St. Lawrence County Planning Office
STAFF WORK REPORT
MAY 2026



ADVISORY BOARD SUPPORT

Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB). The AFPB did not meet in May.

County Planning Board (CPB). The CPB met on May 14th in the Conference room on the second floor of the Human Services Center. Two full review projects were discussed; a 19-lot subdivision in the Town of Potsdam (conditionally approved) and a Site Plan Review for a Data Center in the Town of Massena (conditionally approved). The Board deliberated on the data center project for several hours and attached numerous conditions.

Environmental Management Council (EMC). Planning staff and Soil and Water Conservation District staff attended a DEC Region 6 working group on May 5th in Lowville to collaborate on shared issues and challenges. The EMC met on May 20th, at 6 p.m. in the Nicandri Nature Center at 23 Robinson Road Massena, NY. Patricia Wilson from New York Power Authority gave a presentation on Economic Development Power Program. Staff reviewed the recent Data Center Application from the County Planning Board to local residents. Alcoa submitted new modeling for emission to DEC Division of Air regarding SO_2 nonattainment, Cranberry Lake campground is open for season, but construction will require it to close on Labor Day. Urban and Community Forestry grant and Resilient Watershed grants are accepting applications, and another round of Climate Smart Community and Water Quality Improvement Program will be available soon. The Council member reported on the Fisheries Enhancement Mitigation Research Fund meeting with updates on projects. Additionally, members reported on the APIPP Spring Partners meeting, the Multiuse Trail study, and Great Lake Action Agenda Subbasin meeting. The next EMC meeting will be June 17th at 6 p.m. in the Human Services Center in Canton.

Fair Housing Task Force. The Task Force met on May 19th and saw a presentation from Rick Pominville, the Director of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program at the Resolution Center. Rick detailed mediation services provided by the Resolution Center and how they deal with housing disputes. Staff look forward to working with the Resolution Center as a partner agency. Preston also presented an overview of preliminary research done for the County's Mobile Homes Assessment. Staff have also been in contact with the City of Ogdensburg and the Village of Massena for the next Exclusionary Zoning Story Map presentation. The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 25th at 10am in the One Stop Career Center Classroom A at HSC.

BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

Countywide Broadband Assessment. Staff continue to manage ARPA- and NBRC-funded infrastructure projects. All ARPA funds obligated to broadband projects ($2,955,145) have been expended. 56% of the addresses proposed for service have broadband access; five of 16 funded "lots" are complete. Make ready work in five lots is anticipated in early June. The next committee meeting will be June 3, 2026.

County Snowmobile Grant. The St. Lawrence County Planning Office is the local sponsor for the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Places (OPRHP) Snowmobile Grant. The County

was awarded $353,650.00 in snowmobile trail maintenance for the 2025-2026 grant year. Phase 3 submission is due May 31st for the program year of April 1-thru Mach 31. Staff processing submission from the TMEs. Phase 1 submission for 2026-2027 program year with new trail or reroutes applications is due June 1.

Multi-Use Trails Steering Committee. Staff participated in the monthly meeting of this committee. A public meeting will be held in Brasher on June 18, 2026.

Home Consortium Board. Staff, along with 2 members of the public have a seat on the Home Consortium Administrative Board. The Board meet in May to discuss a major change in how the program would be administered. The group determined that revisions were necessary and agreed to undertake an administrative shift from DANC to Jefferson County, on a trial basis. The intent of the shift is to make the funding more equitable across the three-county consortium service area.

COMMUNITY / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). The County was awarded $675,000 to continue with its housing rehabilitation program (CHRP 6). Staff is working on grant startup including contract execution, environmental review, and applicant selection.

GRANTS

U.S. DOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY25 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). Staff assisted the Sheriff's Office with completion and submission of the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) for the FY 25 SCAAP.

NYS Grant Professionals Consortium. This is an informal meeting of grant-specific professionals employed by counties in NYS; its second meeting was held in May. Its purpose is to share information and discuss emerging issues related to State and Federal funding. The group is coordinated by the SLC Grants Manager.

County Department Outreach. In May, the Grants Manager wrapped up efforts to meet with departments to discuss current and future needs related to obtaining and managing grant awards. A number of departments have been unresponsive to inquiries.

Septic Repair Program. The County was notified that a 5th funding round is forthcoming; all details are not yet available. To date, 118 systems have been repaired/replaced; $866,728.23 has been expended; and $733,271.77 in program funds remain available. Staff from Planning and Public Health are working together to manage program delivery and administration.

Grants Notice Distribution. The Grants Notice is distributed to County Department Heads, Legislators, Superintendents of Schools, local municipal officials and approximately 350 additional individuals representing organizations throughout the North Country.

PLANNING MATTERS

GIS. Staff has been meeting with Real Property, Emergency Services, IT, and the contractor GeoCove regarding longer term planning and coordination of GIS. On May 1st staff helped host a GIS users

group conference which was attended by SWCD, Public Health, as well as numerous local users. Staff met with Public Health on May 15th to review how to effectively use GIS in their work.

Town of Colton Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Office signed an MOU with the Town of Colton to serve on the Plan's Oversight Committee. A draft plan was reviewed by Staff and comments submitted to the Committee. The final meeting of the advisory board met on May 18th and offered final changes to the document. County Planning Board review of the Plan will undertaken in July.

Village of Norwood Comprehensive Plan. The Office and the Village signed an MOU for the development of a Village Comprehensive Plan. Work began in May and will continue through the rest of the year.

New York State County Planning Directors Association. Jason has been elected as the president of this state-wide association. The group meets the third Friday of the month remotely and at Planning Conferences throughout the year. Data centers were discussed at the May meeting.

2026 Adirondack Planning Forum. Staff attended this regional planning event in Saranac Lake on May 7, 2026. Presentation topics included short term rentals; housing ***solutions***; land banking; and community-based recreation. Speakers represented the APA; NYS Department of State; NYS Office of Community Renewal; and municipalities and community-based organizations in the Park.

Massena in Motion, the Massena (Village) BOA. Staff attended the kick-off meeting for the Massena Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Project. Topics of discussion included the general project scope, timeline, public engagement approach, and the project study area.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

County Transit System. During the first half of the month Matilda prepared exhibits and drafted the narrative for a $2.5 million Transit Ready NY funding proposal to assist with the design and construction of a public transit operation and maintenance facility. This proposal was electronically submitted to the DOT on the 19th. On the 12th, Matilda virtually met with The Arc's Transportation Operations Manager to review exhibits for SUNY Potsdam's bus service proposal. On the 15th Matilda virtually met with DOT staff and reported April's fuel bill for bus operations was $10,000 greater than originally budgeted. During the weeks of the 4th and the 18th, Matilda virtually met with vendors to finalize quotes to equip 18-passenger buses with fleet technology. On the 21st, Matilda met with Coach & Equipment subcontractor Siefert Graphics to revise fleet vinyl graphics for the next order of buses. Also on the 21st the Public Transit Task Force met where Michelle and reviewed recent staffing changes at The Arc; Matilda provided updates on procuring technology for the bus fleet; the status of new service contracts with area colleges; and April's fuel bill. Sonja reviewed ridership on routes 80 and 81; provided an update on Jefferson Public Transit; and announced the college routes would not be in service in June and July. On the 26th, Matilda met with The Arc's dispatch clerks to review the 2026 operating budget. On the 28th Matilda and Sonja met with SUNY Canton representatives to discuss the next bus service contract, and on the 29th, Matilda met with the Town of Massena Highway Superintendent and the Massena Public Library Director to discuss the installation of a concrete pad for a new bus shelter at the library.