino”) demonstrated the team’s experience to achieve the vision for the site; and

WHEREAS, Madison County entered into a Development Agreement with Savarino Companies dated May 10, 2022; and

WHEREAS both parties have mutually agreed to some minor changes to the Agreement due to slight changes in project scope, timing, and financing; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Madison County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes John M. Becker, Chairman of the Board, to amend the Development Agreement with Savarino Companies for the development of a “Pocket Neighborhood” in the Village of Canastota for the ReImagine the Canals project, (a copy of which is on file with the Clerk of this Board).

Dated: September 12, 2023

Joseph J Pinard, Chairman
Planning, Economic Development,
Environmental And Intergovernmental
Affairs Committee



CHITTENANGO CREEK PROJECT—

A bonus for anglers, trout and local landowners

By Briana Foisia and Catherine Flood; DEC photos unless otherwise noted

John Patane walks along the bank of Chittenango Creek on a brisk day. Climbing over rocks, weeds and hills, he points out the water elevation at this point in the creek, less than a mile downstream from the 167-foot drop of Chittenango Falls in the northwestern corner of Madison County.

One month after renovations to the creek were completed, the deep water is noticeable. It flows over and around boulders, increasing the water's oxygen content and providing better habitat for the trout that live here. A smile spreads across John's face as he talks about the trout that will now be able to hide from predators and find resting spots. An avid fly fisherman who grew up in nearby Canastota, he has high hopes for the growing trout population in Chittenango Creek.

Patane also has great satisfaction knowing that homeowners along the creek can now sleep in peace because their properties are no longer at risk from damage caused by erosion. Prior to the renovations, a few landowners were losing driveways—and

money—each time rising water levels swelled the creek beyond its narrow course.

It was a few years back when Patane and the Madison County Chapter 680 of Trout Unlimited pushed to designate this stretch of the creek as a catch-and-release area. For that to happen, however, fishing regulations had to be changed, and those changes had to be adopted and approved by DEC. Once the program was approved, John wanted to see about conducting substantial stream improvement in that area.

“Chittenango Creek is a high-quality trout stream,” Patane says. “It has cool water because many small cold springs feed the main channel, and the stream is very well-shaded in most areas, which also keeps the water cool. The cooler the water, the more oxygen it can hold and the greater potential for trout.” He adds that a large variety of mayflies hatch from the stream, which helps provide the nourishment trout need to grow large.



Restoration projects like this one lead to better habitat and better fishing.

Patane notes that the section chosen for improvements already had permanent fishing rights. Years ago, landowners sold permanent easements to New York State, allowing the public to fish along the stream.

