

COMMISSION MEETING

May 17, 2006, 8:30am
CDRPC Conference Room
One Park Place, Suite 102
Albany, New York 12205

MINUTES

- PRESENT:** John Graziano, Lucille McKnight, Judy Breselor, Stan Brownell, Jayne Regan Harris, Mike Stammel, Fred Acunto, Philip Barrett, Spencer Hellwig, John Murray, Gary Hughes, Barbara Mauro, David Vincent
- ABSENT:** Betty Barnette, Willard Bruce, Henry Dennis, James Shaughnessy, Chris Callaghan, Raymond Gillen, Michael Petta
- PRESIDING:** Fred Acunto, Chair, Called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Jim Basha and Joe Lignard from the Green Island Power Authority were in attendance.

2. MARCH 15, 2006 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes were distributed before the meeting. Lucille inquired if Capital Trade Strategies was the same as Capital District Trade Strategies. Rocky added that the correct name is Capital District Trade Strategies and the minutes should be corrected to note the change.

Action Taken

Lucille made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Gary Hughes seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENT THROUGH APRIL 30, 2006

Rocky reported that this statement reflects the current financial statements through April 2006. Revenues are at 37.6% and expenses are at 31.0%.

The first quarter billings to the contracting agencies have gone out. The second quarter invoices were sent to Saratoga and Schenectady Counties.

There is approximately \$136,000 cash in the bank and receivables totaling just over \$67,000. Two CD's were purchased for \$30,000 each. One is an 8 month CD earning 4.66% interest and the other is a 12 month CD earning 4.69%.

Action Taken

Mike Stammel made a motion to accept the Financial Statement, and Jayne Regan Harris seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. GREEN ISLAND POWER AUTHORITY

Jim Besha and Joe Lignard from the Green Island Power Authority (GIPA) gave a brief presentation to the Board discussing their alternative proposal to the School Street Project re-licensing proceeding that is presently under consideration by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). On April 21st, the A & F Committee met with Jack Brown, Chairman and CEO of GIPA and Jim Besha to discuss their alternative proposal.

A letter was sent on May 15th to FERC, based on the recommendation of the A & F Committee and upon concurrence from the Board. The letter was submitted under the Chair's signature requesting consideration be given to the application being submitted by GIPA and that CDRPC request intervener status to participate in the review of any application submitted in association with School Street License renewal.

Fred Acunto inquired about the possibility of job opportunities this project would provide during and after construction. Jim Besha responded that construction will take approximately 1.5 years and during that time he estimates about 100-150 construction job opportunities. Jim also estimates a good amount of long-term jobs coming out of this project. Secondary jobs through tourism will most likely be more significant in the future.

John Murray asked about the timetable of this project. The estimated completion date is March, 2008.

John Murray also inquired if there is any anticipated problems from the existing owners, and could they possibly tie the project up in court. Jim Besha replied that the owners are not pleased about the situation, however they will be compensated for their investment. FERC has a very specific set of regulations that dictate what the existing owners must be paid.

The existing owners have held this project up in court for the last year. This proposal by GIPA was presented a year ago and previously 4-5 years ago and the existing owners at that time refused to discuss. FERC could force a mediation and this could be settled quickly or they could refuse to renew their annual license. They could also move to approve the renewal of the license to the existing operators who are proposing some minor modifications to the plant.

Lucille asked if this area falls within the newly created Empire Zone? Yes, the existing plant is in the Empire Zone.

Fred Acunto mentioned that he and Rocky have had some discussions with Supervisor Lawler from the Town of Waterford and he is very supportive of this project. Jim Basha added that Supervisor Lawler has sent in a letter of support to The Green Island Power Authority.

5. 2010 CENSUS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

Rocky reported that CDRPC was one of seven entities to participate in the demonstration program under the direction of the NYS Department of Economic Development to assess the availability, quality and coverage of existing local housing and address data sets.

The primary objective of this study was to identify data gaps that may exist and community capacity needs in order to effectively respond to the Census Bureau's 2010 Census address review program. The study findings will be used by the Department of Development to prepare a statewide address based data and training program to assist and enhance local government's participation in the 2010 Census address review program to assure as accurate a count as possible for New York State. A copy of the 2010 Census Demonstration Project was distributed before the meeting.

In 2007, chief elected officials will be receiving a letter from the Census Bureau requesting that they review the address file for verification to ensure that addresses are correct. This is part of the Local Government Review Program. It is anticipated that the State, along with CDRPC, will offer a training program to local government officials in the review of the address files.

6. FOREIGN TRADE ZONE UPDATE

The application that was submitted for minor modification to the Northeastern Industrial Park had been approved. The agreement between CDRPC and Protective Industrial Products (PIP), which establishes the conditions under which PIP may use the Foreign-Trade Zone, has been approved by both parties.

7. 604(b) WATER QUALITY CONTRACT

The 604(b) program has been the major funding source to support CDRPC's ongoing water quality planning activities for the last twelve years. The proposed tasks place priority on implementing New York State's MS4 Phase II Stormwater Permit program and providing support to regulated entities in the implementation of the program's requirements.

