

**SOUTHERN TIER CENTRAL REGIONAL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
2009 REPORT
SERVICES AND FUNDING TO CHEMUNG COUNTY**

Funding

An annual county share of \$85,000 to STC provides staff and services bringing into Chemung County over **\$3.22 million** in the last four years, with over **\$730,000** still expected in 2009 (details attached).

Economic Development/Infrastructure

STC develops the regional **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**, including the frequently accessed, prioritized list of **Chemung County vital projects**. When Washington, DC asked for “**shovel-ready**” projects, STC sent them a list of projects already recommended by economic developers and **ready for implementation**.

Prepared the **2009 Chemung County Economic Profile**, a source of data and trends relating to population, employment, unemployment, major employers, income, housing, transportation, and agriculture.

Technology/Telecommunications

Provided **significant technical work** to Chemung County **at no additional charge** in the field of Geographic Information Systems (**GIS**), completing work for **Chemung County Planning, Chemung County ECTC, Chemung County Real Property Tax office**, and City of Elmira Engineering.

STC will **map culverts for the Chemung County Highway Department** and create a **database for culvert management**.

Provided **detailed mapping** for Chemung County’s **\$2.1 million telecommunication study and grant application to NTIA**.

Provided **data and maps** on behalf of **Chemung County to the NYS Chief Information Officer and Office of Technology** on **existing broadband** within the county for creation of a statewide map. **Conferred with NYS CIO** on region’s needs and plans for technology.

Received \$72,000 in Appalachian Regional Commission funding in 2009 for development of a **broadband network business plan** to support STC’s **upcoming application** with Southern Tier East for funds for a multi-regional **fiber optic backbone**.

STC brought in telecom infrastructure in 2000 through Verizon’s Diffusion Fund **saving Chemung County \$147,240 per year (\$1,177,920 over the first 8 yrs.) and GST BOCES \$930,000 per year** in computer/networking/Internet charges.

Participated in **Gates Foundation NY Summit** for Increased Online Connectivity.

Developed project to create a **data warehouse** to store and serve GIS data for the region; funding pending.

Provided **IT support**, consulting, and training to the Elmira Water Board. STC dedicates federal funds to its computer assistance program, enabling municipalities and organizations to contract for computer assistance (information technology) at low cost.

Environmental and Watershed Planning

Implementation of **\$249,000 grant for the “Southern Tier Central Rural Stormwater Program”** included support for the 3-county Rural Stormwater Coalition and development of information concerning “*Rainwater: A Resource for Homeowners.*” Edited and published “***Building a Rural Driveway***” for all highway departments and code enforcement officers to work with local landowners on a **major cause of erosion** in the region. The **enhanced STC website** includes stormwater management information and links to resources including stormwater management, highway drainage, and permits.

Application submitted for \$328,152 ARRA funds to develop **Susquehanna Action Plan** using an ecosystem-based management approach. In cooperation with Southern Tier East, this will serve as NY’s plan for the Chesapeake Bay.

Conducted **Tenth Annual Chemung River Float**, from Ashland to new White Wagon Site in Chemung. The Float focuses media attention on area rivers as natural and recreational resources.

With Upper Susquehanna Coalition, STC is creating an ecologically-connected web of **potential mitigation sites outside highway rights-of-way**. The \$42,000 grant for this **Ecosystem-based Transportation Planning** is from the Federal Highway Administration, matched by NYSDOT.

STC works on the Land Use Leadership Alliance Training Project to train community leaders in land use as it relates to energy development.

Worked with the **Chemung County Stormwater Coalition** to meet the State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Phase II Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) **Permit requirements for: Chemung County; City of Elmira; Towns of Ashland, Big Flats, Horseheads, Elmira, Southport, and Veteran; Villages of Horseheads, Millport, Elmira Heights, and Wellsburg.**

With the **County Water Quality Strategy Committee**, provide support for local water quality issues and efforts. Host the Committee’s website.

Supported implementation of **New York State Tributary Strategy for Chesapeake Bay Restoration**, focusing on cost-effective implementation measures providing local benefits.

STC helped finalize the contract to develop a five-county **Seneca Lake Watershed Management Plan** to begin in late 2009 with \$304,000 from the NYS Local Waterfront Redevelopment Program (LWRP).

Flood Assistance

STC was awarded the 2008 **Environmental Excellence Award** from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for the popular booklet, “***Stream Processes: A Guide to Living in Harmony with Streams.***”

STC staff member is a **Certified Floodplain Manager** and served as **Chair of the NYS Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association**. Developed **floodplain management fact sheets** for municipalities, developers, and the public to understand and implement floodplain development standards. Served as regional resource for floodplain development regulations and maps.

