

34th Annual Planning Symposium

March 9, 2023 • Marriott Syracuse Downtown
PRESENTERS

KEYNOTE PRESENTER



J. Ryan McMahon, II

County Executive J. Ryan McMahon, II is the 4th County Executive. He assumed office on November 2nd, 2018.

Ryan started his career in public service as a Syracuse City Councilor in 2005 after being elected at the age of 25. He was reelected in 2007 for a second term and quickly earned a reputation as a bi-partisan problem solver.

In 2011, County Executive McMahon was elected to the Onondaga County Legislature and was subsequently elected Chairman of the County Legislature in 2012 by his fellow legislators becoming the youngest Chairman in County history.

As Chairman, his primary focus was job creation and ensuring good fiscal discipline in the county. Under his leadership, property taxes were brought down to historic lows.

Upon becoming County Executive in 2018, Ryan has placed a focus on three main initiatives: poverty, infrastructure and economic development. A passionate supporter of small and local businesses, the County Executive firmly believes that the best way out of poverty is through a job and career. In his first term, County Executive McMahon has also led the way in securing huge economic successes for our community including JMA Wireless on the South Side of Syracuse, Amazon in the Town of Clay and most recently, the largest economic development project in the history of the United States with Micron.

BREAKOUT SESSION PRESENTERS

Joel Bianchi

Session: *SEQRA as an Infrastructure Planning Tool: The GEIS Approach*

Joel Bianchi, P.E., is a Principal and Vice President of Municipal Engineering at MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C. Joel has 26 years of experience in serving municipal agencies with professional engineering services. Over his career, Joel has served as municipal engineer for many communities in New York, which has included serving as a planning board engineer as well as consulting town engineer. His technical experience encompasses site planning and design, zoning, transportation engineering, water supply, treatment and distribution, wastewater collection and conveyance and treatment, and stormwater management. Joel's municipal planning board support has included engineering reviews of submitted plans, as well as assisting staff with SEQR compliance. Joel has helped MJ earn prime engineering term contracts with many municipalities and state agencies and has earned repeat work with some of the firm's biggest clients.

Patricia Burke

Sessions: *Planning Board Overview, Short Term Rentals, and Spot Zone or Grant the Illegal Use Variance*

Patricia Burke is a Local Government Specialist with the New York State Department of State. Ms. Burke holds a master's degree in Regional Planning from the State University of New York at Albany, with an environmental concentration that studied wind turbine planning considerations, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from St. John Fisher College in Rochester.

Diane Carlton

Session: *Basic State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)*

Diane Carlton is the former Regional Director for Public Affairs and Education for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in Syracuse. She is a certified planner who served as the Otsego County Planning Director (Cooperstown, NY) for over 15 years, where she assisted many local planning and town boards with SEQRA.

Diane also is an adjunct professor at SUNY Oneonta where she teaches courses on environmental planning and environmental impact assessment, which includes NEPA and SEQRA. Diane has a Master's of Public Administration in Environmental Planning from the University of Delaware and a Bachelor's degree in History and Environmental Studies from SUNY Geneseo.

Giovanni Colberg

Session: *Mapping Resources to Assist with Municipal Reviews*

Giovanni Colberg is a GIS Specialist for the Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency. He has over 10 years of experience utilizing geographic information systems for multiple applications at the local and federal level.

Lauren Darcy

Session: *Stormwater Management and Watershed-Scale Planning*

Lauren Darcy joined the CNY Regional Planning and Development Board in the start of 2022 where she works on Stormwater Management and watershed management across the Eastern Finger Lakes and Eastern Lake Ontario Regions. Lauren coordinates the CNY Stormwater Coalition, which assists regulated MS4 operators in the Syracuse Urbanized area in meeting conditions of the NYS MS4 General Permit. Prior to this role, Lauren received her MUP at SUNY Buffalo and worked with several Western NY agencies on Great Lakes planning, policy and environmental protection.

Timothy A. Frateschi

Session: *Case Law Update for Planning and Zoning*

Mr. Frateschi is a Member of the Baldwin, Sutphen & Frateschi, PLLC law firm.

Mr. Frateschi was trained as a corporate attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC. He was a long-time Member in the law firm of Harris Beach PLLC where he practiced in the Public Finance & Economic Development Practice Group. He represents governmental, quasi-governmental agencies and Industrial Development Agencies in all aspects of municipal and economic development law.

Mr. Frateschi is also the Attorney for the Town of Manlius where he represents the Town in all areas of general municipal law, which has included State Environmental Quality Review Act review, municipal bonding, labor and employment, collective bargaining agreements, creating special districts, and negotiating tax certiorari cases. Mr. Frateschi knows all sides of the municipal table, being the Chairman of the Planning Board in the Town of Salina for nearly a decade and representing developers in front of Boards. Other municipal clients include the Town of Lysander, Town of Salina, Town of Elbridge, Town of Fabius, and the Village of Fabius.

Before resuming his private practice in 2015, Mr. Frateschi served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office. This experience has provided significant and effective trial experience that he can use in all areas of his legal practice.