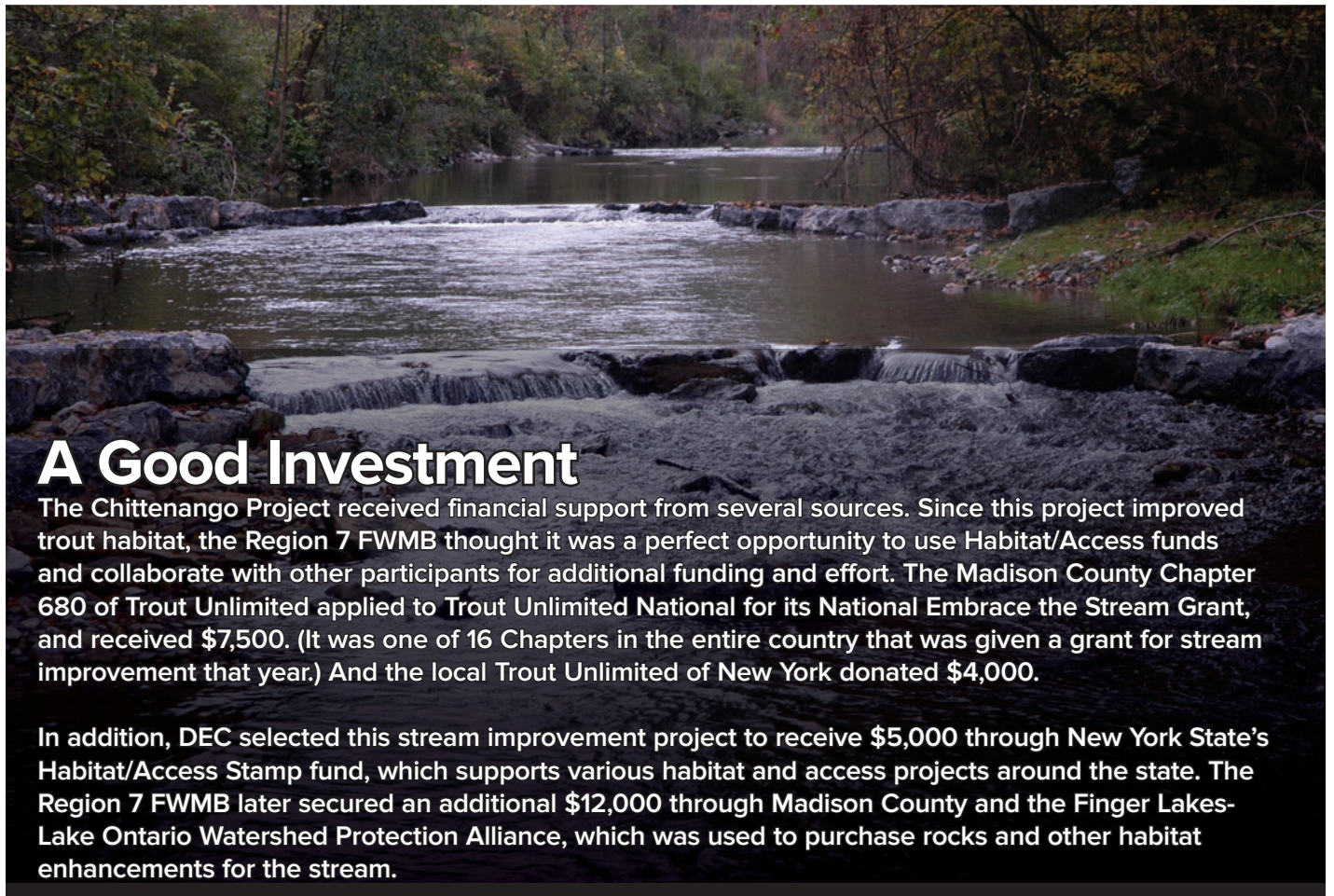
As we walk farther downstream, he points out the areas where boulders were put in to guide the water flow away from the banks. By redirecting the water, he explains, erosion will be less likely to occur and the risk of financial loss will diminish.

Since trout need cool water and high oxygen levels to survive, all these improvements will lead to better trout habitat.

To get the ball rolling for stream improvement work, Patane contacted Jim Petreszyn, the Madison County Associate Planner and representative to the DEC's Region 7 Fish and Wildlife Management Board (FWMB); Carl Schwartz, the project designer and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's northeast regional conservationist for the Cortland office; and Dave Lemon, DEC's Region 7 fisheries manager. Fortunately, the fishery experts agreed with him.

Carl Schwartz said, "It's important to get a more stabilized river system because when a stream is unstable, the sediment deposits into the middle of the channel. And with nowhere else to go, the water spreads to the sides and cuts into the banks."

Schwartz notes that at some point in the distant past, Chittenango Creek became "channelized"; its path became closer to a straight line. When that occurs, a stream's water flow becomes faster and erosion increases, reducing the ability of these sections to support trout.



A Good Investment

The Chittenango Project received financial support from several sources. Since this project improved trout habitat, the Region 7 FWMB thought it was a perfect opportunity to use Habitat/Access funds and collaborate with other participants for additional funding and effort. The Madison County Chapter 680 of Trout Unlimited applied to Trout Unlimited National for its National Embrace the Stream Grant, and received \$7,500. (It was one of 16 Chapters in the entire country that was given a grant for stream improvement that year.) And the local Trout Unlimited of New York donated \$4,000.

In addition, DEC selected this stream improvement project to receive \$5,000 through New York State's Habitat/Access Stamp fund, which supports various habitat and access projects around the state. The Region 7 FWMB later secured an additional \$12,000 through Madison County and the Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance, which was used to purchase rocks and other habitat enhancements for the stream.



Stream improvement involved placing boulders (above) and root wads (left) to combat stream bank erosion (bottom) and improve trout habitat. NYSDOT partnered with DEC and provided many of the trees used in the project.

“Channelization basically shortens the stream and changes its characteristics,” Dave Lemon adds. Channelization cuts off the “meanders,” or bends and curves in a river system, changing habitat from a series of riffles and pools to a much harsher habitat with shallow, faster currents. “In this section of Chittenango Creek, the stream is trying to return to the meandering pattern it needs,” Lemon says. “We were trying to enhance its efforts to rebuild a more natural channel.”

Stream improvements included placing rip-rap (large boulders that help increase oxygen levels) and root wads (trunks of dead trees with the roots still attached) in the creek. In the case of the wads, the soil is removed to expose the roots, which deflect water flow and protect the bank. The wads are usually placed projecting into the current, which slows the water. The trunk itself is placed within the creek’s bank and then covered with soil to help stabilize the bank.

