St. Lawrence County Planning Office
STAFF WORK REPORT
JUNE 2026



ADVISORY BOARD SUPPORT

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

County Planning Board (CPB). The CPB met on June 11th in the Conference room on the second floor of the Human Services Center. Two full review projects were discussed; a use variance and site plan review for a cannabis microbusiness in the Village of Massena (both conditionally approved) and a Solar Energy Facilities Law in the Town of Parishville (conditionally approved).

Environmental Management Council (EMC). The EMC met on June 17th, at 6 p.m. in the One Stop Career Center Classroom A on the first floor of the HSC Building. Staff updated the Council on the status of the data center application in Massena and the NYS proposed moratorium. Members of the public commented on opposing nuclear, data centers, and mosquito spraying. Staff gave overview of EPA five-year review of superfund site for Reynolds Metals. Member reported on the Multiuse Trail study. An APIPP event called Lake Protectors in-person training for aquatic invasive species identification is scheduled for Aug 11 5-7 pm in Cranberry Lake. Council suggested combining that event with the EMC picnic. The next EMC meeting will be July 15th 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. Staff facilitated one committee meeting and continued to track permitting issues (NYSDOT, National Grid, Verizon) in June. The next committee meeting will be July 15, 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 was submitted May 31st. Phase 1 for 2026-2027 program year was submitted June 1st.

Multi-Use Trails Steering Committee. Staff attended and facilitated break-out groups at the 2nd public meeting, held in Brasher on June 18th, and participated in the monthly meeting of this committee.

Home Consortium Board. Staff, along with 2 members of the public have a seat on the Home Consortium Administrative Board. The Board meet recently 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). Six houses were inspected as part of Phase 1, with two houses deemed ineligible for the grant. Four of the houses are moving forward with environmental review and development of scopes of work. Staff are reviewing the waiting list for next phase selection.

NYS HOME Program. Staff is exploring a possible application to NYS HOME for a Mobile and Manufactured Housing Replacement Program.

GRANTS

Septic Repair Program. This program has repaired/replaced 125 septic systems to date; $933,239.73 has been expended, and $666,760.27 in program funds remain available. Staff from Planning and Public Health are working together to manage program delivery and administration. A 5th round of funds is anticipated.

NYS Grant Professionals Consortium. This is an informal monthly meeting of grant-specific professionals employed by counties in NYS. Its purpose is to share information and discuss emerging issues related to State and Federal funding. In June, proposed changes to federal funding guidelines were discussed.

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 have been meeting with Real Property, Emergency Services, IT, and the contractor GeoCove regarding longer-term planning and coordination of GIS. Staff processed 2024 Ortho Imagery to reduce file size for web display and is working with DANC to publish it.

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 be undertaken in July or August.

Village of Norwood Comprehensive Plan. Staff met with the Norwood Comprehensive Plan committee on June 3rd and presented preliminary information and maps. A survey for the community and students was developed with the student survey released on a school-based program called Parentsquare. Staff created a flyer to advertise the next SWOT meeting scheduled for July 8, 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

***New York State County Planning Directors Association*.** Jason serves 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. Access management plans were discussed at the June meeting.

Massena in Motion, the Massena (Village) BOA. Staff is serving on the steering committee for the Massena Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Project; no meetings were held in June.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

County Transit System. During the first half of the month Matilda assisted with drafting the County's 2026 Transit Asset Management plan to be completed and submitted by The Arc's Transportation Operations Manager. On the 3rd, Matilda submitted a bus service proposal to SUNY Potsdam's Purchasing Office. On the 3rd and 5th, Matilda participated in monthly meetings with the Mobility Manager, and with Public Transit supervisors. On the 9th, Jason participated in a teleconference with DOT staff and learned the County was awarded $3.14 million in funds to establish a microtransit pilot program. On the 15th, Matilda and Mobility Manager Sonja Jensen participated in a virtual meeting with SUNY Potsdam representatives to review next steps in the signing of the next bus service agreement. On the 16th and 17th, Matilda, Jason and Lisa entered the 2027 budget for public transportation services in the County's financial software system. On the 18th, Matilda reviewed the County's 2027 budget request for operating funds with DOT representatives. Later that day, both Sonja and Matilda attended a meeting at Clarkson to review bus service contracts and adjust the end date each spring. Each college bus service contract was adjusted to reflect this change. On the 22nd, Matilda and The Arc's Transportation Operations Manager Angela McNatt participated in a virtual meeting with Passio Technologies to develop a scope of work and timeline to install bus technology in eight buses that were delivered earlier in the year. During the 2nd half of the month, Matilda worked with the County Attorney and the County Purchasing Office to finalize a draft Request for Proposals for a 2027 – 2028 contract for services for First Mile Last Mile.