

**Jefferson County Local Development Corporation
Annual Board Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2026**

The Jefferson County Local Development Corporation held its annual board meeting on Thursday, March 5, 2026, in the board room at 800 Starbuck Avenue, Watertown, NY.

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

Excused: David Converse

Absent: Dr. Gregory A. Gardner

Also Present: Billy Soluri, Lyndi Hill and Laurie Podvin (Bowers & Company), Mark Mason Jr. (7 News)

Zoom: Justin Miller, Esq. (Harris Beach), Craig Fox (Watertown Daily Times)

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

- 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 meeting held on February 5, 2026 were presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Warneck. All in favor. Carried.
- V. Audit Report for 2025 (Bowers & Company CPAs PLLC) –** Lyndi Hill introduced herself and Laurie Podvin as the audit team for the JCLDC and JCIDA. She said they already met with the CEO and CFO to review everything and the management letter comments.

Ms. Hill presented a clean unmodified opinion. She reviewed the audit report and management letter. A motion was made by Mr. Warneck to accept the audit report, seconded by Mr. Condino. All in favor. Carried.
- VI. Annual Meeting Resolution 03.05.2026.01** (including acceptance of Audit and PARIS Reports, Ratification of Mission Statement, Property Disposition, Investment and Procurement Policies, Election of Officers/Board Committee Positions, and Appointment of Staff) – A motion was made by Dr. Robinson to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Aiken. Roll call vote: Mr. Converse – Absent, Mr. Condino – Yea, Mr. Aliasso – Yea, Mr. Walldroff – Yea, Mr. Warneck – Yea, Mr. Johnson – Yea, Ms. L’Huillier – Yea, Mr. Capone – Yea, Mr. Aiken – Yea, Dr. Gardner – Absent, and Dr. Robinson - Yea. Carried.

**Jefferson County Local Development Corporation
Annual Board Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2026**

VII. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Warneck reviewed the financials for the period ending February 28, 2026. A motion was made by Mr. Warneck to accept the financial report as presented, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor. Carried.

VIII. Unfinished Business:

1. ARPA Fund Reports (Round One and Two) – Updated spreadsheets showing the grant fund activities were provided in the board packet. Ms. Stephenson said it was a quiet month but noted she will have one reimbursement for next month.

IX. Committee Reports: None.

X. Council Reports:

a. Manufacturing – Mr. Weir said we are working with Naturally Lewis for the upcoming Manufacturer's Alliance spring meeting. He said we are working with manufacturers to start planning for the upcoming CFA process so we can have a strong presence this year.

b. Marketing – Mr. Weir mentioned that we will be advertising in the Sackets Harbor and Clayton visitor's guides.

c. Ag – Mr. Matteson reported on the following:

- **Annual Ag Conference** – to be held on March 27th at the Hilton Garden Inn.
- o First presentation – Richard Ball, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Commissioner – speaking on agriculture economic development efforts in NYS.
- o Second presentation – Dr. Todd Schmitt – will give an update on the analysis of the economic impact of agriculture on Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence and Oswego counties.
- o Panel of three presentations which will focus generally on the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on agriculture. Panelists will be:
 - i. Dr. Julio Giordano, expert at Cornell University on the use of AI in animal health.
 - ii. Kelsey O'Shea, American Dairy Northeast, grassroots level on how farms can use ChatGPT to improve their messaging to the community to help them make decisions.
 - iii. Paul Barton, Barton Consulting Group, LLC, will be talking about AI with a broader view on what the developments in AI are and how it will impact business decision making processes going forward.
- o Break for lunch
- o Town hall discussion for any topic in agriculture involving the speakers.
- **Shared Use Kitchen** – working with Cornell Cooperative Extension on the grant.
- **Dairy Processing** – continue to work on.
- **CWT Farms** – waiting for an application for an expansion project.

XI. Counsel: None.

XII. New Business: None.

**Jefferson County Local Development Corporation
Annual Board Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2026**

- XIII. Adjournment:** With no further business before the board, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Warneck, seconded by Mr. Condino. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Sampson

ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTION

An annual meeting of the Jefferson County Local Development Corporation was convened on March 5, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.

The following resolution was duly offered and seconded, to wit:

Resolution No. 03.05.2026.01

ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (THE "CORPORATION"), INCLUDING (i) ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL AUDIT; (ii) RATIFICATION OF CERTAIN POLICIES, STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2005, AS AMENDED BY CHAPTER 506 OF THE LAWS OF 2009 OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, (iii) ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS; (iii) APPOINTING BOARD COMMITTEE POSITIONS; (iv) APPOINTMENT OF CORPORATION STAFF; AND (v) RELATED MATTERS

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Public Authorities Accountability Act of 2005 ("PAAA"), which was signed into law on January 13, 2006 as Chapter 766 of the Laws of 2005, and Chapter 506 of the Laws of 2009 enacting the Public Authority Reform Act of 2009 ("PARA"), the Corporation desires to undertake certain required annual policy reviews and re adoption; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation further desires to review and approve the annual audit of the Corporation, along with certain other annual meeting matters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Pursuant to PAAA and PARA, on January 8, 2026, the Corporation reviewed the Mission Statement and Performance Measures and the Corporation hereby determined that no changes were required to the Mission Statement and Performance Measures and that the same is hereby approved.

