



2020 Annual Report
Lake Champlain - Lake George
REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD

16
INTERGOVERNMENTAL
GRANT REVIEWS
COMPLETE

21 GRANTS
WRITTEN
TOTALING
\$8,500,000
IN FUNDING
REQUESTS

BY THE NUMBERS
28 COMMUNITIES ASSISTED
2020-

TWO WATERSHED
PLANS COMPLETED
TWO ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
PLANS
COMPLETED

\$4,500,000
IN GRANT
FUNDING
SECURED FOR
THE REGION

14 GRANTS
ACTIVELY
MANAGED ON
BEHALF OF
COUNTIES AND
COMMUNITIES

36 SMALL
BUSINESS LOANS
PORTFOLIO WIDE
TOTALING
\$3.5 MILLION
IN LOANED
CAPITAL

A Message from the Director

I wanted to take a moment to say thank you to all our staff, partners and board members for their dedication to the Regional Planning Board over the past year. Although it was challenging, we were still able to provide the services to our counties and communities that we had planned for, while also accepting CARES Act grant funding to develop and deploy new projects and programs in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. Although our work is not yet complete, I think it's important to look back on our accomplishments, some of which are highlighted in this annual newsletter, to not only see the positive impacts they have made but to also provide fuel as we continue to move forward. As always, the Regional Planning Board is here to assist our communities in whatever challenges they may face, and we will continue to work for the betterment of the region that we all call home.

I look forward to seeing you all again very soon!

Best,

Beth



Canalside Energy Park

In 2020, the LCLGRPБ worked with the Warren/Washington IDA and Washington County to secure two grants to help develop a new industrial park in Fort Edward, which is a federally designated Opportunity Zone. The LCLGRPБ authored a USDA Rural Business Development Grant that is paying for a feasibility study that will include a utility and infrastructure availability and needs analysis, a site and development analysis, a buildable area analysis and a market analysis.

The LCLGRPБ also helped the IDA secure a \$600,000 grant from the Northern Borders Regional Commission to upgrade transportation infrastructure and begin engineering for expansion of the municipal wastewater system to the Park.



Northern Borders Regional Commission

As part of the Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) program, the LCLGRPБ is the designated Local Development District and grant administrator for grant recipients within Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren and Washington Counties. LCLGRPБ staff also assist municipalities in writing grant applications for the NBRC program, which focuses on public infrastructure upgrades, workforce development, tourism and small business development projects that improve the economic quality of the North Country.

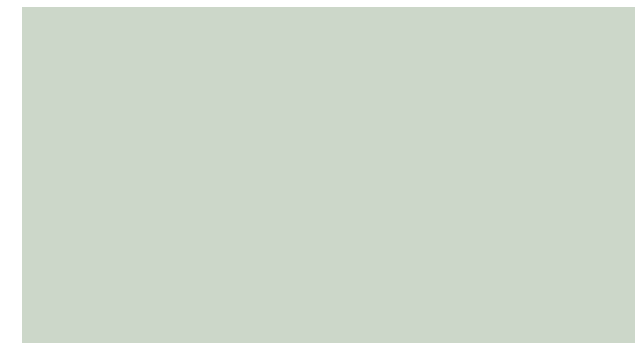
Current projects underway:

- Rouses Point Water Treatment Plant
- Lake George Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Town of Inlet Communications Tower
- Plattsburgh Water Treatment Plant
- Elizabethtown Trail Development

2020 Awards:

- Town of Essex Water Treatment Plant
- North Country Community College Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Courses
- Warren/Washington IDA Canalside Energy Park Infrastructure Improvements

We look forward to working with new partners in 2021 to improve infrastructure, tourism, and workforce development in our region.



Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

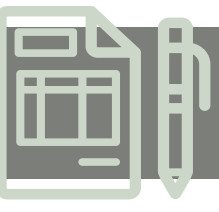
As the federally designated Economic Development District for Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren, and Washington Counties, the LCLGRPБ is charged with maintaining a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, which the Department of Commerce looks at as the “strategic blueprint for regional economic development.” The LCLGRPБ is continuing work on migrating the current printed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to an online platform to make the information more widely available, understandable, and easier to update as changes occur in the regional economy. Be sure to keep checking our website for updates!

