



# Onondaga County Legislature

**JAMIE McNAMARA**  
Clerk

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Chairman

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE MINUTES – NOVEMBER 18, 2025 \*JULIE ABBOTT, CHAIR

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Kelly, Ms. Cody, Mr. Romeo, Mr. Brown**  
**ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Burtis, Leader May; also see attached**

Vice Chair Kelly called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m., and the previous meeting's minutes were approved.

1. **WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION:** Odean Dyer, Commissioner; Cydney Johnson, Deputy County Executive Physical Services  
a. **A Resolution Calling a Public Hearing in Connection with Proposed Improvements for the Onondaga County Sanitary District (December 16, 2025 at 12:50 p.m.)**

- Expansion and upgrade of Oak Orchard, an existing facility built in 1981
- Expanding and increasing capacity at that plant, which will accommodate residential and commercial growth in the area already experiencing; anticipate more
- Built to accommodate 10 million gallons/day of flow; today at ~6.7mgd
- With expansion and upgrade, it will take plant to 15mgd; at peak flow 25 mgd
- Adequate to handle all potential growth in the area
- Upgrade needed to not only accommodate capacity but also update aging infrastructure; plant is over 40 years old
- Sanitary wastewater flow from Micron project goes to municipal plant (sinks, toilet, showers)
- Anticipating working with Micron up to about 2.6mgd; by end of Phase I – full build out of Fab II
- Micron will be a regular sanitary customer like everyone else

### Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- Please elaborate on what that means from a financial standpoint
  - Micron will pay sanitary municipal facility rate, like any other business flowing sanitary waste to treatment facility
- Please explain the rates for Micron
  - Finance:
    - On municipal side, Micron will be a normal customer
    - Based on units; one unit up to 85g; based on 2.6 volume, will be multiple units based on the unit
    - Industrial will be a different pipe
  - Deputy CE:
    - Different meters for industrial and municipal
    - Metering for sanitary use vs. water going in for industrial production

\*Chair Abbott arrived at the meeting.

Ms. Johnson continued her presentation:

- Project started in 2021/2022 – first item was the White Pine Pump Station that broke ground in spring 2025 and estimating completion by summer 2026
- Doing design-build process – Governor Hochul had a design-build amendment in budget in spring 2025
- Now have more flexibility on how to go to vendor community and RFP process

- Will have partnership, a PLA with labor partners, and working on participation with MWBE – service disabled veteran owned businesses
- County MWBE office will be working with small companies in area in both categories
- 5 components based on sequencing; need to think of timing and how to go through each component
- Plant will continue to operate during the expansion and provide capacity
- Project segments
  - Build substation – increase power; both gas and electric
  - New outflow pipe – discharge from facility to be upgraded with more capacity
  - Bridging project – additional capacity to area and plant as working on upgrades
    - Temporary band aid to allow for increased capacity as working on expansion
    - 2 lagoons on campus to be taken out of commission, which is part of mitigation plan for wetlands
    - Will make up for it – about 2 to 1; one is almost 3 to 1
  - Upgrades – infrastructure gets improved; upgrade and improve head works, clarifiers (liquid processing), membrane and biosolid systems
  - Reclaim water project – last component
- Timeline
  - First go to vendor for request of qualifications; required for design-build project – late 2025/early 2026
    - Let's vendors look at project and respond with statement of qualifications (SOQ)
    - Gives county idea of capabilities and financial capacity
  - Based on SOQs, will do review period
  - Results of review will be a short list, which is the list of qualified companies after interviews for capabilities
  - Based on short list, RFP will be released for those qualified companies to respond
  - Hoping to award RFPs on project by summer 2026
  - Last component is clearing land for municipal wastewater park late 2026/early 2027
    - Very finite window for clearing land to be protective of some of the wildlife
- Cannot stress enough that this is needed capacity

