

St. Lawrence County Planning Office
STAFF WORK REPORT
AUGUST 2025



ADVISORY BOARD SUPPORT

Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB). The Agricultural Tour for the Board of Legislators occurred August 15, 2025 9 a.m. - 2p.m. The tour included Greenwood Dairy, Canton Apples, Bourdeau Brothers, and CCE. The tour had 40 participants with four County Legislators, one State Assemblyman, representatives from USDA, NYS Ag and Markets, Soil and Water, SLC IDA, Cornell Cooperative Extension, County Planning Board, Ag and Farmland Protection Board and area farmers. For the annual ag district report, staff is working on the environmental assessment. The next AFPB meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Oct 2nd in the conference room on the second floor of the Human Services Center (HSC) building.

County Planning Board (CPB). The CPB met on August 14th in the Conference room on the second floor of the HSC Building. Three full review projects were discussed; a site plan review in the Village of Canton (conditionally approved); a Comprehensive Plan Update for the Town of Morristown (returned for local action); and a Special Use Permit in the Town of Stockholm (returned for local action).

Environmental Management Council (EMC). The EMC did not meet the month of August. Staff is working on logistics for the September meeting at the Wanakena Ranger School, a wetland regulations public service announcement, and providing a map of invasive species in St. Lawrence County. The council as a whole is working on invasive species status of the county for the BOL and a PFAS primer. The next meeting will be September 17th at 6 p.m. at the Ranger School in Wanakena.

Fair Housing Task Force. On the 9th, Preston met with Matilda, Jason and Heidi to review the first draft of his conclusion for Inclusionary Zoning Story Map that he is scheduled to finalize this fall. During the week of the 23rd, Matilda coordinated with staff from CNY Fair Housing to arrange Fair Housing training events tentatively scheduled for October 23rd in Massena.

BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

Countywide Broadband Assessment. One committee meeting was held in August. Staff continue to manage ARPA-funded infrastructure projects. To date, \$2,033,458 of \$2,955,145 has been expended, and 53% of the addresses proposed for service have broadband access.

OCF Repurpose Committee. Staff have been assigned to the County's Ogdensburg Correctional Facility Repurpose Committee. The group last met in March.

SLC Water/Waste Water Infrastructure American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Initiative. The BOL allocated \$3 million for municipal water and waste water projects. Twelve municipalities were awarded a total of \$2,969,563. To date, disbursements have been made totaling \$2,722,800.14. Ten municipalities have expended all their awarded funds and/or completed their project, and the remaining two municipalities have drawn down a portion of their awarded funds and expect completion by the end of 2025.

County Snowmobile Grant. 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 \$293,840.00 in snowmobile trail maintenance for the 2024-2025 grant year. Staff is working on Phase 2 of the application for the 2025-2026 grant year which is due September 1.

County Budget Preparation. Staff is again assisting with the annual preparation of the County Budget.

COMMUNITY / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). Countywide Housing Rehabilitation Program #5 (CHRP 5) is underway. The Development Authority of North Country (DANC), the sub recipient, and the Planning Office have been meeting regularly to discuss progress. Phases I, II, and III consisting of twelve projects for low to moderate income households, have all been completed. Phase IV is underway, which consists of two more projects. Contracts have been established with an expected start date of mid-September. Phase IV will finish out CHRP 5 funds. Staff have begun the application process for CHRP 6 with a due date of September 19th.

GRANTS

FY 2025 SNAP Process and Technology Improvement Program. Staff assisted DSS with the submission of this \$228,225 application to USDA Food and Nutrition Services in the Grants.gov portal.

Emergency Management/Hazard Mitigation. Staff completed the project close-out request with NYS DHSES for HMGP #4480-0035, the Stormwater Management Advance Assistance project. \$27,000 in FEMA funds was received for this \$30,000 project. Staff also participated in a MitigateNY webinar entitled “Data-Driven Planning to Improve Disaster Resilience.”

NYS Empire State Development County Infrastructure Grant Program. Staff is coordinating a project kick-off meeting with Empire State Development, the Village and the County for this \$500,000 stormwater management project. \$50,000 is for hardening of the Courthouse Complex, and \$450,000 for the Village of Canton’s \$6.2+ million stormwater infrastructure project.

Septic Repair Program. To date, 100 systems have been repaired/replaced; \$723,269.58 has been expended; and \$876,730.42 in program funds remain available. Staff from Planning and Public Health are working together to manage program delivery and administration. Staff completed outreach to municipalities in August.

NY SWIMS Lifeguard Grant Program. Reimbursement requests from participating municipalities for eligible expenses for the 2024 and 2025 summer seasons are being collected in anticipation of the receipt of the fully executed State contract in the near future.

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 updated some maps for display at the Agriculture Tour. The solar development mapping tool is undergoing an update.

Town of Colton Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Office signed an MOU with the Town of Colton to participate on the Plan's Oversight Committee. Staff meet with the Committee on August 26th. August.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

County Transit System. At the beginning of the Month, Matilda and Ellen worked with Public Transit staff to format and finalize July STOA data in order to prepare and submit a 2nd quarter STOA report to the DOT. During the 2nd quarter of this year, Public Transit provided 38,579 trips and traveled 230,574 miles. Compared to 2024, 2025's Year to Date monthly average for trips is 11% higher, while the monthly average of miles is down 5%. At the beginning of this month, Matilda and Ellen met with new dispatch staff to provide them with an overview of annual operating expenses and revenues, and daily data entry for monthly STOA spreadsheets. On the 6th, Matilda participated in a virtual meeting with Volunteer Transportation Center to identify the desired characteristics of a GTFS software system for bus route analysis.