



October 20, 2011 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Joseph Hauryski called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM in the STC Conference Room.

ATTENDANCE:

Chemung County: Ted Bennett; John Burin; Ernie Hartman; Thomas Tranter

Schuyler County: Dennis Fagan; Thomas Gifford; Danielle Hautaniemi; Timothy O’Hearn

Steuben County: Mark Alger; Amy Dlugos; Joseph Hauryski; Scott Van Etten

STC Staff: Marcia Weber; Susan Cratsley; Victoria Ehlen; Chelsea Robertson; Janet Thigpen; Dan Wilhelm

WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS – Chair Joe Hauryski welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On a motion duly made (Mark Alger/Scott VanEtten) and carried, the minutes of the September 15, 2011 meeting were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Audit Committee**

- a) **Abstract of Claims** – Thomas Tranter reported on behalf of the Audit Committee. The Committee reviewed abstracts totaling \$17,654.88. On a motion duly made (Thomas Tranter/Scott Van Etten) and carried, the abstracts were approved.
- b) **Budget and Personnel** – the Budget and Personnel Committee will meet on November 3, 2011 to discuss the STC Budget for 2012, and the budget will be presented at the November meeting.

2. **Conference Committee** – Chelsea Robertson reported that the Conference Committee has begun planning the 2012 Regional Leadership Conference. Due to number constraints given by the college and the yearly increase in attendance, the conference will be split into 2 days. The conference will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, April 11 and 12, 2012. More details will follow in the upcoming months.

REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. **Flooding Issues and Recommendations** – Janet Thigpen is writing an application to the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program for flood assistance. Although that program

normally does not support flood damage prevention projects, conversations with Department of State have indicated that they may be supportive in light of the recent flooding. The program requires a 50% match, and the application is due October 31.

The project will concentrate on the river and Finger Lakes communities, about 40 municipalities, because those are the designated waterways. STC would provide floodplain management training and assistance with developing higher standards. There would also be training and assistance with planning and land use tools for addressing stream and drainage issues. STC also would provide technical assistance for increased participation in the Community Rating System (CRS) of the National Flood Insurance Program, which enables reduced flood insurance costs in participating municipalities. Existing programs in this region currently qualify for 5 or 10% discounts. Most municipalities believe it is not worth doing, but Janet wants to establish county-wide CRS programs. She would appreciate suggestions and/or letters of support.

2. **NYSERDA Cleaner, Greener Communities Sustainability Planning Grant** (resolution attached) - STC has been asked to participate in the NYSERDA Cleaner, Greener Communities Sustainability Planning Grant Program consortium and contribute to its work with particular attention to the coordination of public and municipal outreach in the STC area. Up to \$1 million per region (based on the Regional Economic Development Council boundaries) will be awarded to develop a regional sustainability plan. The primary focus of the grant is to improve energy efficiency throughout the community, promote renewable energy, and result in reduced emission of carbon. Grant applications are due October 31, 2011, with grant awards made by the end of 2011; the plan must be completed within eight months of the receipt of the grant.

One of the main reasons for participating in the application is that those who do not get funded in this round cannot apply for later rounds. Since the applicant must be a municipality, Tompkins County will be the lead applicant. Both Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board and Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board are participating, and the two directors are working with Tompkins County in selecting a consultant. STC would receive approximately \$75,000 if this grant were funded.

Danielle Hautaniemi stated that the plan would help with job creation and taxpayer savings.

On a motion duly made (Scott Van Etten/John Burin) and carried (abstained: Joe Hauryski and Tom Tranter), STC will participate in the consortium, with particular attention to the coordination of public and municipal outreach.

3. **Telecommunications** – Most of the engineering work has been completed on the Southern Tier Network. Pole attachment agreements have been signed with potential providers. ECC Technologies is working with possible customers, helping them to determine an appropriate network for their needs. Marcia made a presentation on STN to the BOCES Superintendents of Schools this week.

Steve Manning has begun working as STN's CEO. Marcia continues to serve as Chair of the board.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. **Economic Roundtable with Senator Gillibrand** – Senator Gillibrand will host a Southern Tier Women's Economic Roundtable in Corning tomorrow, as she has in other parts of the

state. Marcia developed an invitation list and secured a location for the event. Over 40 women have currently registered.

2. **Audit by the Appalachian Regional Commission** –ARC will perform an audit of STC the week of November 14, 2011.
3. **Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Corporation (STREDC) and Possible New Role** –This organization was formed by STC and STE many years ago. Jim Griffin is the chair of the STREDC board, and Marcia is on the board, as are other economic developers from the STC region and their counterparts from Southern Tier East. Funding for this program originally went to Southern Tier East, but several years ago, the authority to handle the funds and make loans was given to REDEC. Recently, STREDC was approached as a possible entity to receive Regional Economic Development Council funding if it is awarded to the Southern Tier. The STREDC board approved of this, and Marcia volunteered STC to help in any way possible.
4. **Chemung County Human Services Shared Services Committee Update** – Chemung County human services agencies have been studying options for sharing services; the work began with an Appalachian Regional Commission grant and is continuing with STC’s assistance. It would be beneficial to have staff for the committee, which is more than STC can contribute at this time. Two sources of assistance have been found. One is a Binghamton University graduate student who is researching forms of possible collaboration for the group as her Capstone project. The other is BR Consulting, an organization of Cornell’s Johnson School of Business students. Over the next three months, they will provide costs of possible solutions in order to determine which would be most effective.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Other** – The “STC Region Today” newsletter was included in each packet, and all were encouraged to read it.

Tom Tranter updated the board on the Regional Economic Development Councils and thanked Chelsea Robertson and Victoria Ehlen for their participation in the work groups.

2. **Next Board Meeting** – the next board meeting will be November 17, 2011 at 4:30 PM. The budget and personnel committee will meet at an earlier date as noted above.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:15

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cratsley
Recording Secretary