



CAPITAL DISTRICT
**Regional
Planning
Commission**

2017 Annual Report

★ CELEBRATING **50** YEARS ★ 1967-2017 ★



**SERVING THE
COUNTIES OF
Albany, Rensselaer,
Saratoga, and
Schenectady**



**REGIONAL
ANALYTICS
AND MAPPING**



**ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**



**SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES**



**WATER
QUALITY**



**HUMAN
SERVICES**

2017 Annual Report



CDRPC marked its 50th Anniversary in 2017 and took time throughout the year to celebrate the contributions the agency has made to the region and its communities since its founding in 1967. Many things have changed over the last half century including CDRPC's role in the region. While the work of CDRPC has evolved over time, our core mission and our approach which emphasizes collaboration, cooperation and coordination remains unchanged. Regardless of the issue, working together with partners across our region toward common goals continues to define the work of CDRPC.

We took time in 2017 to look back while looking forward. Through a partnership with the University Club Foundation, we hosted successful CDRPC@50 speaker series events highlighting a

We have to work in a collaborative, cooperative, coordinated environment with all our stakeholders, and be good listeners, develop relationships, and identify where are the issues and concerns and mitigation measures to address those concerns. That's always been what I felt was important at CDRPC, as well as for Mr. Chen and Thyag, and continuing that moving forward. Rocky Ferraro, AICP
50th Anniversary CDRPC Oral History Project

variety of topics providing perspective on today's regional planning challenges. In addition, we were grateful to be able to capture oral histories from all the surviving CDRPC Executive Directors, Rocky Ferraro (2003-2016), Chungchin Chen (1980-2003) and Sambramurthy Thyagarajan "Thyag" (1973-1980). Their stories document CDRPC's evolving work in the region and underscore the key role the organization has played throughout its history as a regional convener and partner. We capped

our anniversary year with a 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner at which we recognized the efforts of communities and organizations in our region working together on an intermunicipal basis.

In 2017, CDRPC continued to advance its mission by providing quality technical assistance and other services to communities and organizations in our region. This year, CDRPC staff responded to more than 150 data requests, worked to engage new audiences through events and new digital communications tools, created new planning tools to guide communities in decision-making, engaged stakeholders to update the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, deployed new technologies to make our data more accessible and to expand our portfolio of services, provided training to more than 300 people at our events and workshops, and provided direct technical support to 62 communities through our Clean Energy Communities Program - helping 10 secure \$1.3 million dollars in match-free grants for local clean energy projects. Details of this work are included in this report.

The work of CDRPC is guided and implemented by our incredibly talented and dedicated team and I look forward to continuing to work with them, and with our partners, to build on these efforts in the coming year.

Mark A. Castiglione, AICP
March 2018

Regional Analytics and Mapping

150 Data Requests in 2017

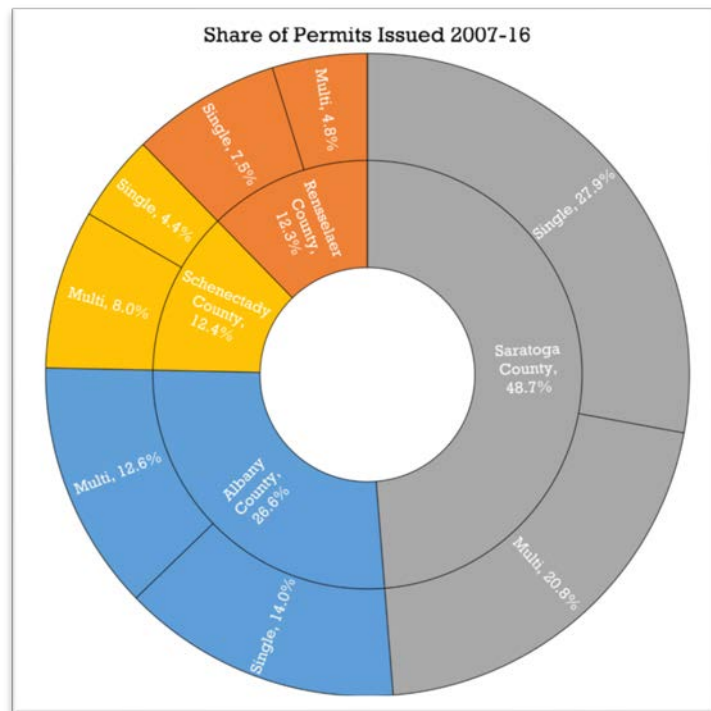
CDRPC translates regional data into usable information and continues to transition its data products from static PDFs and images into dynamic and interactive visualizations. CDRPC staff responded to nearly 150 data technical assistance requests in 2017.

