

**Jefferson County Local Development Corporation
Board Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2026**

The Jefferson County Local Development Corporation held its board meeting on Thursday, April 2, 2026, in the board room at 800 Starbuck Avenue, Watertown, NY.

Present: Robert E. Aliasso, Jr., William Johnson, David Converse, Paul Warneck, John Condino, Rob Aiken, W. Edward Walldroff, Lisa L’Huillier, Dr. Dawn M. Robinson

Excused: None

Absent: Charles Capone, Dr. Gregory A. Gardner

Also Present: Robert Griffin (NYSBDC), Nancy Dutton (8:29 a.m.), Peter Crump (8:43 a.m.)
Zoom: Justin Miller, Esq. (Harris Beach), Craig Fox (Watertown Daily Times)

Staff Present: Marshall Weir, Jay Matteson, Dorena Kimball, Peggy Sampson

- I. Call to Order:** Chairman Aliasso called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Privilege of the Floor:** No one spoke.
- IV. Minutes:** Minutes of the annual meeting held on March 5, 2026 were presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Aiken, seconded by Dr. Robinson. All in favor. Carried.
- V. Treasurer’s Report:** Mr. Warneck reviewed the new Dashboard prepared by Ms. Kimball for the period ending March 31, 2026. The Dashboard includes Key Performance Indicators, Capital Resources, Operating Statement and Budget. Mr. Warneck noted the following: no loan applications to report this year, there have been two ARPA distributions, Painful Acres paid off their COVID loan and Busted Grapes is the final COVID loan remaining and all other loans are current. A motion was made by Mr. Warneck to accept the financial report as presented, seconded by Mr. Condino. All in favor. Carried.
- VI. Committee Reports:** None.
- VII. Council Reports:**
 - a. Ag –** Mr. Matteson distributed his report on the \$3.9 Billion agriculture impact on Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, and St. Lawrence Counties.

Ag Conference – Mr. Matteson thanked Jefferson County for sponsoring it. He reported that he has received phenomenal feedback; one of the best conferences we held. He said it was great to have the commissioner as the kickoff speaker.

Mr. Aiken said Senator Walczyk presented to Mr. Johnson for the 25th anniversary of the Ag Economic Development Program. Mr. Matteson said it is the 23rd year of Ag Conferences.

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Ag Council Report – continued

Mr. Warneck commented that the economist was excellent. Dr. Robinson said she really liked how the speakers tied together and thought the entire program was awesome. Mr. Aiken commented that the program was great.

- b. Manufacturing** – Mr. Weir mentioned the upcoming spring manufacturers alliance meeting that will be held on April 29th at Zero Dock Street Restaurant in Carthage. He said it will focus on workforce and there will be an opportunity for the manufacturers to discuss issues that they are having. He noted that there will be speakers from the Manufacturers Association of Central New York (MACNY).

Mr. Weir reported that MetalCraft Marine is pleased with their new location at the Corporate Park. He said they have discussed their success and new opportunities they have.

- c. Marketing** – Mr. Weir said we advertised in several local visitor guides.

VIII. Unfinished Business:

- 1. ARPA Fund Reports (Round One and Two)** – Updated spreadsheets showing the grant fund activities were provided in the board packet.

IX. Counsel: None.

X. New Business:

- 1. North Central Small Business Development Center Presentation** – Robert Griffin, Regional Director, handed out a 2025 Impact information sheet and provided a PowerPoint presentation. He shared success stories and information about the Small Business Development Center; their featured services are Research, Financial Analysis and Start-up Assistance. There is an outreach center located in the City of Watertown at the Nest location which has 3 advisors, which is an extension of the Syracuse office. They do a lot of virtual and phone advising. They are trying to get ready for the Micron moment. They are going to focus on Tier 3 and Tier 4 and the ripple effects – per data they have, 3 core areas are going to experience growth: accommodations and food service, professional and scientific services and healthcare and social services.

- XI. Adjournment:** With no further business before the board, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Converse, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Sampson