Town of Essex Marine Base Complex Adaptive Use Feasibility Study

The LCLGRPБ was happy to respond to a request for assistance from the Town of Essex to complete a Phase 1 Adaptive Use Feasibility Study for three parcels located on the Lake Champlain shoreline. The Town was looking to identify the possibilities, opportunities, and constraints for the redevelopment of the property, focusing on the potential for economic, social, historical, and cultural improvements. The LCLGRPБ hired Ann Ruzow Holland and DCG Corplan to complete the study, which will be released in early 2021.

[Link to Town of Essex Marine Study](#)





Assessment of the Economic Value of Clean Water in Lake George

Lake George is a chief economic and natural asset in the Southern Adirondack Region, and it is no secret that the lake's superb water quality supports important economic indexes for the area including tourism, property values, and employment. To document these benefits, the LCLGRP was contracted by the Village of Lake George to complete a report focusing on the value that clean water in Lake George provides to the regional economy. The report

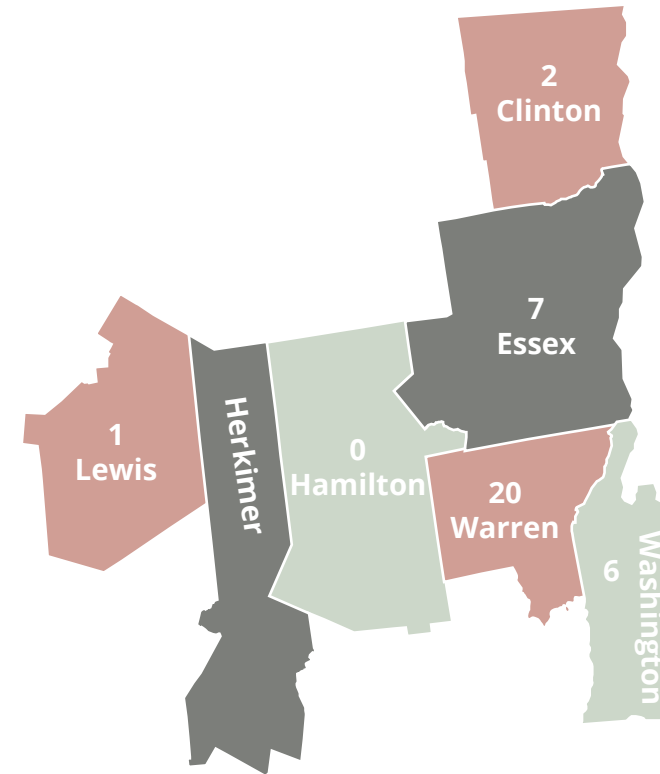
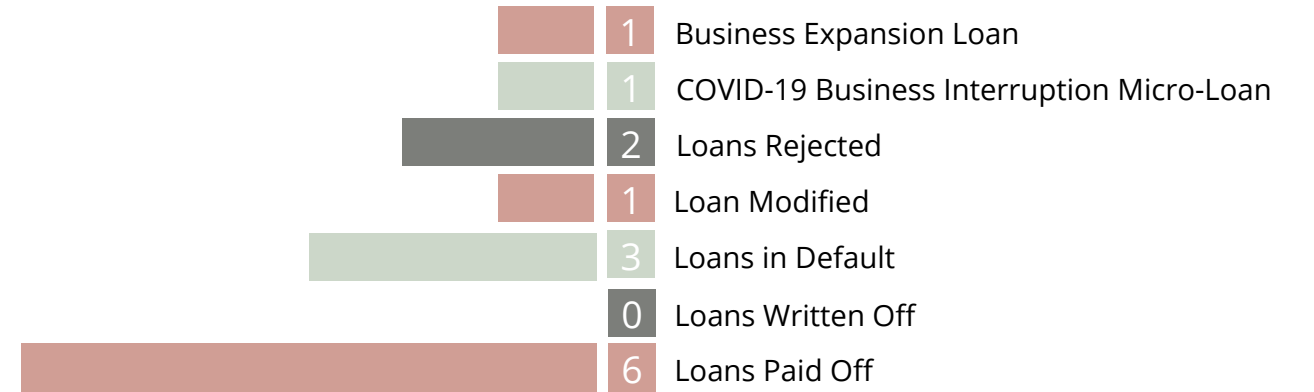
reviews existing literature on the topic and highlights four major water quality indicators that have been shown to impact the local economy: harmful algal blooms (HABs); contaminants and bacteria such as E-coli; aquatic invasive species; and residential septic systems. Additionally, the report highlights the benefits that clean water provides in terms of economic indicators such as property values; tourism; and public health.