Data Analysis: [Capital District Data](#)

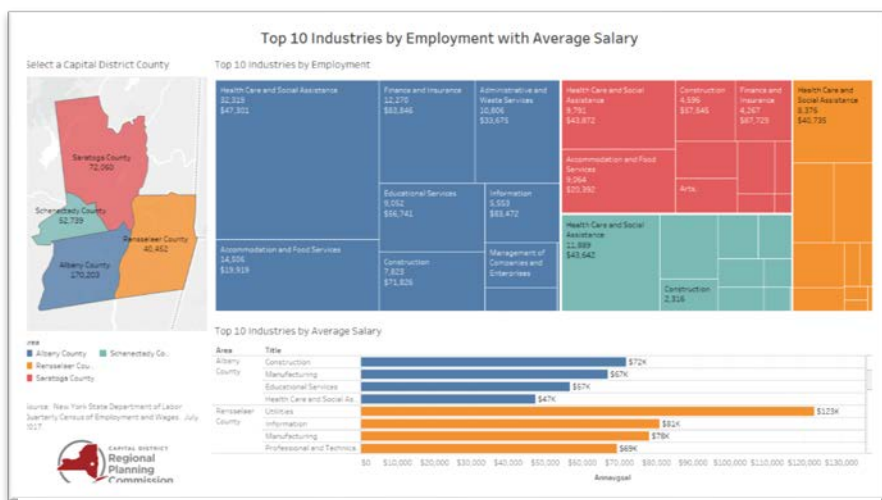
In 2017, [Capital District Data](#) continued to deliver high quality interpretation of developing trends throughout the Capital Region and featured analyses of the region's agricultural economy, ongoing drought conditions, patterns of growth, and new residential development. Regional data highlights from this year's Capital District Data include:

- In 2012, the Greater Capital Region (an 11-county region) saw \$546.8 million in sales, of which \$143 million came from Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady counties;
- Population growth in the Region has slowed, but land development has not. The Region is consuming land for new homes at five times the rate of population growth. An acre of land was developed for every new person from 1995-2015.
- Since 2011, the Region has begun to move towards a higher percentage of multi-family units. Permits for single-family units, meanwhile, have remained mostly flat since 2012 but have rebounded to pre-great recession levels.

New Regional Data Dashboard in Development: CDRPC began developing a new data dashboard in 2017 which will make the variety of data produced more accessible and useful. The dashboards are being built using Tableau software and will include data currently located in [CDRPC's Community Fact Sheets](#).



Building permits by county from Summer 2017 Capital District Data



Pilot Data Dashboard

Events and Training

CDRPC 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner- October 18, 2017

As a part of our 50th Anniversary Celebration, CDRPC recognized five cooperative initiatives developed by organizations representing more than a dozen municipalities in our region through the 2017 Erastus Corning, 2nd Achievement Awards for Intermunicipal Cooperation. These awards recognize municipalities and organizations whose efforts have significantly contributed to the advancement of intermunicipal and interagency cooperation and regional planning. The 2017 award-winning initiatives, municipalities and organizations include: The Storm Water Coalition of Albany County, the Town & Village of Stillwater, the Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group and Hudson Crossing Park, the Regional Shared Transportation Initiative, and the Tri-County Interoperable 911, Telecommunications, Computer-aided Dispatch, and Records Management Network.



Representatives from Albany, Rensselaer, and Saratoga Counties accept an Intermunicipal Achievement Award during CDRPC's 50th Anniversary Dinner

CDRPC Workshops

In 2017, CDRPC continued with its traditional spring and fall workshop with some minor updates to engage new audiences. In April, the spring workshop focused on grant funding and helping attendees prepare to apply for competitive grant programs. October workshop topics expanded beyond our planning and zoning board audience to include training for municipal clerks, elected officials, and code enforcement officers.