From 1997-1999, Mr. Frateschi served Governor George E. Pataki as the Regional Director for the Empire State Development Corporation, where he oversaw all state related economic development activities within Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, and Oswego Counties. From 1992-1997, Mr. Frateschi was chief of staff for State Senator John A. DeFrancisco.

Jeanie Gleisner

Session: *Preserving Open Space in Our Communities - Why & How*

Ms. Gleisner is Program Manager at the Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board (CNY RPDB). Since 2008 she has worked with municipalities across five Counties to develop long-range comprehensive plans, master plans, open space plans, and land-use regulatory tools. She provides public outreach and training in land use planning at the municipal level. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from SUNY ESF with a master's degree in Landscape Architecture, Cultural Landscape Preservation, and Environmental Science. As Program Manager for Community Planning and Development at CNY RPDB, and as a Landscape Designer, her work entails both urban and rural site planning and design for community revitalization, resiliency, natural and cultural resource interpretation, and open space conservation.

Jaclyn Hakes

Session: *SEQRA as an Infrastructure Planning Tool: The GEIS Approach*

Jaclyn Hakes, AICP, is an Associate and Director of Planning Services at MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C. Jackie has assisted communities for over 22 years in balancing land use, transportation, environmental and quality of life issues through consensus-based planning. She has award winning experience in both the public and private sectors focusing on comprehensive planning, complete streets, public engagement, resiliency planning, public engagement, waterfront and downtown revitalization, zoning, SEQRA and NEPA. A graduate of the Binghamton University Environmental Studies and Geography programs and the University at Albany Masters in Regional Planning Program, she also provides technical support to land use boards throughout the Capital Region. Jackie is a frequent guest speaker on planning-related topics at Skidmore College and the University at Albany. She serves on the Leadership Saratoga Advisory Board, the UAlbany Graduate Planning Community Advisory Board, and the Saratoga PLAN Emeritus Board.

Brent Irving

Sessions: *Planning Board Overview and Spot Zone or Grant the Illegal Use Variance*

Brent Irving is a Local Government Specialist with the New York State Department of State. Prior to joining the Division of Local Government Services, he was a transportation planner for the Capital District Transportation Authority for four years. Brent holds a master's degree in Urban Planning from the University at Albany, SUNY, and a bachelor's degree from Syracuse University in Engineering.

Don Jordan

Session: *Mapping Resources to Assist with Municipal Reviews*

Don Jordan is the Deputy Director and Assistant Director for GIS Services of the Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency. He has more than 26 years of experience utilizing geographic information systems for a wide variety of planning and local government applications.

Peter Lombardi

Session: *Making Sense of the Region's Housing Market*

Peter Lombardi is czb's Buffalo-based Director of Revitalization Planning and has managed and written comprehensive plans, neighborhood plans, and housing strategies for czb since 2015. His work on housing has included projects in Buffalo, Rochester, Utica, and Poughkeepsie, NY; the Altoona-Johnstown region of PA; Burlington, VT; Greenville, SC; and Fargo, ND. Before joining czb, Peter was in charge of neighborhood revitalization efforts for a non-profit in his hometown of Jamestown, NY, where he also served as founding chairman of the Chautauqua County Land Bank Corp.

Jennifer Manierre

Session: *Clean Energy and Your Comprehensive Plan*

Jennifer Manierre is the Program Manager for the Clean Energy Siting team at the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), where she helps guide local government officials through best practices and appropriate local laws and permitting procedures for solar and battery energy storage.

Aaron McKeon

Session: *Stormwater Management and Watershed-Scale Planning*

Aaron McKeon is the Environmental Program Manager at the CNY Regional Planning and Development Board. Aaron has a BA in History from the University of Rochester and a Masters in Regional Planning from Cornell University. Past work experience includes seven years as an Environmental Planner with the California Department of Transportation, experience as a planner with CHA, Inc. in Syracuse, and 11 years as a planner with the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council.

Michelle Sczpanski

Session: *Making Sense of the Region's Housing Market*

Michelle Sczpanski is the Deputy Commissioner of Neighborhood Development for the City of Syracuse. Her portfolio includes a range of initiatives aimed at promoting safe, affordable, and quality housing, including federal block grant administration, lead hazard reduction, neighborhood planning, and residential housing development. Sczpanski joined the City staff in 2016. In her most recent role as Director of Housing she led development of the city's Resurgent Neighborhood Initiative and infill housing plan and managed several strategic code enforcement efforts aimed at improving housing quality, reducing vacant properties, and increasing resident engagement.

Meghan Vitale

Session: *SEQRA as an Infrastructure Planning Tool: The GEIS Approach*

Meghan Vitale joined the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) in 2007 and is currently the agency's Principal Transportation Planner. Meghan earned her undergraduate degree in civil engineering from Clarkson University and also holds a Master's degree in urban planning and policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her work at SMTC has included land use-transportation studies, multi-modal corridor studies, the Long Range Transportation Plan, transit studies, and numerous public involvement and outreach activities. Prior to joining the SMTC, Meghan worked in the private sector as a transportation planner and traffic engineer.