



AGENDA

March 30, 2026 at 6:00 PM

20 Ontario Street

Economic Development Conference Room 122A, Mezzanine Level

Canandaigua, NY 14424

1. Call to Order

- a. Call to Order — Chair Fessner

2. Introductions

- a. Introductions and Roll Call - Erin Holley

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. Motion to approve the January 22, 2026, minutes

4. New Business

- a. Agricultural District Open Enrollment - BOS approved the addition of one 12.4-acre parcel in Farmington to OC Agricultural District #1. Preparing a report for certification of the addition by NYS Ag & Markets.
- b. OC Economic Development Strategic Plan 2026-2030 - To support the growth of agriculture, agritourism, and agribusiness is 1 of 7 Plan goals. The plan lists objectives and tasks for each goal. Tasks include bringing to market infrastructure investments; incentives for methane conversion, agribusiness startups, and Tech Farm businesses; and a county-wide agricultural land use plan to address market changes and renewable siting. No Ag goals tasks are listed as high priority tasks.
- c. AEP Implementation Grants - - Request for volunteers for grant evaluation committee. AEP Implementation Grant applications due 5/16/26.
 - Discussion of eligible projects from farmers markets and community gardens.

Item Description: Farmers Market and Community Garden projects would likely address AEP Implementation Strategy 2 Increasing opportunities for interaction between farmers and the non-farming public (sub-strategy d. Support special events?) or Strategy 3: Expand and improve regional networks within the food systems economy (sub-strategy a. Support activities to increase sales of Ontario County local food products through networking events, trainings, and public outreach initiatives).

Would funds to help establish a Farmers Market be eligible under Strategy 2? Would other

types of community events? AEB funded the Canandaigua CSD on-site farmers market and a related handout with info on area farm markets and a link to FLVC hosted Ag experience website as related to Strategy 3a. (The handout was actually distributed digitally).

I don't think community garden establishment activities would fit under Strategy 3, but once established, there would be a food preservation class which could help community gardeners preserve what they grow and also promote buying local produce in season and preserving it for off-season use. A farmers market or community garden, a local food cooking demonstration, or a spring plant sale with vegetable starts from Ontario County nurseries be eligible?

- d. Request for Grant Support Letters - FLLT has requested a grant support letter for an application to Round 20 of the NYS Farmland Protection Implementation Grant program on behalf of Pritchard Farms in the Town of Canandaigua. The application involves the purchase and recording of an agricultural conservation easement to protect approximately 400 acres, 97 percent of which is prime, prime if drained, or farmland of statewide importance on the following 3 parcels: 69.00-1-7.110 (325.7 A), 69.00-1-6.100 (43.8 A) and 55.00-1-27/120 (30.6 A).

5. Old Business

- a. Ag and solar - 1. In 2025, the County Planning Board reviewed applications for five large-scale solar projects occupying a total of approximately 141.7 acres of prime farmland and generating 16.3 MWac of power.
2. Added to the Ontario County web page. [Agriculture and Solar Resources](#), a link to a short research article on transitioning land from corn ethanol production to solar while increasing energy generation per acre and ecosystem services (flood plain, bird and pollinator habitat, stormwater management).
- b. Collaboration with Land Trusts on Farmland and Open Space Preservation - Ontario County Agricultural Protection web pages were updated and re-organized to provide easy access to information on Conservation Easement/Purchase of Development Rights programs and links to 3 land trusts serving Ontario County.

Some progress on adding a land trust service area map to the website and adding a land trust conservation easement layer to OnCor.

The CE/PDR program training session is now anticipated in summary 2026. There are Genesee Valley Conservancy trainings for landowners in Genesee, Livingston, and Wyoming counties in March/April.

6. Member Reports & Other Business

- a. Round Robin - Team updates - **a. NYSDA RFI 6138: Sun and Soil Program**
The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to solicit input from interested stakeholders to help NYSDA, in collaboration with the New York State Department of

Agriculture and Markets, develop Sun and Soil program offerings that support farmers in benefiting from the integration of solar energy development on their land while sustaining the agriculture use of productive farmland. This Request for Information (RFI 6138) will help NYSEERDA gain information and diverse perspectives on challenges to, potential benefits of, and opportunities for the responsible co-utilization of solar energy with commercial agriculture, including but not limited to agrivoltaics, solar energy and battery storage microgrids for powering farms, and other means for farmers and agricultural communities to benefit from the integration of solar energy development in ways that sustain agriculture, and will inform future solicitations. <https://forms.office.com/g/BuJtCC7u6r>.

7. Next Meeting

- a. Please check your availability to meet on Thurs 6/11/26, or Tues. 6/16/26 or 6/23/26 for the regularly scheduled Agriculture Enhancement Board meeting.

8. Adjournment

- a. Meeting motion to Adjourn