The proposed contract for the 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning grant is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is administered by DEC. This is a new two year contract with a possible two year

extension to continue our Water Quality work program. Our existing contract expires March 31, 2007. CDRPC will receive \$50,000 per year for the duration of the contract. CDRPC will provide an in-kind match of an additional \$16,666.

Rocky is requesting Commission action to allow CDRPC to enter into the contract upon approval of the workplan by DEC.

Action Taken

Lucille McKnight made a motion to enter into the contract, and Jayne Regan Harris seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. LTCP – CSO UPDATE

Rocky reported that the Public Participation Plan has been prepared and approved by the Technical Committee for submittal to DEC. The plan calls for the creation of a Citizen Advisory Committee, which will provide advice to the technical committee who will then provide that information to their local jurisdictions. CDRPC is to provide DEC names of individuals and organizations that will serve on the Citizen Advisory Committee. Representative organizations will be determined as the development of the Scope of Work continues.

David Vincent inquired how the selection of individuals to the Citizen Advisory Committee are made. The Technical Advisory Committee will identify who should serve on that committee and invitations will be sent out to those organizations and individuals.

Lucille McKnight inquired if the Technical Committee was already in place and if it is possible to get a list of everyone on that Committee. Rocky responded that the Technical Committee has been in place for about three years and he will provide the list of everyone on that Committee.

9. TRAIL USER & RESIDENTIAL LAND OWNER SURVEY CONTRACT WITH CDTC

The Capital District Transportation Committee would like to enter into an agreement with CDRPC to assist them in conducting a Regional trail user survey and adjoining property owner survey for three trail systems in the Region: The Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail, the Zim Smith Trail, and the Uncle Sam Trail. For each trail system there will be a survey of the adjacent residential property owners whose properties touch on the trail system, a survey of trail users, and a trail user count. There will be twelve stations along these three trails during four different days. The user count survey will involve both paid and volunteers and will be coordinated by CDTC.

CDTC will administer the contract and will serve as a project manager. They will also be responsible for distributing the survey and inputting the results into spreadsheets. CDRPC will be responsible for the analysis of the completed surveys for each of the trail systems. A report of findings will be prepared by CDRPC.

Rocky will be in contact with graduate students from the University at Albany and they will be the primary group that will be paid to work on this project. There will also be a group of volunteers to assist.

The survey will be done during the months of June and July and the analysis will be done in August.

Rocky is requesting Board action to allow CDRPC to enter into an agreement with CDTC.

Spencer Hellwig inquired if CDTC will be paying the volunteers or the students. The volunteers will not be compensated, but the students at the University will be paid \$10-11 per hour. CDRPC will have a subcontract with CDTC to do the work and a portion of that money will be used to pay the students. CDRPC will pay the University and they will distribute the money to the students.

Judy Breselor mentioned that she has individuals from the City of Troy who would likely volunteer for the trail survey and user count.

David Vincent asked what the purpose of the final report was. Rocky responded to establish a baseline of information of usage, concerns and priorities for future trail improvements. The information will be used by the CDTC Bike and Pedestrian Trail Committee as part of their ongoing effort to improve the regional trail system.

Since it is a separate contract and the scope is not completed, Fred Acunto recommended distributing the draft agreement for Board review upon its completion prior to him signing it on behalf of CDRPC.

Action Taken

An amended motion was made to distribute the agreement to the full board for review and approval before signing. Mike Stammel made a motion to approve and John Murray seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. (Note: Subsequent to the Board meeting, CDTC decided to amend the existing UPWP rather than enter into a separate contract with CDRPC. This info was communicated by Rocky to Fred Acunto and Mike Stammel the representative from CDRPC serving on the CDTC Policy Board.)

10. FALL STAFF/BOARD RETREAT

The last CDRPC retreat was held in October 2005 and was facilitated by John Allen, a consultant with Performance Matters.

There was some discussion to determine if the Board has interest in having a similar retreat this fall. It was suggested to have the retreat directly following a Commission meeting.

It was also recommended to have the A&F Committee choose a date and time and survey the rest of the Commissioners for their input. Rocky was authorized to work with Jon Allen to arrange specifics.

11. PRESENTATION BY TODD FABOZZI REGARDING CDRPC'S GIS WORK RELATED ACTIVITIES.

Todd Fabozzi gave a presentation on the Commission's Geographic Information System (GIS). The presentation described what GIS is and how it is used by CDRPC, including: the kinds of GIS data used and how it is acquired and shared, a sample of GIS data requests, a sample of specific GIS applications, and a sample of planning, water quality, and transit projects in which CDRPC's GIS has been utilized.

12. STAFF ACTIVITY REPORT

The Staff Activity Report was distributed before the meeting. There was no discussion.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Fred made an announcement and congratulated Barbara Mauro on her recent re-election to the President of the Niskayuna School Board.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Lucille McKnight made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mike Stammel seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John Graziano
Secretary