

**SOUTHERN TIER CENTRAL REGIONAL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
2010 REPORT
SERVICES AND FUNDING TO SCHUYLER COUNTY**

Funding

An annual county share of \$35,000 to STC provides staff and services bringing into Schuyler County over **\$1.5 million** in the last four years, with **\$9.85 million** still expected in 2010-2011 (details attached).

Telecommunications/Technology

STC secured **\$9.7 million for a fiber optic network for Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties**, building on the previous telecommunications development work of STC and the counties. The three year project will benefit public safety, economic development, health, education, government, and other sectors.

STC provided **significant assistance to municipalities and projects** in the field of Geographic Information Systems (**GIS**). STC implemented a project to **create a regional data warehouse** to store and serve GIS data; **all three counties participate and receive training in the use of the system**. STC completed the ArcGIS server and viewer that are being utilized by Schuyler County Planning and municipalities in Schuyler County. STC also **mapped culverts** for Schuyler County Highway Department and the Town of Reading and mapped culverts and drainage in the Village of Odessa. STC provided mapping for the telecommunications grant for all of Schuyler County; STC assisted the Town of Dix with GIS needs and provided GIS technical assistance to Schuyler County Planning and Schuyler County Watershed Protection Agency.

STC provided information technology (**IT**) **support**, consulting, and training to the Village of Watkins Glen. STC dedicates federal funds to its computer assistance program, so **municipalities and organizations can contract for information technology at low cost**.

Economic Development/Infrastructure

STC's 2010 **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs)** includes a prioritized list of **Schuyler County vital projects**.

STC's **2010 Schuyler County Economic Profile** includes data and trends relating to population, employment, unemployment, major employers, income, housing, transportation, and agriculture.

STC participated in a **Sustainability Planning** process and secured support for the inclusion of sustainability principals in the CEDs process.

Transportation

STC administers the **Schuyler-Steuben Transportation Committee**, which coordinates with NYSDOT and plans for transit, bicycle/pedestrian needs, and signage.

STC continues as a member of the I-86 Coalition, expecting a long-term benefit to all 3 counties.

Environmental and Watershed Planning

Implementation of a **\$249,000 grant for the "Southern Tier Central Rural Stormwater Program"** included public education using a stormwater-floodplain model at various venues; support for the 3-county Rural Stormwater Coalition; presentations for planning boards; training for highway departments; drainage

system mapping assistance to the Schuyler County Highway Department, Town of Reading, and Village of Odessa; and stormwater resource pages on the STC website.

STC began work on the five-county **Seneca Lake Watershed Management Plan** with \$304,000 from the NYS Local Waterfront Redevelopment Program (LWRP) and established the project website: www.SenecaLakePlan.info .

Continues to help staff the **Seneca Lake Area Partners in Five Counties** (SLAP-5) and maintains their website: www.slap5.org.

Provided information, data analysis, and other support to NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for urban runoff sections of the **Draft Watershed Implementation Plan for the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)**, which, when finalized, will regulate releases of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment from NY portions of the Bay watershed. Applied for and coordinated Local Pilot Project to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of urban management options for reducing pollution loads to the Chesapeake Bay. The STC Board submitted comments regarding EPA's draft document.

Initiated the **Susquehanna-Chemung Action Plan to develop an ecosystem-based management plan for the Susquehanna and Chemung Basins of New York**. The plan will provide a unified vision for the region and promote funding for projects that benefit the Basin's residents. Resources can be found at www.susquehanna-chemung.org.

With the **County Water Quality Coordinating Committee**, support local water quality issues and efforts. Serve as the Committee's recording secretary; host its website. Prepared maps for small lake associations showing watershed boundary, aerial photography, parcel boundaries, contours, and steep slopes.

Flood Assistance

STC staff includes a **Certified Floodplain Manager** who provides technical assistance for floodplain management, flood insurance, and mapping issues. She served as Chair/Past Chair of the **NYS Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association** (NYSFSMA). As Chair of the NYSFSMA Public Policy Committee, she drafted letters and comments on various issues, including a policy paper proposing major reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program.

