



LAKE CHAMPLAIN-LAKE GEORGE

**REGIONAL
PLANNING**

BETH GILLES
DIRECTOR

PO BOX 765
LAKE GEORGE, NY 12845
518-668-5773
WWW.LCLGRPB.ORG

Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board

Regular Meeting of the Board

April 14, 2026 1:00 pm

Meeting Locations:

Warren County Committee Room, 1340 US 9 Lake George, NY 12845

Clinton County Legislative Board Room, 137 Margaret Street Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Agenda

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of January 13, 2026 Annual Meeting minutes (Board Action)
4. Treasurer's Report (Board Action)
 - January, February, March 2026 Abstracts (Board Action)
5. Amendment to 2026 Salary Schedule (Board Action)
6. Award of LCLGRPB-04-26 On-Call Workforce Housing Program Management Assistance (Board Action)
7. Strategic Plan Update
8. Loan Committee report
9. Senior Planner Report
10. Principal Project Coordinator Report
11. Executive Director's Report
12. Other
13. Next Meeting Date – July 14, 2026 at 1:00 pm. Location TBD.
14. Adjourn



LAKE CHAMPLAIN-LAKE GEORGE

REGIONAL PLANNING

BETH GILLES
DIRECTOR

PO BOX 765
LAKE GEORGE, NY 12845
518-668-5773
WWW.LCLGRP.ORG

Chairman Taflan called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT (voting in italics)

Shannon Thayer - *voting (Plattsburgh)*
Kevin Randall - *voting (Plattsburgh)*
Randy Lozier (*Plattsburgh*)
Ike Tyler - *voting (Plattsburgh)*
Steve McNally (*Plattsburgh*)
Beth Hunt - *voting (Lake George)*
John Taflan - *voting (Lake George)*
Nate Etu - *voting (Lake George)*
John Strough - *voting (Lake George)*
Sue Clary - *voting (Lake George)*
Charles Tall - *voting (Lake George)*
David O'Brien - *voting (Lake George)*
Meg Wood - *voting (Lake George)*

MEMBERS ABSENT

Joshua Kretser
Mark Henry
Karl Weiss
Matt Brassard
Mike Diskin
Jim Dougan
Anthony Fernandez
Christy Wilt
Clay Arsenault
Jodie Small
Tracy Eldridge
Kevin Geraghty
Christine Norton
Kevin Hajos
Bob Henke
Al Nolette
Deb Donohue

ALSO PRESENT

Beth Gilles
Jessica Leerkes
Sam Blake
Kiersten McCane
Colleen Nelson
Elliot Lear

Ms. Gilles took roll call and established quorum.

Approval of January 13, 2026 Annual Meeting Minutes

Chairman Taflan asked for a motion to approve the January 13, 2026 annual meeting minutes.

Motion made by Mr. O'Brien.

Seconded by Mr. Strough.

Hearing no additions or corrections, and no opposed, motion carried.

Ms. Wood entered meeting at 1:03 pm.



Treasurer's Report

Ms. Hunt referred to the financial statement as of 3/31/2026 as presented in the board packet. The operating fund is strong and the decrease in fund equity is due to Q1 receivables not being booked yet, which is a substantial amount of reimbursement owed by state and federal grants. Ms. Hunt shared that loan fund assets available for borrowing stands at more than \$2 million. The year-to-date interest earned from the ICS investment account is \$27,659.24, and the lifetime interest earned from the ICS investment account is \$213,981.45.

Chairman Taflan asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's report.

Motion made by Mr. O'Brien.

Seconded by Ms. Clary.

Hearing no discussion and no opposed, motion carried.

Chairman Taflan asked for a motion to approve the 2026 January, February and March Abstracts as presented.

Motion made by Ms. Hunt.

Seconded by Mr. O'Brien.

Hearing no discussion and no opposed, motion carried.