Mock Planning Board Session at CDRPC's 2017 Local Government Workshop

- CDRPC Grant Funding Workshop, April 12 120 attendees
- CDRPC Local Government Workshop, October 5 171 attendees

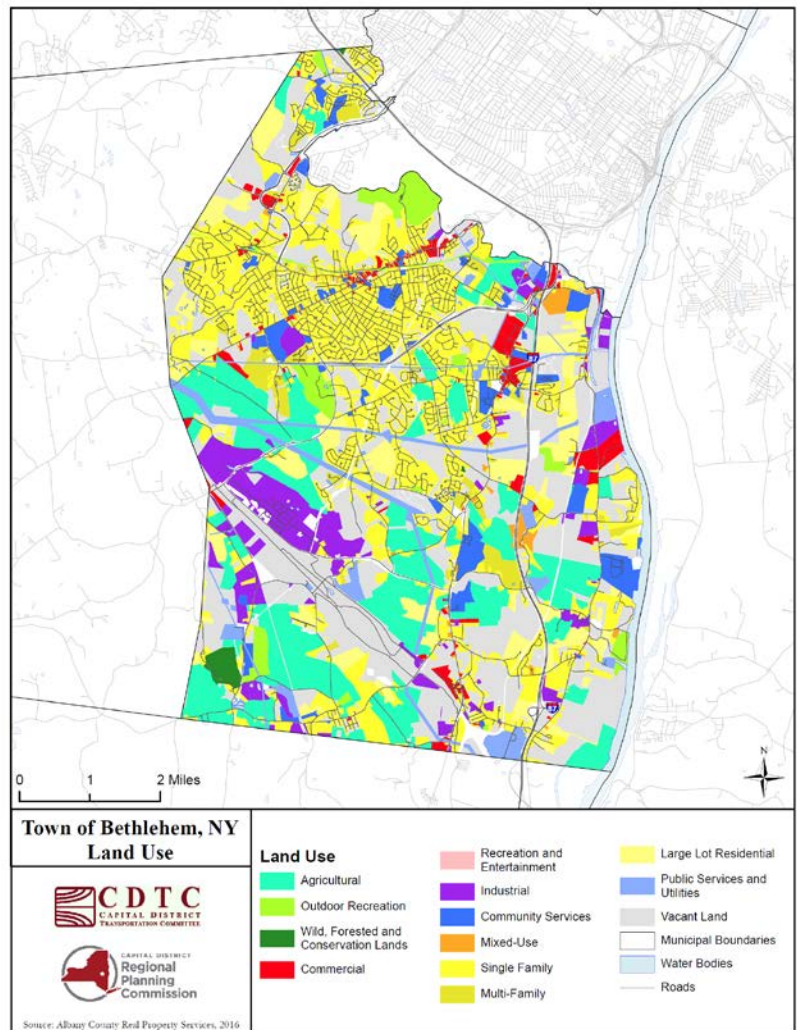
CDRPC also regularly partners on other trainings like the Saratoga County Planning and Zoning Conference. CDRPC also launched additional online training and education resources via YouTube, iTunes and SoundCloud.

GIS Services

CDRPC's [Online Census Mapper](#) is an interactive tool through which users can access and manipulate regional demographic and socioeconomic data. This year, the mapper was completely updated with new data and functionality.

GIS Technical Assistance: CDRPC provided a variety of other GIS services for partners and communities including the following projects:

- Albany County: Mapping and analysis to support the Albany County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan
- Town of Ballston, Saratoga County: Map series for the update of the Ballston Lake Watershed Protection Plan
- Village of Menands, Albany County: Provided GIS data for the Village's comprehensive plan
- City of Saratoga Springs, Saratoga County: Provided technical assistance related to natural resource mapping and developed maps of development activity
- Developed GIS layers of new roads and residential developments in the region
- Provided population analysis maps to the Capital District Transportation Authority



Town of Bethlehem Land Use Map from a Community Growth Profile

Community Growth Profiles: This year, CDRPC developed [Community Growth Profiles](#) examining 20 years of residential development in 56 of the region's municipalities. The Profiles offer a comprehensive review of growth trends and opportunities that have occurred in communities in the region. The Profiles were developed to assist current and future planning and feature information about current land use, recent housing growth, and road development maps in addition to data on population trends, housing units, and greenhouse gas emissions by sector. A total of 180 unique maps were created for the profiles featuring land use, residential development and new roadways.

Sustainable Communities:

CDRPC sustainability programs include land use, clean energy, climate change and adaptation, and agriculture and food system planning.