The findings of this report provide a strong correlation between a healthy lake and a healthy regional economy, showing that even minor reductions in water quality may lead to negative economic

consequences for the region. The report also provides an important narrative for the need to balance economic development with water quality and environmental protection because in our region, these are one in the same. The report was funded by the New York State Department of State as part of a grant to the Village of Lake George.

[Link to Assessment of Economic Value of Clean Water in Lake George](#)

Loan Program



In 2020, the LCLGRP had 36 loans portfolio wide totaling \$3.5 Million in loaned capital.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the LCLGRP deployed a Business Interruption Micro-Loan Program to assist with working capital needs of economically injured businesses. Loans are up to \$25,000 and available through April 2021.

The LCLGRP is still accepting applications through its normal Small Business Loan Fund for business expansions, start-ups, equipment and inventory purchases, real estate, and working capital needs not related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Link to Loan Program](#)

Loan Administrative Committee

- Harry Booth, Washington County small business owner and former supervisor
- Carol Calabrese, Co-Director, Essex County IDA
- Chris Hay, President, Dannemora Federal Credit Union
- Marc Monahan, Vice-President, NBT Bank
- J. Chad Richards, Assistant Vice-President, Glens Falls National Bank
- Patty Waldron, Clinton County Legislator and small business owner
- Christy Wilt, Director, Hamilton County Economic Development and Hamilton County IDA





COVID-19 Economic Recovery Planning Program

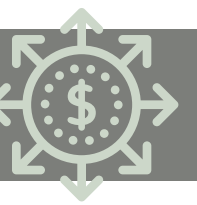
In June 2020, the LCLGRP was the recipient of a \$400,000 CARES Act grant through the Economic Development Administration to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the North Country. Several new initiatives have begun since then, including the creation of a Regional Recovery and Resiliency Plan for the five-county region. The development of this plan is being led by LCLGRP staff, The Chazen Companies and Camoin Associates, and a Work Group representing a wide range of public and private expertise throughout the five-county region. Slated for completion in September 2021, this plan will drive federal investment in the region to help the public and private sectors recover from the pandemic and build economic resilience for future disruptions to the regional economy.

Work Group Members include

- Michael Bittel, President, Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Garry Douglas, President, North Country Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Bill Farber, Chairman, Hamilton County Board of Supervisors
- Beth Gilles, Director, Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board
- Dan Kelleher, Special Assistant for Economic Affairs, Adirondack Park Agency
- Renee McFarlin, Executive Director, Clinton County Industrial Development Agency
- Jim McKenna, CEO, Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism
- Liza Ochsendorf, Director, Warren County Employment and Training Administration
- Jody Olcott, Co-Director, Essex County Industrial Development Agency
- Laura Oswald, Director of Economic Development, Washington County
- Jim Siplon, President & CEO, Warren County Economic Development Corporation

The LCLGRP is also creating a Business Retention and Expansion Program, focused on identifying the needs of small businesses throughout the North Country and developing new ways to address regional and localized needs.

The LCLGRP has partnered with the North Country Chamber of Commerce to provide training to small businesses at no cost. It is imperative that we continue to provide support to businesses so that they may continue to function, stay open, and have a properly trained workforce. A total of 17 virtual trainings will be held in 2021.



