

**Jefferson County Local Development Corporation
Board Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2026**

The Jefferson County Local Development Corporation held its board meeting on Thursday, August 6, 2026, in the board room at 800 Starbuck Avenue, Watertown, NY.

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

Excused: None

Absent: None

Also Present: Kenneth Knapp (Town of Clayton)
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 meeting held on July 9, 2026, were presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Converse. All in favor. Carried.
- V. Treasurer’s Report:** Mr. Warneck reviewed the Dashboard prepared by Ms. Kimball for the period ending July 31, 2026. The Dashboard includes Key Performance Indicators, Capital Resources, Operating Statement and Budget. Mr. Warneck reported that there are not any new applications or loans. It was noted that the GYMO payable is related to the shared use kitchen grant. A motion was made by Mr. Warneck to accept the financial report as presented, seconded by Mr. Walldroff. All in favor, except for Mr. Converse who left the room briefly. Carried.
- VI. Committee Reports:** None.
- VII. Council Reports:**
 - a. Ag –** Mr. Matteson updated the board on the following items:
 - **Roundtable Meeting** – the Ag Development Council requested the meeting to discuss the labor issues, and the farmland protection issues in Jefferson County as they relate to the development primarily of the Micron project. The Council and agriculture are seeing competition for their workforce rise dramatically and would like an effort initiated to see if there are ways to address it.

Mr. Matteson said Jeff Ginger, CTE Director at BOCES, would like to design a program and a marketing effort that markets agricultural career opportunities. Another option is to have the elected officials design a farm guest worker program.

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- **Dairy processors** – there is one potential company we have been meeting with. We will get them in touch with Empire State Development.
- **Poultry** – Mr. Matteson and Mr. Weir toured the Aviagen operation. Their production has increased to approximately 800-900 chicks per week.
- **Southern Dairy** – Mr. Walldroff asked about the proposed project. Mr. Matteson indicated that Ron Robbins informed Southern Dairy that he is not going to keep his land allocated; he is moving forward with site planning for any project including Southern Dairy that demonstrates they have investors.

Kenneth Knapp entered the meeting at 8:16 a.m.

- b. **Manufacturing** – Mr. Weir said during the Aviagen tour they heard about their expansion project that will greatly improve their processes and may have a reduction in truck traffic by having the trucks full of chicks rather than half full because they didn't have the space.

Manufacturing Day – an upcoming event where students tour manufacturing sites (i.e., New York Air Brake, Knowlton Technologies, Great Lakes Cheese, etc.) to consider a future career in manufacturing.

- c. **Marketing** – Mr. Weir said the \$100,000 MarketNY grant was submitted. He thanked Corey Fram from the Thousand Islands International Tourism Council for their role in this combined effort to get the grant submitted. The bulk of it will be used for digital advertising throughout the state.

VIII. Unfinished Business:

- 1. **Strategic Action Plan (track progress)** – Chairman Aliasso acknowledged some action items are in process, and some have been accomplished. He suggested a more in-depth review in September or October. Mr. Matteson said with what was included in the packet, he is working on a bigger update because a lot more has been done.

IX. Counsel: None.

X. New Business: None.

XI. Adjournment: With no further business before the board, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Walldroff, seconded by Ms. L'Huillier. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Sampson