Clean Energy Communities Program

In partnership with NYSEDA, CDRPC manages The Clean Energy Communities Program (CECP)- a four million- dollar, three-year program to provide technical assistance and support to communities throughout eastern Upstate New York. The territory includes the Capital Region, Mid- Hudson, Mohawk Valley and North Country REDC regions. In 2017, CDRPC provided technical support to 62 communities in the Capital District region and a total of 238 communities throughout the territory. The 2017 CECP highlights include:



New EV Charging Station in Voorheesville, Albany County

CDRPC facilitates [\\$1.3 million in match free grant awards](#) to 10 designated communities in the Capital Region including: Albany County (\$280,000), Schenectady County (\$250,000), the cities of Albany (\$180,000) and Cohoes (\$130,000), and the towns of Bethlehem (\$130,000), Niskayuna (\$100,000), Knox (\$130,000), Clifton Park (\$50,000), Glens Falls (\$50,000), and Hillsdale (\$50,000)

In the Eastern Upstate NY territory, 42 designated communities received nearly \$4 million in match free grant funding facilitated by CDRPC and our partners in the territory.

Clean Energy Economy

Conference: In partnership with the Adirondack North Country Association, CDRPC sponsored a Clean Energy Economy Conference on October 25-26. The event attracted nearly 200 people.



Clean Energy Communities Program participants share their experiences with the program at the Clean Energy Economy Conference.

Seven Workshops and Webinars:

In addition, 7 workshops and webinars were held throughout the year that provided training to communities and partners in Benchmarking, Energy Efficiency, Clean Fleets, LED Streetlight Conversion, Community Choice Aggregation, and Community Energy

New Tools Connect Communities to Clean Energy: A variety of tools have been and are being developed by CDRPC staff to help communities access resources, develop projects and save money including a Clean Energy Community Project Development Guide, and Electric Vehicle Procurement

Public Charging benefits calculator, LED streetlight cost/benefit rapid assessment tool, solar capacity mapping, and energy plan templates.

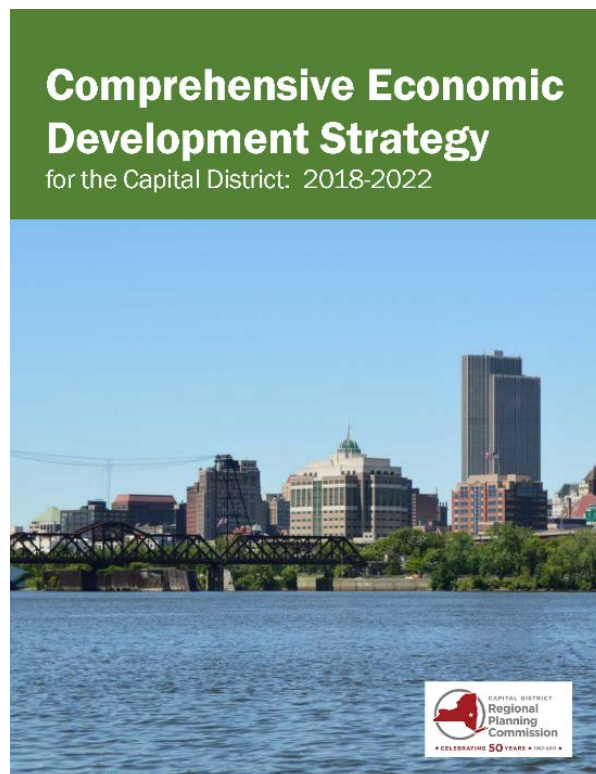
Economic Development

CDRPC works with federal and state agencies, county representatives, area chambers of commerce and economic development organizations to support a variety of economic development initiatives in the region.

New Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

For more than 30 years, CDRPC has prepared the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) as part of its economic development planning activities with the US Economic Development Administration. In 2017, the Commission embarked on an update to this CEDS which has resulted in some significant changes including adding resiliency into our planning efforts.

The CEDS complements the Regional Economic Development Council's (REDCs) work and strategies. As the work of the REDC focuses on regional priorities for State investment, the CEDS identifies regional priorities that resonate with federal policy goals and are positioned for federal financial support.



