

**MINUTES**

# PLANNING & RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING

**Fred Lightfoote, Chairman**

**Tuesday - June 3, 2014, 2014**

**4:00 PM**

**Economic Development Conference Room  
Municipal Building**

<p><b>Members Present</b> Chair – Supervisor F. Lightfoote Supervisor T. Campbell Supervisor J. Gallahan</p>	<p><b>Members Excused</b> Vice Chair – Supervisor R. Green Supervisor D. Vedora Supervisor B. Welch</p>	<p><b>Staff:</b> John Sheppard, Supervisor John Garvey, County Administrator Tom Harvey, Planning Director Betsy Landre, Planning Reliefia Kramer, Planning Mike Manikowski, Economic Development</p> <p><b>Guests:</b> Jim Ochterski, Cornell Cooperative Extension Carol McNeil, Vegetable Specialist, Cornell Cooperative Extension</p>
--	---	--

TIME	TOPIC	NOTES & DISCUSSION
<p>4:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Opening of Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Approval of Minutes</b></p>	<p>Chair Lightfoote opened the June 3, 2014 Planning and Research Committee meeting at 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Chair Lightfoote requested a motion for approval of the May 13, 2014 meeting minutes with one correction. The last paragraph of Planning should be “Reinterpretation of the Clean Water Act”.</p> <p><i>Motion was offered by Supervisor Gallahan to approve the May 13, 2014 minutes with the above stated correction, which was seconded by Supervisor Campbell. All in favor, motion carried.</i></p>
<p>4:09</p>	<p><b>Cornell Cooperative Extension</b></p>	<p>Chair Lightfoote welcomed Jim Ochterski and Carol McNeil.</p> <p>Ms. McNeil gave a presentation on Late Blight Disease affecting tomatoes and other vegetable crops.</p>
<p>4:13</p>	<p><b>Planning</b></p>	<p>Tom Harvey spoke to the committee regarding the Seneca Lake Area Partners In Five Counties (SLAP-5) Letter and the proposed Seneca Lake Watershed Memorandum of Understanding which would create a new Intermunicipal Organization. The Intermunicipal Organization would be made up of the 41 municipalities (city, towns, and villages) and 5 counties in the watershed. Its purpose is to foster cooperation and communication between the municipalities, to prioritize the implementation tasks in the Seneca Lake Watershed Management Plan, and to seek funding for implementing some of those tasks. Discussion took place among the committee members. Mr. Harvey explained that the current draft was revised from an earlier version to remove any mention</p>

		<p>of financial obligation on behalf of the party. Mr. Harvey stated that he recommends approval of the MOU in its current form, and that it had been approved already by several municipalities and Yates County. Mr. Harvey mentioned that if the committee recommends it to the Board, the resolution will need to include appointing an individual as the County’s voting representative.</p> <p>A motion was offered by Supervisor Gallahan, and was seconded by Supervisor Campbell to have Tom Harvey draft a resolution in support of the Seneca Lake Watershed Memorandum of Understanding. All in favor, motion carried. Chairman Lightfoote noted he will work on a recommendation for the County’s recommendation. Mr. Harvey was directed to circulate the draft of the resolution to the committee.</p> <p>Mr. Harvey recommends approval of a resolution – Reappointment Of Stephen Groet To The Ontario County Planning Board representing the Town of Canadice.</p> <p><i>Motion was offered by Supervisor Gallahan, and was seconded by Supervisor Campbell to approve the above mentioned resolution. All in favor. Motion carried.</i></p> <p>County Administrator Garvey gave the committee an update of the RGRTA progress. He informed the committee that Mike DeRaddo has accepted a position as Regional Manager with RGRTA.</p> <p>Chair Lightfoote thanked Mr. DeRaddo, on the behalf of the P&amp;R Committee, for the excellent work he performed while in the employ of Ontario County.</p> <p>Mr. DeRaddo updated the committee on the transition process.</p> <p>Mr. Garvey advised the committee that he will be suggesting names to serve on an advisory committee to RGRTA concerning operations in Ontario County. The advisory committee will follow the model used in Wayne County that seems to operate very successfully and will consist of people that are involved with riders such as the Commissioner of Social Services, Office for the Aging, city government reps. This Committee will need to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the names of two prospective people to serve as Commissioners on the RGRTA Board of Directors. If accepted by the Board of Supervisors, these two names will then be sent to the Governor and the Governor will choose one of them to serve as an RGRTA Commissioner.</p>
4:40	<b>Economic Development</b>	<p>Mike Manikowski updated the committee on the activities of Economic Development. Mr. Manikowski reported that they will be working on an update of their strategic plan. One of the areas of concern is the dip in sales tax revenues. They want to understand if part of that is coming from business to business transactions, which have typically accounted for nearly half of all sales tax receipts in Ontario County. The update to the plan will then identify strategies for increasing sales tax revenue. Mr. Garvey stated that the property tax levy provides \$51,634,777 of revenue to the county while sales tax provides \$41,968,318 to the County, 50% of which is shared with the Towns and Cities. This revenue is very important for local government, and he supports this being an important part of the update of the strategic plan.</p>
4:47	<b>Planning</b>	<p>Mr. Harvey reviewed and recommends a resolution – Opposing expansion of Federal Control Under the Clean Water Act. This resolution was referred from Wayne County and has been adopted by other upstate counties. Mr. Harvey stated that he has scanned the 371 page rulemaking and they are an attempt to return the federal government’s jurisdiction over a broad range of intermittently wet lands that the federal courts have consistently limited them from</p>

		<p>regulating through a series of court cases. Further, the proposed regulations do not deliver on the promise of exemptions for agriculture and municipal highway operations as promised, as the exemptions are nullified by the fact that almost every ditch and stream in Ontario County is directly hydrologically linked to the waters of the United States and therefore not eligible for exemption. This is a one size fits all regulation that is more appropriate to the more arid portions of the country, where every puddle is a valuable resource. He pointed out that there is no minimum wetland size or other standard that could help limit the scope of the regulations in parts of the country that normally have significant annual precipitation and wetlands, such as the Northeast including Ontario County. He feels the regulation should recognize regional differences to protect what is important and significant in a region, noting that the New York State Freshwater Wetlands Act only regulates wetlands over 12.4 acres and smaller ones if they are of some special significance (such as an alkaline wetland). He is concerned that the Army Corps of Engineers will not have sufficient resources to administer this expanded program, and that regulation will end up being spotty and unpredictable as happened when the initial federal wetland permit program began in the 1990's. Finally, as written, Mr. Harvey believes the regulations put the Northeast at a competitive disadvantage as almost every construction project would now require a federal permit, unlike more arid areas of the country where there are far less federal wetlands.</p> <p>Chairman Lightfoote noted that the Farm Bureau has come out opposing these proposed regulations as they agree that they do not deliver on the promise of exemptions for agricultural operations. Supervisor Sheppard stated that the Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District was opposed to anything more restrictive than currently exists.</p> <p><i>Supervisor Campbell offered a motion, and it was seconded by Supervisor Gallahan to approve the above mentioned resolution. All in favor. Motion carried.</i></p>
5:08	<b>Adjournment</b>	<p>There being no further business for discussion, Chair Lightfoote requested a motion to adjourn.</p> <p><i>Motion to adjourn made by Supervisor Gallahan, seconded by Supervisor Campbell. Motion carried.</i></p>

Respectfully Submitted,

*Reliefia Kramer*