The STC website provides access to a wealth of information about local flood hazards, flood safety, and mitigation techniques: www.stcplanning.org .

Served on the Board of Directors for **Environmental Emergency Services** (EES). Provided technical support for EES **Flood Warning** Service and operation of the locally-owned gauge network. Served as an Evaluator for the Hurricane David Regional Tabletop Exercise. Information developed previously for the Susquehanna River Basin Flood Forecasting and Warning System website is now online.

Energy

A **new staff member** at STC will work with municipalities, organizations, and the energy industry to coordinate projects and information concerning **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. STC also received funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to study the impact of gas exploration on tourism, to be completed in 2011.

Human Services

STC convenes the STC Schuyler County Human Services Committee, which brings together representatives from most of the county's agencies. A consultant for STC met with the committee in late 2010 to conduct the first part of a new Human Services Needs Assessment.

Census 2010

STC coordinates regional Census work in partnership with U.S. Census Bureau and led efforts to increase the 2010 Census count to **preserve the region's Congressional representation and funding**. STC worked to foster awareness of the Census. STC provided data processing and analysis services to not-for-profits and the public.

Local Government Leadership Training

14th Annual Regional Leadership Conference (April 15, 2010)

Total attendance was 450 officials, with 28 workshops offered. Participants reported the conference was very useful for their positions in local government.

STC Assistance to Committees/Organizations Affecting Schuyler County

- I-86 Executive Committee
- Guthrie Board of Trustees and Guthrie Health Clinic Advisory Group
- REDEC Board of Directors
- STC Schuyler County Human Services Committee
- Schuyler County Energy Task Force
- Schuyler-Steuben Transportation Committee
- Bicycle Advisory Committee/ Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Schuyler County Water Quality Coordinating Committee
- Environmental Emergency Services – Board of Directors, Secretary
- Rural Stormwater Coalition
- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Water Quality Advisory Committee
- Meads Creek Watershed Citizens' Committee
- Friends of the Chemung River Watershed

**Grants Brought into the County by STC
Through Applications and Other Technical Assistance
from 2007 through 2010**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Year</u>
<u>Schuyler County</u>			
<u>2010 Pending</u>			
3-County Telecommunications Project (pending; regional)	9,700,000	to be announced	2010
T.of Reading Water District #3 Improvements (pending)	150,000	ARC	2010
TOTAL 2010 Pending	9,850,000		
<u>2007-2010 Funded</u>			
Study/Determine Impact of Marcellus Shale Drilling on Tourism	7,000	ARC	2010
Data Warehouse (regional)	58,690	NYSARA	2010
Burdett/Odessa Commercial District Improvement Strategy	15,000	ARC	2009
Watkins Glen Eco-Smart project 2.0	86,000	ARC	2009
Telecom Open Access Plan (regional)	72,000	ARC	2009
Seneca Lake Watershed Mgt. Plan (Chemung and Schuyler)	305,000	NYSLWRP	2009
Ecosystem-Based Transp. Planning (regional)	42,000	FHA/NYDOT	2009
Education Opportunity Network II (regional)	50,000	ARC	2009
Susquehanna Action Plan (regional)	328,152	ARRA/NY	2009
EcoSMART Project	86,300	ARC	2009
STC Rural Stormwater Prog.(region;2008-2010)	249,000	NYSWQIP	2008
S2AY Rural Health Network School Dental II (region)	89,800	ARC	2008
IT Infrastructure/Eqpt. Upgrade-Schuyler Hospital	150,000	ARC	2008
Watkins Glen Lakefront Development Strategy	15,000	ARC	2008
Ecological Master Plan for Schuyler County	15,000	ARC	2007
TOTAL 2007-2010 Funded	1,568,942		
TOTAL 2007-2010 Funded and Pending	11,418,942		