Assisted with implementation of the Community Rating System of the National **Flood Insurance Program**. Participation by **9 Chemung County municipalities saves property owners \$26,496/year in flood insurance premiums.**

With **\$36,000** from a **flood mitigation** grant written by STC, the Emergency Management Office, STC, and others are developing a training course and educational materials about floodproofing techniques to protect existing flood-prone development. STC website provides information about local flood hazards, flood safety, and mitigation techniques. The Town of Big Flats received **grant funding for a \$300,000 detention basin project**, following STC assistance with the application.

Provided technical support for EES **Flood Warning** Service and locally-owned gauge network. Warned of funding shortfalls for federally-operated **stream gauges**; promoted permanent funding for priority gauges. Provided information and real-time weather links to update Susquehanna River Basin Flood Forecasting and Warning System website (soon to be online).

Energy

STC will serve as a clearinghouse for county and other groups seeking education about **Marcellus Shale** natural gas exploration. Options available to and responsibilities of local governments in preparing for the impact of drilling and operation will be a focus of the information gathering. See www.stcplanning.org, click on "Program Areas," then "Environmental Planning" for information.

Community Services

STC teams with Cornell, Pipeline4Progress, and EDA on a **capacity building project** for Elmira and the Southern Tier.

Census 2010

STC coordinates regional Census work in partnership with U.S. Census Bureau. Leads efforts to increase the count to **preserve region's Congressional representation and funding**.

Local Government Leadership Training

13th Annual Regional Leadership Conference (April 9, 2009)

Total attendance 450 officials, 28 workshops offered. 121 Chemung County local government officials attended, **94% of Chemung County municipalities represented**. Participants reported conference very useful for their positions in local government.

STC Assistance to Committees/Organizations Affecting Chemung County

- I-86 Executive Committee
- Guthrie Board of Trustees and Guthrie Health Clinic Advisory Group
- REDEC Board of Directors
- Chemung County Agricultural Resource Committee
- STC Chemung County Human Services Committee
- Elmira Chemung Transportation Committee
- Environmental Emergency Services (EES) Board of Directors
- Founding Board Member of Friends of the Chemung River Watershed
- Bicycle Advisory Committee/ Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Rural Stormwater Coalition
- Chemung County Water Quality Strategy Committee
- Chemung County Stormwater Coalition
- Co-Chair, Chemung Basin River Trail Partnership

**Grants Brought into the County by STC
Through Applications and Other Technical Assistance**

<u>Chemung County</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Year</u>
I-86 Corridor Infrastructure Project (awarded)	1,454,080	EDA	2009
Telecom Open Access Plan (regional; awarded)	72,000	ARC	2009
Seneca Lake Watershed Mgt. Plan (Chemung and Schuyler;awarded for 2009-2010)	305,000	NYSLWRP	2009
Ecosystem-Based Transp. Planning (regional;awarded)	42,000	FHA/NYDOT	2009
Flood Mitigation Grant (awarded)	36,000	FEMA	2009
Big Flats Detention Basin (awarded)	300,000	FEMA	2009
Education Opportunity Network II (regional;awarded)	50,000	ARC	2009
Susquehanna Action Plan (regional; pending)	328,152	ARRA/NY	2009
Center at Horseheads Industrial Access Road(pending)	150,000	ARC	2009
Airport Corporate Park South Water & Sewer(pending)	150,000	ARC	2009
The Bridges (pending)	35,800	ARC	2009
Bridge to Employment (pending)	66,467	ARC	2009
TOTAL 2009 Pending	730,419		
TOTAL 2009 Awarded	2,259,080		
STC Rural Stormwater Prog.(regional;2008-2010)	249,000	NYSWQIP	2008
Revitalization of Clemens Square	144,918	ARC	2008
S2AY Rural Health Network School Dental II (regional)	89,800	ARC	2008
Chemung Cty. Child Development/ Mental Health Training	59,091	ARC	2008
Pine City Municipal Water Study	10,000	ARC	2007
Education Opportunity Network I (regional)	149,732	ARC	2006
Family Day Care Satellite Project	76,304	ARC	2007
Community Job Center	38,701	ARC	2007
Big Flats Sanitary Sewer	150,000	ARC	2006
TOTAL 2006-2008	967,546		
TOTAL 2006-2008 plus 2009 Awarded	3,226,626		