



May 14, 2015 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER—Chair Donna Draxler called the meeting to order at 4:40 PM in the STC Conference room.

ATTENDANCE

Chemung County – Donna Draxler; Randy Olthof; Thomas Sweet

Schuyler County – Kate Bartholomew; Kristin VanHorn

Steuben County – Amy Dlugos; James Johnson

STC Staff – Marcia Weber; Susan Cratsley; Victoria Ehlen; Kemberli Sargent; Dan Wilhelm

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER – Chair Donna Draxler introduced Chemung County Legislator Tom Sweet. Everyone introduced him/herself.

Since there was not a quorum, no official action was taken at this meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Meeting of the Budget and Personnel and Audit Committees

- a) Review of the STC 2014 Audit – Chair Donna Draxler and members of the two committees met with the auditor prior to this meeting. The STC 2014 audit is a clean audit with no findings. The audit will be sent to the board to review, and the subject will be brought back to the board for a vote in June.
- b) Personnel – Chelsea Robertson, STC Senior Planner, will be out on sick leave for 3 weeks for surgery starting May 18. Victoria Ehlen, Economic Development Coordinator, will be out on maternity leave beginning August 1, 2015.

Due to the number of grants STC received for 2015 and the resulting workload, STC will engage a consultant to work on several projects with STC staff. STC expects to receive a proposal in the next few weeks.

REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)** – STC received the 2015-2016 EDA award package, which presented a different timeframe than in the past for the submittal of the CEDS. After discussions with EDA staff, STC determined that the requirement now is a full CEDS every five years, with the

next one due in March 2016. EDA requires a shorter document than in the past. The annual reporting requirements for intervening years have also changed; STC will submit an annual progress report to demonstrate the effectiveness of the CEDS and ongoing Economic Development Policy Committee (EDPC) activities. STC is accepting suggestions for content to be included in the annual CEDS progress report.

Board members asked how, with the CEDS updated every five years and a progress report submitted annually, the priority project list would be maintained. The decision was to update the priority project list annually.

EDA is focusing on active and involved committees in the CEDS update process. It was recommended that the STC Economic Development Policy Committee and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee combine into one committee, as in the past, with quarterly meetings. Additional members could be recruited from current planning projects, such as the I-86 Corridor Strategy.

2. **Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)**

- a) Funding for ARC –The House passed the FY16 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill on May 1, 2015, providing \$95 million in non-highway funding for ARC, an increase of \$5 million over the current year. Of the \$95 million, \$15 million is for the Administration’s POWER+ plan to assist coal-impacted communities, and \$10 million is to continue the program of high-speed broadband deployment in distressed counties adversely affected by the downturn in the coal industry. ARC’s base program would continue at \$70 million, which is the FY15 level. No amendments were offered. The Senate Appropriations Committee will begin its review in the next few weeks.
- b) Visit from Executive Director – the ARC Executive Director will be visiting the area on June 2. While in the area, he will visit some of the ARC project sites. Board members are encouraged to attend.
- c) Application Due Date – applications for FY16 ARC funding are due in the STC office by June 23, 2015.
- d) Potential Applications – potential applications include:
 1. Incubator Works
 2. Southern Tier Library Systems to connect to the Southern Tier Network
 3. Schuyler County Cooperative Extension – agriculture project
 4. CaRDI –training for elected officials and planning board members with a specific focus on the impact of land use tools on agriculture
 5. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County – ag project
 6. Watkins Glen – road work
 7. Chemung County Chronic Absenteeism
 8. Steuben Office for the Aging – leadership conference for aging in place.
 9. United Way of the Southern Tier – collective impact quantification

Two projects were referred to USDA-RD and CFA. It was noted that the ARC applications deadline (6/23) conflicts with the CFA funding application deadline (7/31); since the CFA funds are received more quickly than the ARC funds, the IDA's are expected to focus on applying for the CFA funds.

- e) Other –possible training classes were suggested for the Regional Leadership Conference next year, including some that would be of interest to legislators. Other topics suggested: ethics, social media, Roberts Rules of Order, how to run a meeting, how to run a public hearing.
3. **Environmental Protection Fund Grant** – STC received a letter from NYS Senator Tom O'Mara's office indicating that STC has been awarded a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program grant through the Environmental Protection fund. The project, "Flood Smart Communities in the Chemung/Cohocton River Watershed," would be done in partnership with the Nature Conservancy. A meeting will be held on Monday with the Nature Conservancy to discuss the project.
4. **Planning**
- a) Planning School – Planning school had excellent attendance and lively discussions. STC is planning to offer 8-10 classes beginning in the fall. Anyone with ideas for classes should please let STC know.
 - b) Planning Projects – STC staff updated the board on planning projects in which STC is involved.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 1. **Next Board Meeting** - the next board meeting will be on June 18, 2015.

ADJOURN – the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cratsley
Executive Assistant