Amendment to 2026 Salary Schedule

Ms. Gilles referred to the modified 2026 Salary Schedule to request the following changes:

- The current 2026 Salary Schedule includes Principal Planner salary at \$93,728 and an Economic Development Coordinator at \$80,000.
- The modification being requested reduces the Principal Planner salary to \$90,000, removes the Economic Development Coordinator position, and adds Project Coordinator position with a salary of \$75,000.
- Total salaries would be \$638,572, which is already included in the 2026 budget, so no budget modification is requested.

Chairman Taflan asked for a motion to accept the amendment to the 2026 Salary Schedule.

Motion made by Mr. Tall.

Seconded by Mr. Strough.

Hearing no discussion and no opposed, motion carried.



Award of LCLGRPB-04-26 On-Call Workforce Housing Program Management Assistance

Ms. Gilles explained that there was an RFP for on-call assistance for housing program management assistance for the federal funding LCLGRPB will be receiving soon, along with funding from Adirondack Community Foundation. The RFP received 4 responses, responses were reviewed, and the chosen contractor is Strategic Economies, LLC.

Chairman Taflan asked for a motion to approve awarding LCLGRPB-04-26 to Strategic Economies, LLC.

Motion made by Ms. Clary.

Seconded by Ms. Hunt.

Hearing no discussion and no opposed, motion carried.

Strategic Plan Update

Ms. Gilles shared the following updates about the ongoing Strategic Plan:

- EverStrive Solutions is working to inventory, audit, and eventually create policies and procedures specifically for LCLGRPB. They're also working on a professional development program for LCLGRPB staff. A survey was sent to staff to determine areas of their skills they'd like to develop, which was returned to EverStrive Solutions and they'll be hosting a professional development program in May. Some areas of development include workload management, prioritization, communication skills, etc. Ms. Gilles mentioned that there's a possibility for LCLGRPB to open the program to non-profits in the region who may not have the means to provide this training to their staff. Additionally, EverStrive Solutions is working on implementation of an internal project management software. Currently LCLGRPB staff are using a plethora of spreadsheets to track hours and finances, so this software would combine data and provide better accessibility to staff. EverStrive is currently researching potential software options, and we'll be testing them out in the coming weeks.

Loan Committee Report

Ms. Gilles shared that the Loan Administrative Committee has met once since the last board meeting. War Cannon Spirits, located in Crown Point (Essex County), has requested a loan modification due to re-structuring of the business, so that modification will be voted on at next week's meeting, and The Little Pizza Shop has paid off their loan. There were no new loans brought to the committee this past quarter and the loan portfolio has 50 loans.



Senior Planner Report

Ms. Nelson presented the following information to the board:

- Applications were submitted to the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's Municipal Parks and Recreation Grant program on behalf of the Village of Champlain for Bill Earl Park Improvements and the Town of Plattsburgh for May Carrier Park Improvements.
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Adirondack Smart Growth Grants were awarded to the Towns of Moriah and Minerva, along with the Village of Lake George.
- The NYS DEC Invasive Species Grant was awarded to Paradox and Schroon Lake Associations.
- Ongoing projects include LCLGRPB Septic Outreach Expansion Program, Lake George HWA Assessment and Prioritization Plan, Clinton and Washington Counties Countywide Resiliency Plan, and the CEDS update.
- The following towns currently have Comprehensive Plans being updated by LCLGRPB staff: Town of Horicon, Village of Speculator, Town and Village of Argyle, and Towns of Willsboro, Salem, Chester, and Long Lake.
- The following water quality projects are taking place including the Brant Lake Watershed Management Plan, DWSP2, and administering WQIP grants for Upper Hudson River Coalition, Village of Speculator and Hamilton County SWCD.
- Other work being done by LCLGRPB staff includes Washington County & A/GFTC Planning Committees, completing the Essex County Blight Inventory, starting to work on updating zoning for Town of Essex, and working on the Town of Salem Battenkill Railroad Future Use Feasibility Study.
- Additionally, Ms. Nelson encouraged non Pro-Housing Communities that may be interested in applying to reach out to her.