New Economic Impact Analysis Program

CDRPC launched a new economic impact analysis program this year. With grant support from National Grid, staff were trained in IMPLAN software, CDRPC's new primary tool for economic impact analysis. In 2017, CDRPC conducted several studies for organizations around the region including:

- Capitalize Albany Corporation and the City of Albany IDA
- Center for Economic Growth
- Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership and the Saratoga County IDA
- Skidmore College
- Town of Guilderland IDA

Capital Region Foreign-Trade Zone – FTZ 121

With the addition of Perrone Aerospace as a new usage-driven site, the FTZ now included two subzones and two-usage driven sites. According to our annual "Economic Impact of the Capital Region Foreign-Trade Zone analysis," the Capital Region FTZ has an impact on 840 jobs in the region, \$66 million in labor income, and a total output of \$150 million. In New York State, the Capital Region FTZ is the largest based on employment, 2nd largest in total value of exports, and 3rd largest in the total value of merchandise received.

Water Quality

CDRPC works on a number of water quality initiatives. In partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, CDRPC provides communities technical assistance related to water quality and storm water management. CDRPC also coordinates the intermunicipal efforts to reduce combined sewer overflows (CSOs) impacting the Hudson River.

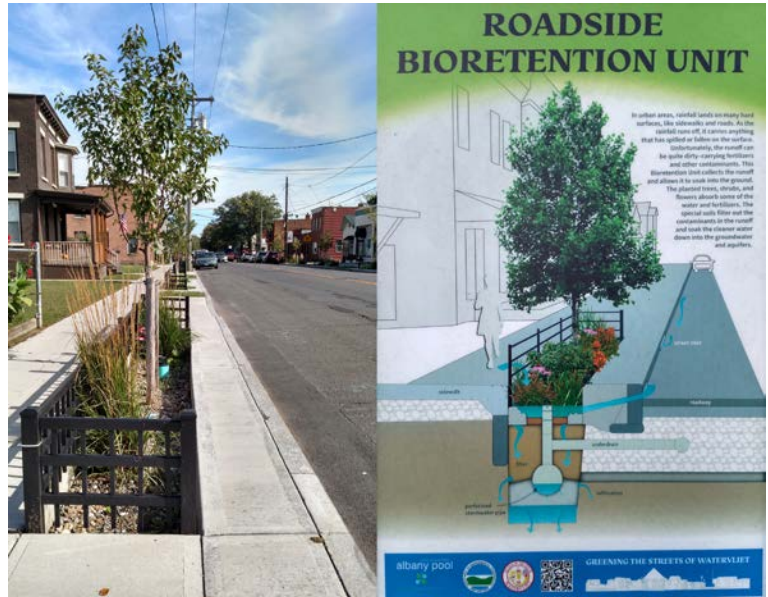
Albany Pool Communities CSO Long Term Control Plan

CDRPC coordinates a jointly implemented 15-year CSO Long Term Control Plan (LTCP). This \$136 million-dollar project administered collectively by six municipalities and two sewer districts is an unprecedented collaboration to complete more than 50 abatement projects to improve water quality in the Hudson and its tributaries.

To date, we estimate that more than 250 million gallons of untreated annual CSO flow has been removed from the Hudson river, a 15% reduction. Three treatment plants have been significantly upgraded, two adding seasonal disinfection.

The following thirteen LTCP projects were completed in 2017

- City of Albany- Mariette Place Storm Water Storage Facility, Asset Management Plan
- City of Troy- Tributary Evaluation for Non- CSO bacteria Sources
- City of Cohoes- Middle Vliet Street Sewer Separation, Improvements to Eleven Regulators, Asset Management Plan
- City of Watervliet- Route 32 Green Street Project, 18th Street and Avenue A Weir Improvements
- Village of Green Island- Swan Street and Hamilton Street Regulator Improvements, Asset Management Plan
- Pool-wide-Green Infrastructure Banking System Feasibility Study, Green Infrastructure Technical Design Guidance



Completed LTCP Project- City of Watervliet Route 32 Green Infrastructure and Educational Signage

Pool Communities Secure \$17m in Grants: Several large and impactful projects remain, and the communities were awarded nearly \$17 million dollars in grants in 2017 helping to reduce the overall cost of LTCP implementation for local rate-payers. The total awarded this year exceeds all amounts awarded to date and the communities should be commended for aggressively pursuing grant funding.

- City of Albany- \$10 million for “Big C” satellite treatment and floatables control facility, \$5 million for Floatables Control Facilities, \$989,000 funding other LTCP projects
- Rensselaer County Sewer District- \$840,000 for Grit Collection and Treatment System Improvements

- City of Cohoes- \$72,000 for Columbia Street Sewer Separation, Phase II

These commitments are in addition to the \$13 million secured since 2007 when the LTCP planning process began. Grants such as those from the NYSDOS Local Government Efficiency Program, NYSDEC Estuary, and EFC Green Infrastructure Grant Program, secured in the past have been instrumental in the affordable advancement of projects and programs.

