



Thursday, January 21, 2010

## Minutes

**CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Tom Santulli called the meeting to order at 4:25 PM in the STC Conference Room.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Chemung County – Ernie Hartman; Richard Gunderman; Tom Santulli;

Schuyler County – Tom Gifford; Danielle Hautaniemi; Paul Marcellus; Tim O’Hearn

Steuben County – Mark Alger; Don Creath; Robert Nichols; Scott Van Etten

Staff – Marcia Weber; Susan Cratsley; Jennifer Fais; Thomas McGarry; Daniel Wilhelm

**WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS** – Chair Tom Santulli welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – the minutes of the November 19, 2009 meeting were approved on a motion by Ernie Hartman, seconded by Bob Nichols, and carried.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **Audit Committee**

**Abstract of Claims** - On behalf of the Audit Committee, Don Creath, Vice Chair, gave the report. Don reported that four abstracts for December 2009 and one abstract for 2010 were reviewed and approved totaling \$27,795.00. On a motion by Don Creath, seconded by Ernie Hartman, the abstracts were approved.

2. **Budget and Personnel Committee** – Chair Tom Santulli reported the following:

a) **Cost Allocation Plan for 2010** – Tom stated that the budget and personnel committee approved the Cost Allocation Plan. Anyone who would like a copy should please contact STC. On a motion by Bob Nichols, seconded by Tom Gifford, the Cost Allocation Plan for 2010 was approved.

b) **ARC Funding for 2010** – there is an increase in ARC funding of \$3,500, bringing STC’s grant in 2010 to \$218,000, due to an increased allocation to ARC from Congress.

- c) **Grant Funding** – STC has received a grant for \$35,325 to update the Seneca Lake Watershed Management Plan. On a motion by Mark Alger, seconded by Scott Van Etten, the acceptance of the grant was approved.
- d) **Retirement** - Tom McGarry has notified STC that he will be retiring on February 27, 2010. Tom McGarry has agreed to contract with STC from March 1 until mid April to work on the Leadership Conference. Tom Santulli congratulated Tom and thanked him for his 13 years of service with STC.
- e) **Staff Change Recommendations** – Marcia has spoken to county economic development agencies to see what assistance they require from STC, and she has given a great deal of thought to the responsibilities of the position of Economic Development Coordinator. She recommended to the budget and personnel committee that Victoria Ehlen, STC Planner since August 2008, be hired for that position.

Victoria worked for Corning Enterprises and came highly recommended by Tom Tranter and Susan Payne. Victoria has a Masters in Urban Planning, Retail Planning, and Economics. Victoria is very skilled with GIS. Victoria will be required to take the Economic Development Coordinator Civil Service test when it becomes available. Marcia recommended that the salary for Victoria be set at \$42,000. On a motion by Dick Gunderman, seconded by Ernie Hartman, the Board approved the staff change and salary for Victoria Ehlen.

- 3. **Physical Resources Advisory Committee** – on behalf of the Physical Resources Advisory Committee, Dick Gunderman gave the following report:

**Established PRAC Membership for 2010.** The Committee reviewed its membership and recommends appointment of the proposed roster for 2010 – 2011.

**Confirmed meeting topics for 2010:**

**January 12** - Looking Ahead

**March 9**- Agriculture

**May 11**- Water / Marcellus Shale

**July 13**- Tourism / Historic Preservation - *Presentation by Catharine Valley Trail and Friends of the Chemung River Watershed (invited)*

**September 14** - Sustainable Development

**November 9** - GIS / Infrastructure / Transportation

**Reviewed STC / PRAC member programs in 2010.** Jennifer reviewed the goals for the 2010 STC Environmental/Water Program including:

Regional Water Resources Program (yearly 604(b) funding) 3 counties

Susquehanna - Chemung Action Plan (ARRA funding) STC / STE regions

Rural Stormwater Coalition (WQIP Round 9 funding) 3 counties

Eco-Logical Transportation Planning (FHWA/DOT funding) USC 16 counties

Seneca Lake Watershed Management Plan (LWRP funding) 5 counties

Southeast Steuben River Vision Project (LWRP funding) 6 communities

Local Planning Assistance to SE Steuben Co. (contracts) 5 communities

**Considered PRAC Committee direction in 2010:**

**Marcellus Shale** - PRAC agreed to invite each county's Energy/Natural Gas Task Force to update PRAC periodically, beginning in May, to explore emerging needs for regional action.

