

## COMMISSION MEETING

October 20, 2010  
CDRPC Conference Room  
One Park Place, Suite 102  
Albany, New York 12205

### MINUTES

**PRESENT:** John Brown, Willard Bruce, John Graziano, Michael Whalen, Judy Breselor, Stan Brownell, James Shaughnessy, Fred Acunto, Jason Kemper, John Murray, Paul Sausville, Barbara Mauro, David Vincent

**ABSENT:** Lucille McKnight, Leon Fiacco, Michael Stammel, Philip Barrett, Robert Godlewski, Gary Hughes, Michael Petta

**PRESIDING:** Barbara Mauro, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30am

#### 1. **Welcome/Introduction of Guests**

Rocky introduced John Brown as the new CDRPC Commissioner representing Albany County. John is the Chairman of the Green Island Power Authority and has been chairman of the Green Island Planning Board for 34 years. Carmello Mantello and Rich Harris from the New York State Canal Corporation were also in attendance.

#### 2. **July 21, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

The minutes were distributed before the meeting. No corrections were made.

##### Action Taken

Fred Acunto made a motion to approve the minutes, and Jim Shaughnessy seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### 3. **Financial Statement through September 30, 2010**

The financial statement represents activities through September 30, 2010. The revenues are at 77.3% and expenses are at 66.8%. There is approximately \$94,000 cash in the bank and outstanding receivables totaling over \$150,000. There are also four Certificates of Deposit totaling \$116,710.01.

The third quarter invoices have been sent out to the appropriate billing agencies for the CDYCI, CSO, Water Quality, and the UPWP work programs.

##### Action Taken

David Vincent made a motion to approve the Financial Statements as presented and Stan Brownell seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **4. Presentation/Discussion by Carmella Mantello, The Director of the Canal Corporation**

Carmella Mantello, Director of the New York State Canal Corporation gave a presentation to the Board of the history of the Erie Canal as well as how it has changed over the years including an update of activities and programs of interest involving the New York State Canal Corporation.

The Canal Corporation operates the Canal System, which is a subsidiary of the NYS Thruway Authority. There are four waterways within the Canal system; Erie Canal, Champlain Canal, Oswego Canal and Cayuga-Seneca Canal. The Canal System includes approximately 1,800 structures, including 57 locks and 20 moveable bridges. There are about 500 full time and 100 seasonal employees.

The Canal System also serves as a commercial highway, and will continue to play a role in providing an energy efficient and environmentally friendly alternative for commercial shipping. Commercial shipping such as oversize cargo, wind turbines and generators have all been transported along the canal system. Ms. Mantello expects to see more commercial shipping on the canal in the future.

The Canal System is also a land and water trail system. The Albany and Buffalo land trail is almost complete and will be the longest multi-use trail in the country, spanning almost 300 miles long. The Canal Corp is working very closely with the local governments, Regional Planning Council, and elected officials including Senator Gillibrand to help complete the trail.

Communities on the waterfront are working together on waterfront strategies to get villages and towns to work together. Communities are also looking to the canals for their waterfront revitalization efforts. There are approximately 240 communities across the canal system that the Canal Corporation works closely with. The Canal System is full of community events and festivals throughout the year. There are about 320 events through the navigation season and winter carnivals in the off seasons have increased over the last few years.

#### **5. Foreign-Trade Zone Status Report**

In August the Foreign Trade Zones Board held a meeting in Syracuse NY with Andrew McGilvray, Executive Secretary of the Foreign Trade Zones Board. The Board presented information on the Alternative Site Framework and proposed changes that would remove the requirement to designate specific floating acreage allotments to Magnet sites.

In mid August, CDRPC revamped the Foreign Trade Zones section of the website to reflect the approved Alternative Site Framework system for the Foreign Trade Zone 121 including the addition of interactive links to aid economic developers and potential users. The reaction to the website revisions has been very positive.

CDRPC staff met with the staff from the Empire State Development to discuss marketing tools for the Foreign Trade Zone. ESD is researching the possibility of a grant to aid New York State Foreign Trade Zones to create marketing materials. ESD regional staff has begun to explore Zone opportunities in their meetings with companies and are forwarding potential clients to CDRPC.