Principal Project Coordinator Report

Ms. Leerkes presented the following information to the board:

- Currently, there are 29 active grants with 3 in close-out and 2 new grants from DASNY and SS4A. Additionally, Ms. Leerkes is overseeing 15 LDD contracts through NBRC.
- There were 2 applications submitted in Q1 including Granville TAP and the Washington County Drifting Ridge Wastewater Upgrades for the ESD County Infrastructure Program.
- The EPA Brownfields project has begun, and Weston and Sampson were chosen as the consultant for the project. The kickoff meeting took place in March and the team is developing and researching sites for the project.



Executive Director's Report

Ms. Gilles presented the following information to the board:

- Local, State and Federal Outreach
 - o Ms. Gilles presented at the Adirondack Community Foundation Housing Symposium, is working with NADO to develop an “Emerging Leaders” program for the East, she sits on the NADO By-Laws Committee, met with the Governor’s representative for the North Country, attended the Hamilton County Board Meeting, and attended the Warren County Economic Development Committee meeting.
 - o Additionally, Ms. Gilles and Ms. McCane attended the NADO DC Conference and met with representatives from Senator’s Schumer and Gillibrand’s offices, along with Congresswoman Stefanik’s office. The discussion consisted of priority projects going on in our communities.
- Economic Development
 - o The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) five-year update is underway.
 - o Cell Service Project Update
 - Previously, contractors were tasked with driving about 8,500 miles last summer to gauge the availability of cell services for the major carriers within our region. There were 19 areas that have absolutely no cell services. The engineers investigated those areas to complete a root cause analysis to pinpoint the exact reason there’s no service. Ms. Gilles shared the completed maps with board members. Washington County had 5 areas, and it was determined that the lack of cell service is mainly due to distance from existing cell towers, along with geographical and foliage issues. The consultants prepared a map to show where new 80-foot and 100-foot cell towers could be built and how large the coverage area would be. Right now, LCLGRP.B and the consultants are at the stage of site candidate acquisition, which is identifying state and municipally owned properties that could be available to build the towers on.
 - o LCLGRP.B authored six Congressionally Directed Spending applications including:
 - Town of Moriah Champ Beach Park Pavilion: \$1,920,000
 - Village of Lake George Septage Handling Upgrade Project: \$3,208,000
 - Village of Granville Gateway Project: \$1,220,716



- Town of Long Lake Beach Upgrades: \$2,676,300
- Town of Indian Lake Commons Infrastructure and Revitalization Initiative: \$1,500,000
- Town of Salem New Municipal Sanitary Sewer System Design: \$100,000
- One NBRC grant:
 - Town of Long Lake Jennings Pond Reuse Feasibility Study: \$100,000
- Grant Awards Announcements:
 - Washington County Roadside Erosion reduction Program: \$2,120,000
 - Town of Moriah Redevelopment of former Port Henry High School site: \$150,000
 - Clinton County Nashville Road Workforce Housing Pre-Development: \$109,749
 - LCLGRPB Adirondack Workforce Housing Development Corporation: Nonprofit Development Feasibility: \$20,000
 - LCLGRPB Assistance to Access Grant Funding: \$8,000
 - City of Plattsburgh School District Safe Bridge, Safe Students: \$5,000
 - DANC Housing Capital Revolving Loan Fund: \$3,000,000

In 2025, LCLGRPB received 23 grant awards totaling \$16,679,390 in grant funding.

Next Meeting Date – July 14, 2026 at 1:00 pm.

Chairman Taflan reminded board members that the next board meeting is scheduled for July 14th, 2026 at 1:00. Ms. Gilles will be sending out the details and locations closer to the meeting date.

Other

None

Adjourn

Mr. Taflan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:23 pm.

Motion made by Mr. Etu.

Seconded by Mr. Strough.

Hearing no discussion and no opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Kiersten McCane, Operations Coordinator