

Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency

Administration provided by Ithaca Area Economic Development

**Local Labor Committee Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2026 9:30 – 11:00 AM
119 E. Seneca Street, Suite 200, Ithaca NY**

LIVE STREAM LINK: <https://tinyurl.com/weo3tkk>

Committee Members: Prentice Smith (Chair), Greg Mezey (remote), Ducson Nguyen (remote), Fred Swayze, & Rick Warner

Staff: Kellea Bauda, Ina Arthur, Kurt Anderson (IAED), Russ Gaenzle (remote) (Harris Beach Murtha)

Policy Review and Waiver Process Update

Kurt Anderson gave an overview of the TCIDA Local labor policy from 2016 to present. The current policy requires projects to utilize 75% local labor (based on zip code of residency). Monitoring and reporting is overseen by Loewke Brille that is contracted by the TCIDA. The current policy also allows for waivers. Waivers must be submitted 45 prior to the work being bid begins.

Four of the five waiver allowances can be approved by the TCIDA Administrative Director. There are:

- Warranty issues
- Documented lack of qualified local bids or available workers
- Documented need for specialized skills not available locally
- Cost differential of ten percent or more.

It was suggested that these four types of waivers be reviewed and approved by the TCIDA Board moving forward.

Greg Mezey made a motion to change the waiver approval process so that the warranty types previously approved by the Administrative Director now be reviewed and approved by the TCIDA Board. Rick Warner seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

The recommended amendment will go to the TCIDA board for approval.

Other items that were discussed included the reasoning behind having affordable housing projects exempt from the local labor requirement and the need for contacts from local contractors by trade.

Carpenter Park Data Review

Labor data from the Carpenter Park project was reviewed.

Items for future committee meeting

- Affordable housing project exemption
- Support/funding for apprentice training programs from projects subject to the labor policy

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 am.