CDRPC hosted a Foreign Trade Zones workshop on October 6, 2010 at the Holiday Inn on Wolf Road. The workshop was targeted to the 10 county economic development representatives and magnet site operators to ensure that they have a thorough understanding of the program and possible marketing strategies. David Ostheimer, Esq., a Foreign-Trade Zones attorney, presented the basics of Foreign-Trade Zones and other U. S. Customs importer programs. Officers Sharon Peterson and Mike Murphy from the U.S. Customs Albany Port office provided an overview of Customs requirements for zone activation. Gerry Shay from the International Division of Empire State Development also gave a brief overview of the international field offices and their role in promoting New York State for Foreign Direct Investment.

CDRPC is hoping to have a second workshop in early 2011 tailored specifically to potential zone users and operators.

Jack Murray attended the October 6<sup>th</sup> workshop and expressed how important it is that the local economic developers attend these Foreign-Trade Zone workshops in order to become fully educated about the Zone and begin to actively market the program. There were eight out of ten county economic development representatives present at the October 6<sup>th</sup> workshop.

#### **6. HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Application**

Rocky announced that CDRPC was not chosen to receive the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. Rocky also mentioned that it was a significant effort between CDRPC and the ten partnering service providers to submit the application. The partnership that was established included a range of service providers from housing providers, economic developers, transportation providers, and the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

Rocky is in the process of trying to get feedback from HUD about our application and the scoring system as well as meeting with Assemblyman Tonko's office for any further information they can provide.

#### **7. Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan Update**

Progress has been made on the Long Term Control Plan. On July 29, CDRPC and the Albany Pool Joint Venture Team met with DEC to review DEC's comments on the updated Receiving Waters Quality Model Report that was submitted to DEC on June 4, 2010. A final modeling report was submitted on August 11, 2010 and DEC issued a letter supporting the Receiving Waters Quality Model Report on August 31.

With the approval of the technical reports by DEC in place, the next and final critical phase of the study, alternative assessments, can get underway. Due to the need to undertake additional evaluations and address specific issues associated with the modeling report, the LTCP is approximately ten months behind schedule. The communities submitted an extension letter to DEC on June 22 and all six communities have now received updated SPDES permits that extend the LTCP through June 2011.

A Technical Committee meeting was held on October 8<sup>th</sup> to review the project progress and also to discuss the alternative assessments being investigated. The Green Innovation Grant Program was discussed and a meeting will be scheduled with EFC regarding Green Infrastructure grant funding. A Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting will be scheduled in November to review the Receiving Water Quality Model report and the 2009 Tributary Sampling.

David Vincent inquired about the capital investment the communities may be facing. Rocky added that they are concentrating on that issue now and looking at Green and Grey Infrastructure solutions, including disinfection.

Jack Murray inquired when the project is expected to be completed. The report will be completed in June 2011 with the preliminary alternatives expected to be done late winter into spring.

## **8. Staff Activity Report**

Rocky added that CDRPC is managing a water consolidation study associated with the Watervliet Reservoir. The City of Watervliet and the Town of Guilderland received a shared municipal services grant from NYS DOS to undertake the study. Rocky is working with Michal Hall and Joe Scott to do the legal analysis associated with any type of joint ownership responsibilities regarding the reservoir. There is a meeting next week with Mayor Manning to discuss preliminary findings and alternatives.

Rocky was asked by Congressman Tonko to Chair the Economic Development Task Force of the Mighty Waters Task Force. The mission of the Mighty Waters Taskforce is to help create a climate of investment, recovery and public awareness for the waterways and communities of the upper Hudson and Mohawk Rivers, Erie Canal and related waterways by mobilizing federal resources that encourage policy reform, economic development, public access and enjoyment and effective environmental and cultural resource management.

Rocky, along with five other committee Chairs will prepare and submit a report to Congressman Tonko by January 31, 2011.

Bill Bruce inquired about the Smart Communities grant. CDPRC will be applying for the grant once NYSERDA and DEC finalize the RFP and it becomes available. The objectives of the grant are to get communities on board to sign off on the Climate Smart

Communities pledge and take initiatives toward reducing their carbon footprint including building energy audits, and how to reduce the dependency on automobiles.

**9. Other Business**

Barbara Mauro selected David Vincent as Chair and Fred Acunto to serve on the nominating committee for 2011 officers. The nominating committee will report back at the December commission meeting with the recommendations for 2011 officers.

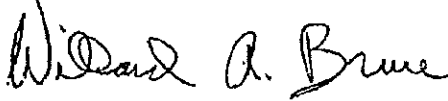
**10. Next Meeting Date**

The next Commission meeting will be held December 15, 2010 at 8:30am.

**Adjournment**

John Graziano made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jason Kemper seconded. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Willard A. Bruce".

Willard Bruce  
Secretary