COVID-19 Small Business Recovery Loan Program

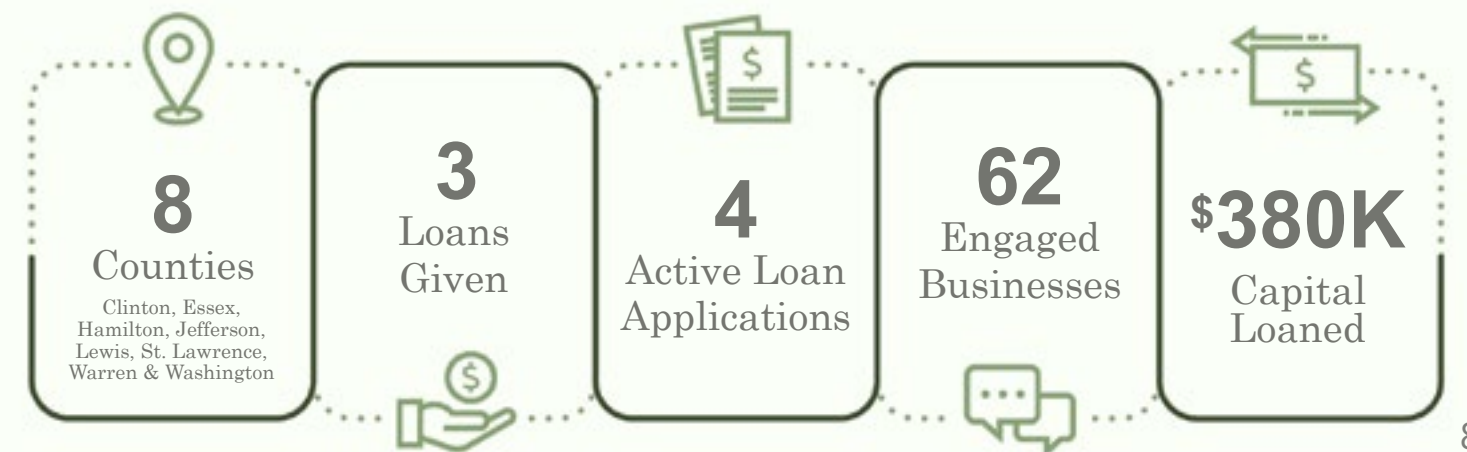
The US Department of Commerce announced on September 10th a \$3.2 million EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant to the LCLGRP to capitalize and administer a low-interest loan program for coronavirus -impacted small businesses in the region. Speakers at the announcement included Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, NYS Assemblyman Dan Stec, Anthony Foti from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Warren County Board of Supervisors Chairman Frank Thomas, and LCLGRP Director Beth Gilles.

This loan fund is aimed at helping small businesses within Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Warren and Washington Counties. Businesses can apply for loans for working capital, equipment purchases, or facility upgrades related to COVID-19 economic injury and social distancing requirements.

To assist in the deployment of this program, the LCLGRP has partnered with the Essex, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence County IDA's and the Washington County LDC. The program deadline is May 1, 2022 or until funds run out.



Covid-19 Small Business Recovery Loan Program





Upper Hudson River Watershed Revitalization Plan

In March 2020, the LCLGRP released the completed Upper Hudson River Watershed Revitalization Plan (Plan), which was funded through a NYS Department of State Local Waterfront Revitalization grant.

The Hudson River is one of the most culturally, economically, and ecologically important waterbodies in New York State. Over time, human activity – including industrialization, urbanization, and modification has placed significant pressure on the natural resources of the region. The plan takes stock of that pressure and identifies goals and projects that will improve the water quality within the Upper Hudson River Watershed under six priority issues: stormwater, invasive species, agriculture, erosion, water/wastewater and aquatic organism passage. This plan focuses on the seven counties, 97 municipalities, more than 7,000 miles of freshwater rivers and 229 significant ponds, lakes and reservoirs to evaluate the present conditions of the watershed, set a vision and goals for the future of the watershed, and identify 190 projects, totaling more than \$300,000,000 in water

quality improvements to aid in achieving those goals for the watershed. LCLGRP staff led the planning effort and completed the plan narrative, with assistance from the Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition (UHRWC) and an advisory committee of local officials and water quality professionals.

