



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 August 27, 2025

ATTENDANCE

Board members: Julie Abbott, Pamela D. Caraccioli, Emanuel Carter, Mary Ellen Chesbro, Reed Cleland, Patrick Clune, Beau Harbin, Kipp Hicks, Trisha Hiemstra, Scott Ingmire, Cydney M. Johnson, Mary Ann Messinger, Paul W. Pinckney, Tim Stahl, Scott Steve, Kari Terwilliger, and Austin Wheelock

Staff: Michael Boccuzzi, David Bottar, Erica Herman, Carrie Hollis, Bruce Keplinger, Aaron McKeon, Aaron Otis, Lindsay Speer, Isabel Willson, Patricia Wortley, and James D'Agostino

Guests: Julie Fleck, Mark Meyerhofer, Fay Mychesky, and Morgan Spaulding

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 meeting link and that several members were participating in the meeting via the link.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

A motion was introduced and seconded to accept the agenda and summary of the July 2, 2025 Board meeting as presented; the motion was approved unanimously.

3. MADISON COUNTY REPORT

Scott Ingmire, Director of the Madison County Department of Planning and Workforce Development was introduced and provided a power point presentation summarizing developments in Madison County and work being done by the Planning Department. Mr. Ingmire began his remarks by referencing the Planning Department's website and noting the department areas of focus which include land use planning, environmental protection, open space preservation, agriculture protection and promotion, economic development, public transportation, main street revitalization and façade improvement, recreation and trails, energy, and broadband network development. It was noted that the department has 5 full-time staff members and is housed in the County's main office building in Wampsville, NY.

Mr. Ingmire continued his remarks by referencing several major projects his office has been engaged in over the past several years. These projects included planning and securing grant funds through the NYS Reimage the Canals Competition for a major canalside pocket neighborhood redevelopment project in the Village of Canastota. Also referenced was worked completed on planning, securing grant funds, and managing the Delphi Falls County Parks Improvement project. Several images were presented of this very successful \$6.8 million park development and building project that was completed in summer 2025.

Mr. Ingmire continued his remarks by providing detailed information regarding the County's broadband deployment program which is currently underway and involves a public/private partnership between the County and Empire Access to construct in Phase I a 269 miles open-access fiber network in the county providing service to 1,087 unserved addresses and bringing internet choice to 6,500 additional addresses in the county. Funding for the first phase includes a \$12 million USDA Reconnect grant to the county and additional financial resources provided by Empire Access and Madison County. Mr. Ingmire noted that as phase I is nearing completion in 2025, the County is embarking on Phase 2 with a NYS CAO MIP grant of \$9.9 million to build 120 miles of additional fiber network to serve 2,600 additional addresses in the County. It was noted that Phase II must be completed by December 2026.

4. NYS CAO MIP – CNYNET BROADBAND PROJECT

Mark Meyerhofer, Director of Broadband for ECC Technologies, Inc. was introduced and presented a power point presentation summarizing plans for development of the CNYNET broadband project that the agency has been working on for the past several years. Mr. Meyerhofer began his remarks by noting the project currently entails the construction of a 258 mile open-access broadband network that will cost \$26.1 million and is being financed by a NYS ConnetAll Office Municipal Infrastructure Program (NYS CAO MIP) grant of \$26.1 million to the CNY RPDB. Mr. Meyerhofer noted that ECC is under contract with the CNY RPDB to design and manage the entire construction and initial operations process.

Mr. Meyerhofer continued his remarks by reviewing information which outlined the steps which are underway to construct the projects. It was noted the major steps include design engineering, the utility pole make field engineering make-ready review review process, procurement, permitting, construction – both pole make ready and installation of the fiber to utility poles along designated roadways in each county, fiber hut building construction, fiber line drops to homes and businesses, and initial electronics activation and system operations. Mr. Meyerhofer concluded his presentation with the presentation of a detailed project budget and the overall project milestone schedule from July 2025 through December 2026.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The next item discussed on the agenda was a brief program status report as presented by Mr. Bottar. Mr. Bottar noted that staff remain actively engaged in the full range of program activities as outlined in the agency's planning work program for 2025.

Mr. Bottar referenced Mr. Meyerhofer's presentation and noted the agency's NYS CAO Municipal Infrastructure Program – Phase 3 broadband project is continuing to progress. It was noted that

the agency is still waiting for the State to fully execute the final execution of the NYS CAO MIP Grant Disbursement Agreement (GDA) for the \$26.1 million grant awarded to the CNY RPDB via an Incentive Proposal that was issued in January 2025. Mr. Bottar noted that the disbursement of the county interim financing of \$10 million to the CNY RPDB will be executed once the State's GDA agreement is fully executed by 10/31/25.

Mr. Bottar continued his remarks by noting the agency has successfully established CNYNET, Inc. as a new non-profit local development corporation, that will be the legal entity to own the broadband network being built in Cayuga and Cortland Counties. It was noted that a meeting of the CNYNET, Inc. initial board of directors took place earlier today and additional meetings are being scheduled in September.

5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Pinckney noted there was no old or new business presented to the Board for discussion. It was noted that the next Executive Committee is scheduled for September 24th and the next Board meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2025.

6. 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,

Mary A. Messinger, Secretary