Along with protecting landowners’ properties, improvements to the creek’s banks reduced the risk of damage to NYS Route 13. Previous storms had created heavy flows that ate away at the banks, which were unstable due to a lack of vegetation and large rocks to protect the soil.

Patane explains that in addition to improving fish habitat, reducing soil erosion and keeping the stream off the highway were important goals. One section of the creek had shifted course and created a new channel that reduced water flow and raised water temperature in the original channel, a deadly combination for trout. Pointing to the restored channel, Patane notes that they blocked off the new channel and shifted the water back into its original route.



DEC photo

Schwartz added that they also used rock veins, cross-veins, tow wood, and rock clusters to enhance the habitat in Chittenango Creek. He described how cross-veins look like horseshoes facing upstream, which create riffles and pools in the system. Larger fish stay within the pools, or the areas of the stream where the water is moving slowly, while smaller fish are more likely to be found in the riffles, or the portions of the stream where the water flows faster over the rock veins. These riffles help to create calmer water downstream. In the Chittenango Creek project, rocks were used to redirect flow of the channel to the center of the stream instead of the banks. These rocks provide a place where the trout can spend less energy while they wait for food to come downstream.

The rock vein and cross-vein structures are layered to create much deeper pools behind them, which is better for fish. Fish can move out and feed, then come back to rest in calmer water. Resting areas also provide places for trout to hide from their natural predators, including blue herons, raccoons, mink and even otter.

In one section of the stream, three different veins are placed one right after the other, making it look like a flight of stairs. Patane noted that "...coming from the falls there's kind of a steep gradient from here throughout the Village of Chittenango, located less than five miles below the falls, and it's constantly dropping. The more flow you can get, the more bubbling effect you get, and the more oxygen you add to the water."

Since trout need cool water and high oxygen levels to survive, all these improvements will lead to better trout habitat. As winter passes, the water elevation will continue to rise. By spring, the creek should show a great turnabout due to the improvements.

Avid anglers will notice the difference right away, with an increased trout population in areas that couldn't support as many adult trout before. Patane feels anglers will be "wowed" by the improvements, and he hopes that in the future, more improvements will follow.

The proof, he says, will come in the spring. In the meantime, he will keep visiting the area, keeping tabs on the project, and on the fishing.

At the time of writing, **Briana Foisia** and **Catherine Flood** were seniors in the Journalism & Communication for Online Media B.S. Degree Program at Morrisville State College.

Editor's Update: *It's been a few years since this project's completion and in that time severe flooding affected the area. However, the streambank remains protected and nearly all of the other structures look and function much as they did immediately after installation. As for the fishing—anglers are successfully catching trout!*

STAFF PROFILE



Dave Lemon—A Focus on Fishing

As DEC's Region 7 Fisheries Manager, Dave Lemon oversees efforts to manage and create access to the ponds, lakes, rivers, and streams in Central New York (CNY), including fish and habitats in the Salmon, Susquehanna and Seneca Rivers and four of the eastern Finger Lakes. It's a long way from his start as a seasonal tech in DEC's Region 3 office in 1990, but a logical path from his position as an aquatic biologist when he moved to Region 7.

Like most managers, he still enjoys spending time in the field when he can, noting that "hands-on fishery sampling is still the best part" of his job. But he also relishes the opportunity to help educate people, whether answering their questions or pointing them in the right direction. Based on the diversity of fishing options in CNY, that direction ranges from small, coldwater trout streams to the salmon and trout opportunities of Lake Ontario.

The Norristown, PA native still loves to fish, and enjoys the variety of opportunities in CNY, such as casting for trout in Chittenango Creek ("it's dear to my heart," he says), as well as bass and walleye in the Susquehanna. A couple of years ago, he caught two wild stream brown trout, each over 26 inches, on consecutive casts—like all dedicated anglers, he refuses to divulge the exact location. But that doesn't mean he isn't working to create great fishing opportunities on Chittenango Creek and other waters in the region.

Dave has a wife and two children, and enjoys living in the heart of New York. He and his fishery staff are committed to building on the strong fishing tradition in the state, with a focus on the Central New York region. The regional office has an expression they use when they talk about the area—"Almost heaven, Region 7." And while some may be a bit skeptical, Dave is a staunch advocate, and his work backs it up, as he leads efforts to create great fishing experiences for young and old, beginners and experts. After all, in the words of a true fisherman, "a reel expert can tackle anything."