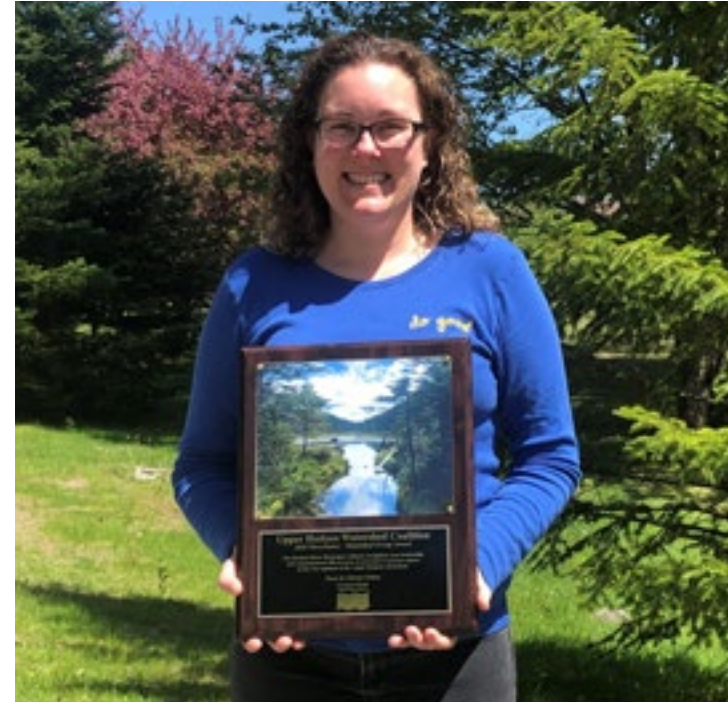
Preparation of the Upper Hudson River Watershed Revitalization Plan was funded through a New York State Department of State Title 11 Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) grant to the Town of Horicon and represents a regional approach to watershed planning that involves representatives from a wide geographical area.

You can find the Upper Hudson River Watershed Management Plan on our website.

[Link to Upper Hudson River Watershed Management Plan](#)



The Hudson River in the Town of Newcomb. Photo Courtesy of Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District.



Hudson River Watershed Alliance 2020 WaveMaker Award

The Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition, which the LCLGRP was a founding member, was awarded the Hudson River Watershed Alliance’s 2020 Watershed Group WaveMaker Award for their work to improve the water quality and natural resources in the Upper Hudson River Watershed. The award was accepted remotely by LCLGRP Director Beth Gilles and livestreamed on June 23, 2020 during the Alliance’s Toast to the Tribs event. You can see the award acceptance speech on You Tube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eurG21khYI>.



Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2)

The LCLGRP has been designated as a technical assistance provider for DWSP2, a New York State sponsored program created to assist municipalities with proactively protecting their drinking water sources. Under the DWSP2, technical assistance providers like the LCLGRP, work with municipalities to develop and implement their own unique protection plan for the source of their drinking water. The LCLGRP is currently working with the six communities (municipalities and homeowners associations) that utilize Lake George for drinking water to develop a unified plan to protect Lake George as a drinking water source for the future.



Isle La Motte Lake Segment Watershed Management Plan

In November of 2020, the LCLGRP completed the draft Isle La Motte Lake Segment Watershed Management Plan. This watershed is comprised of 389 square miles of land in Clinton County, encompasses all or portions of ten towns and two villages, and includes some of the most intensively farmed land in New York State. The Great Chazy River and the Little Chazy River flow through this watershed, forming one of the major tributary systems to Lake Champlain.

The plan provides an overall view of the health of the watershed and defines goals and identifies actions to address water quality issues. Twenty-three projects are identified in the plan, totaling more than \$8,750,000 in funding needs in the watershed. Preparation of this plan was led by the LCLGRP with members of an Advisory Committee in collaboration with the watershed's elected officials with funding provided by the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

[Link to Isle La Motte Lake Segment Watershed Management Plan](#)

Photo: Lake Champlain overlooking farmland in the Isle La Motte watershed. Photo courtesy of Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District.



The Adirondack / Glens Falls Transportation Council (A/GFTC) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Warren County, Washington County and the Town of Moreau in northern Saratoga County. MPOs are required to be established in urbanized areas with populations that exceed 50,000 for those areas to receive federal highway and federal transit funding assistance for planning and capital programs. It is the responsibility of MPOs to conduct a comprehensive and coordinated regional transportation planning process to maximize local input and access to transportation programming and formulation of capital projects. The Lake Champlain - Lake George Regional Planning Board is the designated Host Agency for A/GFTC.

2020 A/GFTC Projects include:

North Creek/Ski Bowl Connectivity Study
Assessment of potential access improvements associated with anticipated future development and existing operations between the Hamlet of North Creek and Ski Bowl Park in the Town of Johnsbury.

