

**May 24, 2007
Meeting Minutes****Location**

6th Floor Legislative Conference Room, Broome County Office Building, 44 Hawley Street, Binghamton, NY

Attendance

Constituent Members: Supervisor Debbie Preston, Town of Conklin; Supervisor Margaret Turna, Town of Chenango; Supervisor Mike Marinaccio, Town of Dickinson; Ron Lake, Town of Kirkwood; Randy Williams, Town of Windsor

Associate Members: None

Other Attendees: Jeremy Evans, Broome County Department of Planning and Economic Development; Louise Vanderkulk, Barbara Carter, League of Women Voters; Eric Denk, Broome County Legislative Clerk; Barbara Thompson, USDA; Chris Nill, RCAP Solutions; Mike Dill, Rich Winters, NY Rural Water

Convene

Supervisor Debbie Preston convened the meeting at 4:06 PM.

Water & Sewer Infrastructure Financial and Technical Assistance Presentations

Supervisor Preston welcomed everyone and expressed appreciation for the presenters that came to the meeting and turned the time over to them.

Barbara Thompson from USDA Rural Development in Binghamton introduced herself and introduced Chris Nill, from RCAP Solutions and Mike Dill from NY Rural Water Association. Rich Winters from NY Rural Water Association arrived later.

Ms. Thompson gave the first presentation and described some of the programs that USDA has available to assist small communities finance water and sewer infrastructure projects. Specifically, she described the Direct Loan and Grant Program, the Pre-development Planning Grants (PPG), and the Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants Program (ECWAG).

Ms. Thompson described the eligibility requirements (usually municipalities or infrastructure systems under 10,000 in population) and the application process. She also showed local examples of USDA funded projects, including the Village of Whitney Point wastewater treatment plant that is currently under construction. The Town of Fenton used a pre-development planning grant to study a proposed extension of the Hillcrest sanitary sewer system.

Chris Nill then gave a presentation on the services provided by RCAP Solutions. RCAP Solutions is a non-profit organization that offers free and low cost technical assistance to communities that undertake infrastructure projects. Specifically, RCAP representatives help guide communities through the initial steps of the development process. This includes the needs assessment, preliminary design, and project funding. RCAP Solutions representatives are very familiar with all of the funding sources and application processes that communities may encounter. RCAP can also help communities with specific parts of the development process including income surveys.

Rich Winters gave a presentation on the NY Rural Water Association. The NYRWA is a non-profit association that consists of small or rural water and wastewater systems and other interested individuals and consultants. There are over 1,000 water systems represented and over 300 wastewater systems represented. The Association has 16 staff members that provide classroom training and technical assistance. The staff includes circuit riders that visit systems around the state and provide free services such as leak detection, pipe locating, treatment, and testing.

Supervisor Margaret Turna announced to the Council that the Town of Chenango's wastewater treatment plant won the wastewater system of the year award from the NY Rural Water Association.

After the presentations Supervisor thanked everyone for coming and noted that the Council will not meet again until fall.

(Editor's note: The website for each organization is included below)

USDA Rural Development: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/>

RCAP Solutions: <http://www.rcapsolutions.org/>

NY Rural Water Association: <http://www.nyruralwater.org/>

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM

Recorded and edited by: Jeremy Evans

Approved by: Debra A. Preston