

St. Lawrence County Planning Office
STAFF WORK REPORT
OCTOBER 2025



ADVISORY BOARD SUPPORT

Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB). The AFBP met at 6 p.m. on October 2nd in the conference room on the second floor of the Human Services Center (HSC). A guest speaker reviewed some of the carbon credit programs available to SLC farmers and landowners. The Board reviewed current drought conditions; Farm Credit East 2024 Northeast Dairy Farm Summary and 2025 mid-year outlook publication; conducted an Ag Tour debrief; and discussed North Country Dairy's SPDES permitting/ Deer River, and the current status of solar development in the County.

County Planning Board (CPB). The CPB met on October 9th in the Conference room on the second floor of the Public Safety Building. No full review projects were discussed, but the board received training on the requirements for use variances and public utility variances.

Environmental Management Council (EMC). The EMC met at 6 p.m. on October 15th in the One Stop Career Center Classroom A on the first floor of the HSC Building. The Council debriefed the EMC meeting at Ranger School in Wanakena. The DEC gave updates regarding rangers busy with wildfire suppression, statewide burn ban ended Oct 15th, and they closed the Cranberry Lake Campground for the season. The DEC issued a Notice of Department Initiated Modification to North Country Dairy SPDES Permit. A member gave USFWS Fish Enhancement Mitigation and Research Fund (FEMRF) meeting report, approved \$200,000 grant for Natal Engineering to investigate fish safe turbine runner for Moses-Saunders Dam for American Eel migration to ocean. Report from PRISM monthly meeting presentation on Forest Health and emerging invasive species threats in the State. The Council reviewed the wetland PSA, an invasive species management plan, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid monitoring proposal, and nuclear development in the County.

Fair Housing Task Force. On the 23rd, CNY Fair Housing Director Sally Santangelo delivered two training sessions at the Massena Community Center. Fifteen persons comprising of agency representatives, landlords and realtors attended the 2 pm session, four landlords attended the 7 pm session. Both Matilda and Preston assisted with the preparation and circulation of a press release to local media, and adding the events to area community calendars. During the second half of the month, Matilda and Preston arranged a presentation on the State Low Income Housing Tax Credit program at the next Fair Housing Task Force meeting on November 18th. Preston and Matilda also communicated with Village of Gouverneur Planning Board Chair Dave Spilman on the rescheduling of the Exclusionary Zoning Story Map presentation to the Village Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board.

BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

Countywide Broadband Assessment. One committee meeting was held in October. Staff continue to manage ARPA-funded infrastructure projects, which are well underway. To date, \$2,033,458 of \$2,955,145 has been expended, and 56% 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 wastewater projects. Twelve municipalities were awarded a total of \$2,969,563. To date, disbursements have been made totaling \$2,898,327.14. Eleven municipalities have completed their project, and the remaining municipality has drawn down a portion of their awarded funds and expects 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.

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 subrecipient, 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. Phase IV will finish out CHRP 5 funds. Staff arranged for a public hearing to close out the grant scheduled for Nov 3rd at 5:50 p.m. in the Board of Legislators Chambers. Staff is currently compiling a submission for a Community Planning grant for a Countywide Mobile and Manufactured Housing Needs Assessment to develop a plan to expand the County's housing rehabilitation program to include mobile and manufactured homes.

GRANTS

County Department Outreach. The Grants Manager has met with a number of departments to discuss current and future needs related to obtaining and managing grant awards.

Septic Repair Program. The County was notified that a 5th funding round is forthcoming. To date, 109 systems have been repaired/replaced; \$793,490.73 has been expended; and \$806,509.27 in program funds remain available. Staff from Planning and Public Health are working together to manage program delivery and administration.

NY SWIMS Lifeguard Grant Program. To date, participating municipalities have been reimbursed. Reimbursement request of \$50,000 is being prepared for submission to NYS.

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. Samuel and Preston attended the NYS GIS Association conference in Lake Placid on Oct 9-10. The solar development mapping tool is undergoing an update. Staff made a map of Legislator

Districts for display at the EAP Health Fair. Public Health requested data for their mosquito monitoring program and ZIP code data for sanitarian organization. Staff provided a map of the Multiuse Trail to the Board of Legislators, and Town of Stockholm requested an updated highway map.

Town of Colton Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Office signed an MOU with the Town of Colton to serve on the Plan's Oversight Committee. Staff last meet with the Committee on August 26th and will meet again on October 28th.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

County Transit System. Throughout the month, Matilda participated in virtual meetings and email communications with Passio to schedule the fulfillment of an outstanding purchase order to install security cameras in five public transit buses. During the first half of the month, Matilda met with The Arc's Transportation Operations Manager Mark Ladison to develop project budgets for this year's allocation of Accelerated Transit Capital monies totaling \$126,315. Throughout the month, Matilda worked with The Arc's IT Department to develop a maintenance plan for the anticipated delivery of preventative maintenance tablets that will be used to help automate the scheduling of bus repairs and servicing. On the 15th, Matilda and Mark participated in a virtual meeting with project management group WatchDog to discuss plans to apply for capital funds to construct a transportation facility. On the 17th and 24th, Matilda and the transit team participated in virtual meetings with Clarkson representatives to discuss the sources of funds to pay for the Route 68 service contract. On the 20th, Matilda took photos for the disposition of retired Bus 620. On the 21st, Matilda met with Massena Public Library Director Krista Briggs to discuss the siting of a bus shelter at their property. On the 28th, Matilda participated in a virtual meeting with Ecolane to discuss the transit system's fleet technology needs. On the 29th, Matilda met with Mark to review bus with advertisements and their route assignments.