Chestertown Pedestrian Access Improvement Study
Preparation of a conceptual plan for improving pedestrian access between the hamlet of Chestertown and the Chester-Horicon Health Center.

Village of Greenwich Streetscape Code Revision
Identification of updates to the Village's zoning law to encourage development that enhances multimodal access, mixed land uses and parking efficiency.

Town of Queensbury Active Signal Controller Technology Feasibility Study
To conduct a feasibility assessment of Active Signal Controller Technology (ASCT) for the Aviation Road and Quaker Road corridor.

Regional Bicycle Plan

Bridge Preservation and Asset Management Plan Update

Traffic County Program

2020 Board of Directors

APPOINTED MEMBER

CLINTON COUNTY

Glen Cutter, Director of County Planning
Francis Peryea, County Legislator
Patty Waldron, County Legislator

ESSEX COUNTY

Joseph Giordano, Supervisor Ticonderoga
Charles Harrington, Supervisor Crown Point
Michael Tyler, Supervisor Westport

HAMILTON COUNTY

Clay Arsenault, Supervisor Long Lake
Steven Tomlinson, Supervisor Hope
Christy Wilt, County Economic Development Director

WARREN COUNTY

Dennis Dickinson, Supervisor Lake George
Edna Frasier, Supervisor Hague
John Strough, Supervisor Queensbury

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Robert Henke, Supervisor Argyle
Matthew Hicks, Supervisor Granville
David O'Brien, Supervisor Hampton

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

Mark Henry, Chairman, Clinton County Legislature
Kimberly Davis, Clinton County Treasurer
Karl Weiss, Clinton County Highway Superintendent

Sean Gilliland, Chairman, Essex County Bd. Of Supervisors
Michael Diskin, Essex County Treasurer
Jim Dougan, Essex County Highway Superintendent

William Farber, Chairman, Hamilton Co. Bd. Of Supervisors
Beth Hunt, Hamilton County Treasurer
Tracy Eldridge, Hamilton County Highway Superintendent

Frank Thomas, Chairman, Warren County Bd. Of Supervisors
Michael Swan, Warren County Treasurer
Kevin Hajos, Warren County Highway Superintendent

Sam Hall, Chairman, Washington Co. Board of Supervisors
Albert Nolette, Washington County Treasurer
Deb Donohue, Washington County Highway Superintendent

OFFICERS

David O'Brien – Chair
Christy Wilt – Vice-Chair
Albert Nolette – Treasurer
Beth Hunt – Secretary
Charles Harrington – Executive Committee Member

LCLGRP Financials: Fiscal Year 2020

EXPENSES:	TOTALS
Payroll Expenditures:	
Salaries and Wages	\$225,272
Payroll Taxes and Fringe Benefits	\$84,950
Total Payroll Expenditures	\$310,222
Operating Expenditures:	
Computer Equipment/Subscriptions	\$2,203
Contractual Services	\$23,250
Program Expenses	\$30,509
Special Grants	\$11,887
Printing and Supplies	\$3,714
Professional Fees	\$27,071
Rent	\$28,898
Telephone and Internet	\$5,998
Postage	\$849
Travel, Conferences, Dues and Meetings	\$3,598
Advertising	\$419
Total Operating Expenditures	\$138,396
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$448,618

REVENUES:	TOTALS
Grants	\$281,072
Overhead Reimbursement	\$101,640
In-Kind	\$37,445
Sponsor Contributions	\$42,499
Administrative Reimb from RLF	\$160,158
TOTAL REVENUES	\$622,814

**LAKE CHAMPLAIN - LAKE GEORGE
REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD**

P.O. Box 765
1 Lower Amherst Street
Lake George, NY 12845



SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT THAT
STRENGTHEN & PRESERVES
OUR COMMUNITIES.

STAFF

**LAKE CHAMPLAIN - LAKE GEORGE
REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD**

Beth Gilles - Director
Allison Gaddy - Senior Planner
Chris Belden- Economic Development
Coordinator
Jamie White - Small Business Support
Specialist
Carrie Yakush - Senior Account Clerk
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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE WWW.LCLGRPB.ORG