Human Services

[Capital District Youth Center, Inc.](#) CDRPC is the administrator for the Capital District Juvenile Secure Detention Facility, the first multi-county detention center for youth in the nation. Administered by the Capital District Youth Center, Inc. (CDYCI) and operated by the Berkshire Farm Center for Youth, the detention facility has provided very significant savings for the member counties since it opened in 1997.

- **Facility Transfer to Albany County:** This year, the original bonds to construct the facility were retired automatically triggering ownership of the facility to transfer from the Capital District Youth Center, Inc to Albany County.

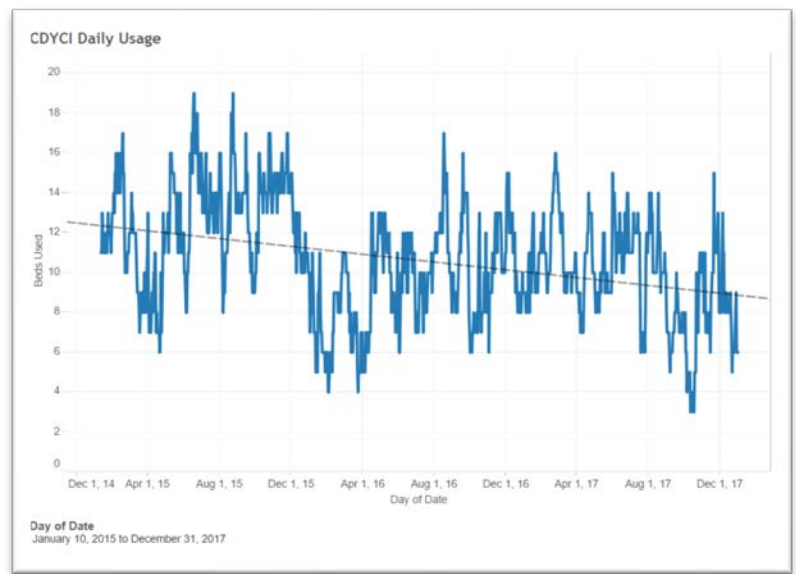


Chart showing declining utilization trend at detention facility

- **Mental Health Services Added to Facility:** Through a collaborative process, the county stakeholders identified the scope of new mental health services to be provided at the secure detention facility. These services include initial mental health screening, wrap around services and reports to the courts as needed. A new full time Licensed Master of Social Work was hired by operator Berkshire Farm to oversee the services.
- **CDYCI Convenes Stakeholders for Raise the Age Implementation:** In late September CDYCI called together a meeting attended by roughly 35 regional stakeholders to discuss our regional approach to compliance with New York State's Raise the Age law, under which 16 and 17 year-olds will no longer be prosecuted as adults. The following four subcommittees were convened – Building, Operations and Oversight, Finance, and Education and will help guide the collaborative decision-making process to comply with all emerging aspects of the Raise the Age law and associated regulations in relation to housing and providing programming for 16 and 17 year-old “adolescent offenders” within the Capital District Juvenile Secure Detention Facility.



Capital District Regional Planning Commission, 2017

Albany County

G. Michael Apostol
Willard A. Bruce
Lucille M. McKnight
Michael Morelli
Kristin Swinton, ***Treasurer***

Saratoga County

Philip Barrett
Jason Kemper, ***Vice Chair***
John Murray
Paul Sausville

Rensselaer County

Judith H. Breselor, ***Chair***
Stan Brownell
James D. Shaughnessy
Michael Stammel
Jacqueline Stellone

Schenectady County

B. Donald Ackerman
Nancy Casso
Gary Hughes, ***Secretary***
Joe Landry
Barbara Mauro

Capital District Regional Planning Commission Staff, 2017

Timothy Canty, Financial Officer

Martin Daley, Director of Water Quality
Programs

Todd Fabozzi, Director of Sustainability

Jill Falchi, Sustainability Planner

Andrew Gillcrist, Assistant Planner

Robyn Reynolds, Senior Planner

Daniel M. Harp Jr., Senior Planner

Magdy Hay, Financial Officer

Sean Maguire, AICP, Director of Economic
Development

Donna Reinhart, Office Manager

Mark A. Castiglione, AICP

Executive Director