

**Genesee County
Government Administration
Focus Group
Monitoring Report
February 6, 2015**



Group Members

Jay Gsell, County Manager (Chairperson)
Matt Landers, Assistant County Manager
Michael Eula, County Historian/Records Officer
Scott German, County Treasurer
Steve Hawley, NYS Assembly
Mike Patterson, Purchasing Director
Don Luxon, Director of Weights & Measures
Anita Cleveland, County Human Resources Director
Mike Ranzenhofer, NYS Senate
Don Read, County Clerk
Steve Zimmer, IT Director
Ken Ellison, Superintendent, Pavilion Central School
Chris Dailey, Superintendent, Batavia City Schools

Acronyms

GAM – Genesee Association of Municipalities
GCC – Genesee County Community College
GCEDC – Genesee County Economic Development Center
GVPEP – Genesee Valley Educational Partnership
IT – Information Technology
MCWA – Monroe County Water Authority
SEQR – State Environmental Quality Review

2014 Results - Gov. Admin. Monitoring Report

Efficiency

County Clerk's Office

Now providing digital access to a range of records (pistol permits, deeds and mortgages) to the Sheriff's Office, courts system, Real Property and local assessors

Town and Village of Bergen

Carrying out Comprehensive Planning effort with the assistance of the County Planning Dept. Recently hired Labella

Innovation / Technology

County Planning

recently hired GIS Administrator

County IT / Pictometry

Online access for County Departments, Town Assessors and the Town of Batavia Engineers

Most recent flyover took place in Spring 2013

County Legislature / IT

Implemented paperless meeting system

Education / Training

County Planning

Hosted or sponsored 12 training events for local planning and zoning officials to meet their annual training requirements

Historians and Records Management Officers / County Historian

Hosted two workshops with 19 representatives from local town governments and history offices.

Infrastructure / Assets

Continued success in sharing highway equipment and labor across municipalities

Bonded for airport terminal and maintenance hanger replacement project.

2015 Issues - Gov. Admin. Monitoring Report

Efficiency

NYS Property Tax Cap / Freeze issues

County Clerk's Office

Most County Departments unable to take credit card payment online or over the phone

NYS pushing for e-filing

which many local agencies do not find cost effective

County Clerk's Office

Unable to ensure landmark status is recorded by each applicable property

County Clerk's Office

Time constraint issues / costs associated with increased frequency of email submitted applications/ requests (i.e. FOIL Requests, pistol permits) which must be processed in a timely fashion. Potential need for a person dedicated to emails alone

Innovation / Technology

GAM / County IT

High Speed Internet Availability issues

- Large Redundancy (numerous cable running to same facilities without local hookups)
- High cost and low level of service issues for residents in rural areas
- Empire working from East but no service coming from west (Buffalo area)
- Wish to re-start talks with Time Warner

County

Behind in the use of social media tools.

INREM Tax Foreclosure / Bankruptcy legal issues

going through NYS Court System. How can County enforce property tax with potential limitations these cases may cause?

Education / Training

School Districts

Enrollment continuing to decrease . Enrollment decreased by roughly 70-80 students over last several years. Expect to lose an additional 20 student in next few years before enrollment expected to plateau for next eight years.

Need for continued education regarding available Historic Tax Credit / Grants opportunities for rehab / re-investment in properties

YIK YAK- a social media app that allows for anonymous posts has led to a number of issues amongst students

Infrastructure / Assets

County / City / MCWA

City Water Plant Agreement expiring in 2018. Issue defines future of water plans county wide

Shared Bid Issues

NYS pushing shared service/bid process but limitations in state government resulted in few agencies willing to partner together.

-Batavia School District recently attempted to enter into a shared bid process for busses with 5 different districts and only 1 district (Attica) was willing to partner.

Mandate Relief for local governments needs to be increased

2015 Priorities - Gov. Admin. Monitoring Report

Efficiency

Continue to Monitor implications of NYS Property Tax Cap/ Freeze.

Examine Shared Service Plan. Determine whether to file Individually or as a Group)

County Clerk's Office
Need to conduct research on City of Batavia vacancy and Zombie Ownership issues
-Continue to push for people to renew DMV documents locally

County needs to continue to evaluate enforcement issues that may result with a change in laws relating to foreclosures / INREM process

Share in sales tax split between County and municipalities may shift

Innovation / Technology

County Sheriff
Finishing upgrade of all Public Safety radios to 800MHz for compliance.

History
Publishing certain materials online for research purposes

Lake Plains
Investigating potential uses of remaining funding for installing fiber connection to facilities

Education / Training

Schools Districts
Continue to examine current collective bargaining methodology and strategies

Schools looking to set up wireless centers for students to use after hours (handing out devices)

GCC- 5 year main campus facility/maintenance plan (\$24m)

County Planning
Increase education sessions regarding trends relating to Millennial Generation and use of Form Based Code

Increased safety training for participants of the County's workers compensation plan. County signed a contract with Occupational Safety & Environmental Associates (OSEA) to act as safety consultant

Infrastructure / Assets

County / City / MCWA
Decision needs to be made regarding future of City's Water Plant. Future of entire water project centers on this decision

Local Governments / County Planning
Update Comprehensive Plans and local zoning regulations.

County
Continue to update obsolete components of County phone system

County Nursing Home
Future To be decided later in the year

Potential County Infrastructure Improvements Plan for next five years (Statewide push by state to invest in infrastructure)