#### **Questions/Comments from the Committee:**

- Please talk about the PLA (Project Labor Agreements) and how it pertains to the county's workforce and unions
  - Part of project requirement in design-build is to have a PLA
  - Working with MW small companies and service disabled veteran businesses, it is very important
  - Office in county doing proactive work reaching out to small businesses
- It was talked about that some organizations will have apprenticeship programs (workforce development)
  - Cannot speak of unions or others, but some of the veteran owned businesses have included internship/apprenticeship programs; opens great opportunities
- Please speak to the life cycle of how long this will last
  - Existing plant is 44 years old; hoping for 50-60 years with updated technology; very important with efficiency
- Want to reiterate that this will all be occurring on the existing footprint of the property
  - Yes, the campus will stay the same; upgrading municipal plant and incorporate industrial facility on same site
- In terms of the timeline, then plan is to have the municipal work almost done by the time the first fab is operational, and by the time phase I is complete (both fabs operational), the municipal work will be complete
  - Yes; this project is strictly municipal project
- Please explain the follow up with progress and how the Legislature will stay on top of it all
  - Good idea and on to do list to get back with timely updates on where project is, next sequence, and as components are finished
  - Would be happy to do that
- Please talk about the model, planning and what the basis is for the industrial piece
  - Do not want to get too far ahead; industrial is still under review
  - Working with Micron, who has been extremely receptive and helpful; trying to learn at same time
  - Micron's first venture in NYS

- Need to be thoughtful, learn and put together plan for facility that is highly efficient to meet the needs of a single user (Micron), and can also be efficient and effective
  - Want to make sure the county is following guidelines as set by NYS; working with NYSDEC
  - At end of day, WEP will set permit for Micron with how flow comes in and goes out
  - Hoping to report back; originally briefed early mid-fall, but will be late fall/early spring for first review
  - Confident that a lot of work and time has been put in to bring a thoughtful and responsible plan
- Please explain single user, and what it means from business standpoint
    - Industrial treatment facility with significant single user – Micron
    - Plant about the industrial process; has to accommodate and function for Micron fabs
    - Need to hear from Micron what their needs are, then take back and see what is best for facility, county and residents

***A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Romeo, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***

**b. Resolution Designating the Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection as the Responsible Agency for Establishing an Industrial Wastewater District and Directing the Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection to Prepare Maps and Plans for Such District**

- Deputy CE:
  - Oak Orchard Industrial District – able to be recorder and receiver in terms of expense and revenue
- Finance:
  - Similar in nature to drainage districts; all costs contained; fees based on industrial rates, measured
- Want to make sure there is fair and clear accountability and accounting on these two facilities

**Questions/Comments from the Committee:**

- Will there be a separate group (rates) that oversees industrial side of the district?
  - 2 different functions; industrial will operate differently than municipal
  - Not talking about teams and operation, but both will exist on campus; some parts are distinct
  - Very efficient plotting out of all the different component of both facilities on the land
- If there are additional industrial users, will they be able to join?
  - Deputy CE:
    - Would say yes
  - Finance:
    - Yes; depends on boundaries of industrial district
    - That is being contemplated when looking at the district on what the overlay looks like and if future supply chain companies would be able to tap into it
    - Certainly could include future supply chain companies and industrial users
- For industrial users in past, was there industrial treatment previously?
  - Finance:
    - County has industrial in municipal that feed into wastewater
    - There are additional surcharges in the budget (reviewed fees this year)
    - Based on what they are putting into system and the ranges of that have additional fee charges
    - This Micron project is so much more than traditional, which is why pushing towards an industrial district
    - Do have industrial users in normal wastewater, but it is the size and scope leaning towards industrial project
  - WEP:
    - Spot on
    - Essentially industries have currently get permits from WEP, and they are permitted to specific standards allowing to take into municipal plants
    - Micron or ITT side will be solely for Micron because they are so large
    - Others have applied specific limits to take in those loads
    - All are pretreated at their site, then sent to the pipes and plants to be treated continually

***A motion was made by Dr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Romeo, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature

### ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE

DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 2025

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
O'Dean Dyer	OCWEP
Jyle Cody	Office of Environment
Darcie Lesnick	Leg
LUCAS WELCH	Media
Jim Beebe	Leg.
Ethan LaMontagne	Leg
John DeSantis	Leg.
Cydney Johnson	CE
Kristi Smiley	FINANCE
Nicole Watts	
Ryan Ockenden	Law
Joe Frateschi	Leg.