



June 21, 2012 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER – Vice Chair Dennis Fagan called the meeting to order at 4:45 PM in the STC Conference Room.

ATTENDANCE:

Chemung County: Theodore Bennett; John Burin; Donna Draxler; Ernie Hartman; Randy Reid

Schuyler County: Dennis Fagan; Timothy O'Hearn

Steuben County: Mark Alger; Amy Drugos; Scott VanEtten

STC Staff: Marcia Weber; Susan Cratsley; Victoria Ehlen; Chelsea Robertson; Meghan Thoreau; Dan Wilhelm

WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS – Vice Chair Dennis Fagan welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Donna Draxler, Chair of the Chemung County Legislature.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On a motion duly made (Ernie Hartman/Scott Van Etten) and carried, the minutes of the March 15, 2012 meeting were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Audit Committee**

- a) **2011 Audit** – On behalf of the Audit Committee and Budget and Personnel Committee, Scott Van Etten reported that the STC audit is complete with no significant findings. Scott gave a brief summary of the audit and commended Dan Wilhelm, STC Accountant, for all his work. On a motion duly made (Scott Van Etten/John Burin) and carried, the 2011 audit was accepted as presented.
- b) **Abstract of Claims** – Scott Van Etten reported that the Audit Committee reviewed eight abstracts totaling \$119,953.13. On a motion duly made (Scott Van Etten/Mark Alger) and carried, the abstracts were approved.

2. **CEDS Committee** - On behalf of the Economic Development Policy Committee and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee, Dennis Fagan reported that prior to today's STC Board meeting, the CEDS Committee met and reviewed the 2012b Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and recommended that it be submitted to the STC Board for approval. The CEDS was updated and revised on June 13, 2012 by the Economic Development Policy Committee

based on input from a variety of individuals and community organizations. Copies and CDs of the CEDS are now available, and it will be put on the STC website. On a motion duly made (Scott Van Etten/Mark Alger), and carried, the CEDS was approved as presented for submission to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) no later than June 30, 2012.

3. **Budget and Personnel** – At the last meeting, the Budget and Personnel Committee recommended changes to the STC Personnel Policies regarding medical benefits for part time employees. At this meeting, they recommended the policies be clarified to say that the cost of medical benefits would be pro rated, with the percentage of time worked applied to the employer share of the premium. On a motion duly made (Mark Alger/Scott Van Etten) and carried, this was approved.
4. **Regional Human Services Committee** – The committee met in May and reviewed a new STC Regional Human Services Needs Assessment and Action Plan that was developed over the last two years by a local consultant, Margie Lawlor, who has done this at no charge to STC.

The consultant used the three county human services committees as focus groups and met with each committee a number of times. She also compiled data from the 2010 Census and other sources and used it to back up the assessment of needs. She used the data and information from the human services committees to establish priorities for action and areas of concern. The report and summary will be on the STC website shortly.

REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITES

1. **Energy Update** – Meghan Thoreau, STC Planner, handed out a booklet detailing the work she has done in the region concerning the Marcellus Shale. She has worked with the task forces established by each county and described some of that work. Meghan believes that planning for the expected energy development is important whether or not the development actually comes to the communities. Most communities are reviewing their laws/regulations and planning documents and bringing them up-to-date, which will obviously benefit the communities.

Each county has put on a well-attended “road show” to keep the zoning and planning boards updated. The “Energy Guide” is available, but it is currently being revised, with the revision to be available by the end of July. Towns have been including road use language in their laws. A link on the STC website shows the towns that have passed moratoriums; this is updated every two months. If anyone has questions or wants more information, they may contact Meghan at planner@stny.rr.com.

2. **Letter: Funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund** – (in packets) the President’s budget requested significantly less funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and STC staff believes that this funding should be increased. It covers sewage infrastructure, which is an ongoing need in this area; there are many more requests than funding can cover.

STC uses this funding under the 604b program, which allows STC to support Water Quality Coordinating Committees and Stormwater Coalitions and provide flood mitigation and GIS assistance. On a motion duly made (Ted Bennett/John Burin) and

carried, the board approved sending the letter to STC's federal elected officials.

