

SCIDA Meeting summary – Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Due to a technical issue, there is no recording for the January 2026 SCIDA Public Meeting.

Below is the meeting summary generated from Zoom AI.

Quick recap

The Schuyler County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) held its January 2026 meeting to conduct board orientation, elect officers, and discuss ongoing projects. The board welcomed two new members, Kai D'Alleva and Erin Shawkey, and confirmed officers for the upcoming year, including Chad Hendrickson as Chairperson, Mark Taylor as Vice Chairperson, Laury Ward as Secretary, and Erin Shawkey as Treasurer. The IDA reviewed financial reports showing positive interest earnings and discussed several grant applications, including a successful ETP grant for wastewater treatment study. Wendy Shutter reported on potential housing projects and a new solar installation proposal for a landfill site, while Judy McKinney-Cherry shared concerns about recent vandalism at Camp Monterey, which is being prepared for upcoming site visits. The conversation ended with updates on broadband initiatives and the scheduling of committee meetings.

Next steps

- Joyce: Submit the letter from the Cornell professor (energy expert) to the IDA team.
- Michell Krossber: Provide a physical copy of the board manual to the community member who requested it, by tomorrow afternoon.
- All board members: Complete annual sexual harassment prevention training (online or via employer) and provide documentation to Judy McKinney-Cherry, by the end of the month.
- Judy McKinney-Cherry: Track down the current status and contact information for the Joint Sanitary Landfill Commission of Schuyler County to determine who can grant permission for potential solar development on the landfill property.
- Judy McKinney-Cherry: Await and review contract from Labella for the ETP grant-funded wastewater treatment study and building condition report, and proceed with necessary signatures.
- Michell Krossber: Hold the 2026 pre-audit meeting on January 20th at 11:30 a.m. and ensure relevant parties are informed.
- Mark Taylor: Report out next month on update from Southern Tier Networks regarding broadband funding opportunities and project status in Schuyler County.

Summary

Schuyler County Industrial Development Discussion

The Schuyler County Industrial Development Agency meeting began with introductions and a public comment period. Timothy Dunlap expressed concerns about the location of the industrial park and the feasibility of a nuclear power plant in the area, suggesting that light industry would be more appropriate. The meeting continued with roll call and introductions of guests, but no further public comments were made.

IDA Financial Performance and Policies

The meeting began with introductions of new board members Kai D'Alleva and Erin Shawkey, followed by a review of the December 2025 meeting minutes and financial reports presented by Judy McKinney-Cherry. The financial report highlighted that the IDA is running ahead of budget in interest earnings and the Finger Lakes Railway lease, with a year-to-date net income of minus \$16,023 compared to a budgeted minus \$56,602. The board discussed

policies and procedures, including the selection of the executive director, cooperation with other groups, and the importance of public hearing requirements for pilots and deviations from the uniform tax exemption policy.

IDA Bond Financing and Leadership

Judy McKinney-Cherry explained the IDA's role in providing bond financing and sales tax abatements to encourage business development, noting that conduit bond financing hasn't been used since 2014. She outlined the process for pilot programs, emphasizing that taxes remain flat during the pilot period, and highlighted the importance of notifying taxing jurisdictions when pilots end. The board elected officers for 2026, including Chad Henderson as Chairperson, Mark Taylor as Vice-chair, Erin Shawkey as Treasurer, and Lori Ward as Secretary. Judy McKinney-Cherry also discussed the need for annual sexual harassment training and mentioned that Wendy would speak about a national road transit grant that could expand public transportation options in the county.

Housing and Infrastructure Grant Updates

Judy McKinney-Cherry discussed three unsuccessful housing grant applications totaling \$60 million, noting that projects needed \$2.5 million in infrastructure funding which was a high threshold. She reported that Capriotti remains interested in pursuing infrastructure grant funding and is exploring additional support from HCR, with a potential 36-unit market-rate development in Montour Falls. She also mentioned a solar developer's interest in installing panels on a landfill, pending approval from the Joint Sanitary Landfill Commission of Schuyler County, and noted that Labella has been notified about SCIDA receiving an ETP grant for wastewater treatment and facilities assessment.

Camp Monterey Security Update

Judy McKinney-Cherry reported on recent security issues at Camp Monterey, where she discovered the front door had been removed and found evidence of vandalism and theft. She described cleaning the facility and encountering a group of trespassers from Rochester, whom she attempted to educate about the site's historical significance. Erin Shawkey emphasized the importance of safety and requested that no one visit the site alone, noting that surveillance had been installed. The conversation ended with updates on the 2026 pre-audit meeting scheduled for January 20th and a discussion of \$36 million in broadband funding opportunities, with Southern Tier Networks expected to provide an update on Schuyler County projects next month.