Section 2. Pursuant to PAAA and PARA, on January 8, 2026, the Corporation reviewed the Disposition of Real Property Guidelines and the Procurement Policy, and the Corporation hereby determined that no changes were required and that the same is hereby approved. The Corporation amended the Investment Policy with Internal Controls on January 8, 2026 and the same is hereby approved.

Section 3. The Corporation has reviewed the Independent Auditor's Report for the year ended December 31, 2025, as prepared by Bowers & Company CPAs PLLC in the form presented at the meeting, and such audit is hereby approved.

Section 4. The Corporation hereby authorizes and approves the 2025 Annual Report to be filed with (i) the New York State Authority Budget Office via the Public Authorities Reporting Information System, and (ii) the appropriate local officials.

Section 5. **Annual Officer Election.** Upon motion, second and board roll call vote, the following individuals are duly appointed to serve in the respective Officer Positions in accordance with the By-laws of the Corporation for the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026:

Robert E. Aliasso, Jr., Chair
W. Edward Walldroff, Vice Chair
Paul Warneck, Treasurer
Dr. Gregory A. Gardner, Secretary

All Members of the Corporation shall participate in such required annual and continuing training as may be required to remain informed of best practices, regulatory and statutory changes relating to the effective oversight of the management and financial activities of public authorities and to adhere to the highest standards of responsible governance. Further, each Member shall execute (i) a Certification of No Conflict of Interest (ii) an Acknowledgement of Fiduciary Duties and Responsibilities.

Section 6. **Audit and Finance Committee.** Pursuant to subdivision 4 of Section 2824 of the PAL, and in accordance with the By-laws of the Corporation, on January 8, 2026 the following Members were nominated and confirmed to serve on the Audit and Finance Committee of the Corporation for the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026: Paul Warneck, Charles Capone, David Converse, Robert Aiken and Robert E. Aliasso, Jr.

The Audit and Finance Committee shall perform the functions as described in the By-Laws.

Section 7. **Governance Committee.** Pursuant to subdivision 7 of Section 2824 of the PAL, and in accordance with the By-laws of the Corporation, on January 8, 2026 the following Members were nominated and confirmed to serve on the Governance Committee of the Corporation for the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026: W. Edward Walldroff, Paul Warneck, Dr. Gregory A. Gardner, and William Johnson.

The Governance Committee shall perform the functions as described in the By-Laws.

Section 8. **Appointment of Staff.** Pursuant to and in accordance with the By-laws of the Corporation, the Members of the Corporation hereby ratify the appointment of the following individuals to serve as at will employees in the following appointed positions:

Frank M. Weir, Chief Executive Officer
Dorena L. Kimball, Chief Financial Officer
Jay M. Matteson, Agricultural Coordinator & Deputy CEO
Robin E. Stephenson, Director of Business Development
Peggy S. Sampson, Executive Assistant

Section 9. That the proper officers of the Corporation are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to do all things, and acts and to execute all documents as may be necessary, or advisable and proper, to carry on the business of the Corporation, for and on behalf of the Corporation.

Section 10. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolutions was duly put to vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
David J. Converse	[]	[]	[X]	[]
John Condino	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Robert E. Aliasso, Jr.	[X]	[]	[]	[]
W. Edward Walldroff	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Paul Warneck	[X]	[]	[]	[]
William Johnson	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Lisa L'Huillier	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Charles Capone	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Robert Aiken	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Gregory Gardner	[]	[]	[X]	[]
Dawn Robinson	[X]	[]	[]	[]

The Resolutions were thereupon duly adopted.

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON) SS:

I, F. Marshall Weir, the undersigned Chief Executive Officer of the Jefferson County Local Development Corporation, DO HEREBY CERTIFY:

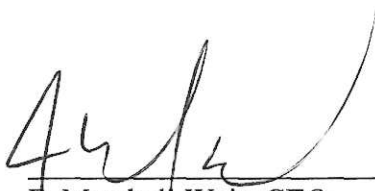
That I have compared the annexed extract of minutes of the meeting of the Jefferson County Local Development Corporation (the "Corporation"), including the resolution contained therein, held on March 5, 2026, with the original thereof on file in my office, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the proceedings of the Corporation and of such resolution set forth therein and of the whole of said original insofar as the same related to the subject matters therein referred to.

I FURTHER CERTIFY, that all members of said Corporation had due notice of said meeting, that the meeting was in all respects duly held and that, pursuant to Article 7 of the Public Officers Law (Open Meetings Law), said meeting was open to the general public, and that public notice of the time and place of said meeting was duly given in accordance with such Article 7.

I FURTHER CERTIFY, that there was a quorum of the members of the Corporation present throughout said meeting.

I FURTHER CERTIFY, that as of the date hereof, the attached resolution is in full force and effect and has not been amended, repealed or modified.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Corporation this 5th day of March, 2026.



F. Marshall Weir, CEO