**STC Transportation Committee** - Jim Arey reviewed the history of the Schuyler/Steuben Transportation Committee and suggested that there may be a need to consider creating a three-county committee. Because transportation is a PRAC area of concern, PRAC recommends that the STC Board explore this idea contingent upon support by all three counties and the availability of adequate staffing.

**GIS-based Road Surface Management Program** - Three county GIS and highway staff are discussing the cost-effectiveness of creating this unified and consistent program. PRAC supported the collaboration.

**Environmental Transportation Planning** - A statewide meeting of transportation and environmental planners happened in Binghamton last fall with a call for true integration of transportation and conservation planning. PRAC supported STC staff efforts to follow up.

**Livable Communities** - The Office for the Aging sponsored a Livable Communities forum recently that dealt with issues across all fields. PRAC supported moving this concept forward on a regional basis.

**PRAC reviewed suggestions for regional focus for ARC funding.** Suggestions so far: Infrastructure needs for Marcellus Shale drilling, training needs for Marcellus Shale drilling, telecommunications, sustainable communities.

**PRAC supported the STC Board Marcellus Shale comments filed by December 31, 2009.** (*See packet*)

**PRAC discussed a variety of funding opportunities** - Please see the STC webpage for details on the latest funding opportunities.

## REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. **Appalachian Regional Commission** - M. Weber
  - a) **STC Funding** – discussed under the Budget and Personnel Committee heading.
  - b) **Special Funding Application** – Marcia reported to the Budget and Personnel Committee that STC has been asked to be the sponsor for an unusual Appalachian Regional Commission application that would apply outside the regular funding cycle. ARC is allowing this for STC on an emergency basis because the work needs to be done very quickly. The application is for shared services with Chemung County Human Services agencies; the agencies will be forced to make many budget cuts and want to make sure they keep as many services as possible for the county residents; they propose looking into sharing services among agencies. The application will be for \$10,000, with a \$10,000 match. A consultant from Binghamton University will be the facilitator during this process. STC will be the sponsor of the application. On a motion by Mark Alger, seconded by Tom Gifford, the board approved the recommendation that STC apply for the special ARC funds.
  - c) **Possible New Funding Focus** - Marcia explained that at a meeting in early December with Southern Tier East and West Regional Planning and Development Boards (the NYS Local Development Districts--Appalachian

Regional Commission designations) and the ARC Program Manager, Kyle Wilber of the NYS Department of State, the ARC funding process was discussed.

The New York State Appalachian region has emphasized three goals of the Appalachian Regional Commission: economic opportunity; workforce development; and infrastructure.

The NYS Department of State is encouraging the Local Development Districts to take a more regional approach to meeting the needs of Appalachian New York. The Department of State is working more closely with other state agencies to maximize resources and coordinate funding and services. They asked how STC, STW, and STE could work with them and on what four or five important issues funding should be focused.

These questions were brought to STC's Economic Development Policy Committee and Regional Human Services Committee.

Each committee had an in-depth discussion. Both said there was a need to continue to use the ARC funding for projects of local significance. For example, a road project or a sewer and water project could be necessary to attract or retain a business, and ARC funding could contribute to that project. Or a human services program such as the rural dental program could be expanded when it proves to make a tremendous difference to the health of the region's children. In many cases, ARC is the only possible funding source for these projects.

However, both committees saw the advantage to working with the other two planning boards in Appalachian New York. In fact, that is being done currently by STC and Southern Tier East with ARC funding for the development of a regional telecommunications system and for water quality with ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funding.

The common theme proposed by the two committees was the Marcellus Shale.

The Economic Development Policy Committee recommended a study to determine the potential economic impact of the Marcellus Shale development. There was also a need to look at water treatment issues, infrastructure needs, training, and housing.

The Council of Governments in Schuyler is looking at the impacts already and will have information to benefit other counties. The regional study could expand upon that.

The Regional Human Services Committee also discussed the impact of the drilling in Pennsylvania, which provides clues as to what must be done to prepare New York. They recommended documenting what the region's roads, water, and environmental assets (such as those important for tourism) look like before the drilling to ensure that the drilling does not degrade the region.

Both committees recommended that each Local Development District contribute a certain sum, such as \$150,000, to a project for all three LDDs to study the economic, environmental, and social impacts of the Marcellus Shale drilling. This is particularly apt because the Marcellus Shale does affect Appalachian New York more than the rest of the state.

Another emphasis would be on training for the jobs needed to develop the Marcellus Shale.

A third focus recommended for funding that is of extreme importance to the region is broadband and wireless services, including emergency communication.