3. **Grant for Keuka Lake Watershed** – STC has been contacted by the Keuka Lake Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA) and the Town of Wayne for support in implementing a Watershed Management Plan that they hope to fund through a grant from NYS's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. STC Planner Chelsea Robertson is writing the grant application. The grant would fund extensive education and outreach for municipal planning boards in the Keuka Lake watershed. The project would standardize their zoning and land use activities around Keuka Lake. The grant would be for approximately \$180,000, with approximately \$70,000 to STC over a three year period for education, outreach, and grant administration.
4. **Economic Development Administration (EDA) Update** – Marcia reported that there have been numerous attacks on EDA recently, with an amendment proposed by Representative Pompeo (Kansas) to eliminate EDA totally. Marcia and Representative Tom Reed often have discussed the projects made possible with EDA funding in this region, and Tom has been very supportive of EDA. He voted to defeat the Pompeo amendment; this amendment was defeated. He also voted to restore a funding cut through an amendment sponsored by Representative Michaud (Maine). Unfortunately, that amendment was also defeated. Marcia sent a letter to Tom Reed thanking him for his support of EDA.
5. **Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)**
 - a) **Update** - an amendment was proposed by Representative Chabot (Ohio) to eliminate funding for ARC and the other regional commissions. He argued that the regional commissions duplicate other federal programs. Representative Hal Rogers (KY) spoke in opposition to the amendment, noting that ARC has a record of accomplishment. He pointed out that ARC was "one of the first agencies on the ground" after the tornadoes in Kentucky, which is possible because they have their offices right in the district. The House voted to keep the funding for ARC and the other regional commissions.
 - b) **Visit by NYS Deputy Secretary of State** - Dierdre (Dede) Scozzafava, the NYS Deputy Secretary of State for Local Government Services, is the NYS Alternate to the Appalachian Regional Commission. She recently visited the area with Department of State representatives and visited several ARC projects in the area.
 - c) **Application Process for Fiscal Year 2013** – The ARC application process is underway, with projects due in the STC office by July 2. Projects are due in Albany in October. The last few years STC has received fewer project applications, and Marcia theorized that many of the agencies are having trouble coming up with the required 50% match.
6. **Telecommunications** – Marcia reported that Southern Tier Network (STN) made a presentation at the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council meeting in Ithaca recently. STN has been asked to submit a Consolidated Funding Application to expand the network to reach Tioga and Broome Counties. The STN board stressed that the expansion must not compromise the network in Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties. Construction of fiber has begun in Schuyler County for the Schuyler Hospital, which was the first organization to sign a contract with STN.

Southern Tier Network is working with GST BOCES to connect almost all of the schools, which will bring fiber out to the rural areas.

7. **Regional Leadership Conference Update** - Chelsea Robertson, STC Planner, reported that the conference was well attended, and most participants liked the fact that it was held over a 2 day period.

Chelsea said that 68 out of 76 municipalities in the region participated and found that the conference was “useful” or “very useful.”

Donations were up this year, and it is hoped that the conference will be self sustaining by next year.

8. Intergovernmental Reviews

Chemung County

12-08 – Water Storage Tank Replacement Project

Project Applicant: Town of Catlin

Description: replace the tank with a new 120,000 gallon glass-fused-to-steel water storage tank.

Federal Agency: USDA Rural Development

Cost: Federal: \$374,202 Total: \$374,202

Schuyler County

12-09 – Town of Reading Water District #3 Formation

Project Applicant: Town of Reading

Description: the proposed project consists of installing approximately 13,000 linear feet of water main plus service lines to the existing homes and buildings located within the proposed water district #3.

Federal Agency: USDA Rural Development

Cost: Local: \$250,000 Applicant: \$150,000 Total: \$400,000

Comment – there was a concern over the boundaries of this project and low water pressure on the west side. Those issued have been resolved, and the boundaries of the district were engineered so everyone in the district would have a PSF of 40+. Low pressure will not be a problem on the west boundary.

12-19 – Evaluating Ag Drainage Denitrifying Bioreactors in Chesapeake Bay

Project Applicant: Upper Susquehanna Coalition

Description: an agricultural research project to evaluate techniques that could be helpful in achieving the Chesapeake Bay load reductions.

Cost: Federal: \$74,860 Local: \$80,000 Total: \$154,860

Comment: it is a good research project

New York State

12-15 – NYS Sustainable Grocer Program

Project Applicant: New York State DEC

Description: to utilize existing tools to assess pollution prevention opportunities at 6 grocery

stores in NYS with a focus on food waste, toxic chemicals, and water usage.

Cost: Federal: \$55,000 State: \$55,110 Total: \$110,110

12-17 – Housing Preservation Grant

Project Applicant: Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Foundation, Inc.

Description: 26 owner-occupied single family homes will receive housing rehabilitation grants to correct health, safety hazards and energy inefficiency caused by substandard housing.

Federal Agency: US Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Services

Cost: Federal: \$90,000 State: \$300,000 Applicant: \$25,000 TOTAL: \$415,000

Comment - a large portion of the housing stock in Schuyler County is in need of repair or rehabilitation. A grant such as this would go a long way in helping to alleviate the problem.

12-22 – Regional Wetland Program Development

Project Applicant: Tioga County SWCD

Description: expanding a comprehensive watershed analysis to aid wetland protection and restoration efforts for western NY.

Federal Agency: USEPA

Cost: Federal: \$200,146 TOTAL: \$200,146

Comment: STC staff supports the region's environmental, water quality, and flood mitigation objectives.

On a motion duly made (Ted Bennett/Amy Dlugos) and carried, the above intergovernmental reviews were approved with comments as stated.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **New Business** – no new business.
2. **Next Board Meeting** – the next meeting of the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board of Directors will be on July 19, 2012. This is a very important meeting as the Board will review and approve the Appalachian Regional Commission applications.
3. **Other** – Marcia has pamphlets on hydrilla if anyone is interested. Dennis Fagan reported that the firm that is doing the applications in the Cayuga Lake inlet to prevent the spreading of hydrilla is using herbicides that normally have restrictions on water use associated with them. DEC has suspended the restrictions because of the serious consequences if hydrilla were to become established.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion duly made (Ernie Hartman/Scott Van Etten) and carried, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cratsley