Don Creath asked if the state office is suggesting that the three planning board pool all the requests and then sit down and prioritize, or does STC compete with the other boards. Marcia said that the state is suggesting that all three regional planning boards pool all the project money coming to NYS from ARC and use it for a limited number of specific projects. Marcia stated that the committees were not willing to do that.

The question was asked if STC had the \$150,000 to contribute to a joint project. Marcia noted that STC usually get \$600,000 in ARC money for projects each year; it would come out of those funds and leave \$450,000 for other projects.

Jennifer Fais reported that PRAC also reviewed this subject and wanted to emphasize the topic of sustainable communities as a way to group the infrastructure projects with the goal of increasing sustainable communities. Marcia noted that this topic was also important to the Department of State.

On a motion by Bob Nichols, seconded by Dick Gunderman, the Board approved the recommendation to use up to \$150,000 of 2011 ARC funding to contribute to an Appalachian New York project agreed upon by the three LDDs. The motion carried.

- d) **Conference in Washington, DC Feb. 28 - March 2, 2010 – Board Members Invited to Attend** –M. Weber reported that the LDD/ARC Conference in Washington, DC will be on February 28 – March 2. The topic for this year’s conference is “Leading the Charge for an Energy-Efficient Appalachia.” Anyone interested in attending should please let Marcia know.

- 2. **Telecommunications Update** - M. Weber reported that ION, the partnership owned by Sovernet Communications and twelve independent rural telephone companies in New York, has received a federal broadband stimulus grant of \$39.7 million. The project will build fiber-optic middle-mile broadband infrastructure and cover upstate New York including parts of Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben counties.

Marcia noted that STC has been working with ECC Technologies and Southern Tier East to develop an application for the same funding. This would be for an eleven county region. With the ION project funded, Marcia stated that STC and STE are going to change what they are applying for, because they would have applied for a network that would have appeared similar. Even with ION funded, there is still the need for infrastructure to get the services to the rural areas. Marcia will be meeting with Southern Tier East, ECC Technologies, and ION on January 28, 2010 to make recommendations for the coverage of our region through the ION grant and other resources.

### 3. Intergovernmental Reviews

#### Steuben County

##### **1001 Construct Snow Removal Equipment Storage Building**

Project Applicant: Town of Erwin IDA/Corning-Painted Post Airport

Description: Construct a snow removal and equipment storage building for the Corning-Painted Post Airport.

Federal Agency: FAA

Cost: Federal: \$36,100    State: \$950    Local: \$950    Total: \$38,000

Tom McGarry reported that this project is for the construction of a storage building for snow removal and other equipment. On a motion by Bob Nichols, seconded by Tim O'Hearn, this intergovernmental review was approved.

##### **1003 Bulk Hangar Apron**

Project Applicant: City of Hornell/Municipal Airport

Description: construction of bulk hangar apron

Federal Agency: FAA

Cost: Federal: \$437,000    State: \$11,500    Applicant: \$11,500    Total: \$460,000

Tom McGarry reported that this application is for construction of a parking area around the bulk hangar at the Hornell Municipal Airport. Environmental concerns have been satisfied. On a motion by Tim O'Hearn, seconded by Bob Nichols, this intergovernmental review was approved.

#### New York State

##### **1002 New York State Clean Diesel Grant Program/Diesel School Bus Retrofits**

Project Applicant: New York State DEC

Description: retrofit school buses with verified emission reduction technologies.

Federal Agency: EPA

Cost: Federal: \$352,941

Jennifer Fais reported that PRAC reviewed and recommends approval of this intergovernmental review. On a motion by Dick Gunderman, seconded by Mark Alger, the intergovernmental review application was approved.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Nominating Committee for 2010** – The nominating committee was appointed as follows:

Chemung County – Tom Tranter, Chair

Schuyler County – Tim O'Hearn

Steuben County - Don Creath

2. **STC Committee Assignments** – Marcia noted that the Committee Assignments are on the STC Website and anyone wishing to be put on or taken off any committee should please let STC know.

3. **Next Board Meeting** – the next meeting will be the Annual Dinner, February 25, 2010 (please note date; it's the fourth Thursday of the month). The keynote speaker will be Kathleen Shafer, CVS/pharmacy.
4. **Other** – Tom McGarry reported that the Leadership Conference will be on April 15, 2010 at Corning Community College and encouraged everyone to attend.

ADJOURNMENT – the meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Cratsley  
Senior Typist