

**SOUTHERN TIER CENTRAL REGIONAL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
2009 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 **\$1.28 million** in the last four years, with over **\$500,000** 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 **Schuyler 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 Schuyler County Economic Profile**, a source of data and trends relating to population, employment, unemployment, major employers, income, housing, transportation, and agriculture.

STC joins with national organizations to **advocate** for funding and legislation for rural regions, with special emphasis in 2009 on infrastructure, stimulus, telecommunications, and watershed funds.

Technology/Telecommunications

Created a **database** for culvert inspections and **mapped culverts** for the Schuyler County Highway Department; the database can be used by any highway department for data collection and culvert inspection.

Created **mapping** for Town of **Reading**.

Provided **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** technical support and data to Schuyler County **Planning** on various projects and to Schuyler County **Emergency Management** and the Village of **Watkins Glen**.

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

Provided **data and maps** on behalf of **Schuyler 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 **fiberoptic** backbone.

Building on the recommendations of STC’s 2006 telecommunications study and using **STC’s ARC telecommunications funding**, a team of information technology experts, planners, economic developers, a local service provider, a consultant, the County Administrator, and elected officials **focused on**

telecommunications infrastructure development in Schuyler County, with an application for federal funding underway. The team is developing a **Schuyler County broadband project** to bring **increased bandwidth to rural and underserved areas** of the county.

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

Provided **IT support** to the Village of Watkins Glen. STC dedicates federal funds to its computer assistance program, enabling municipalities 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.

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.

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).

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

Flood Assistance

STC was awarded the 2008 **Environmental Excellence Award** from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for the popular 2007 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.

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).

The **enhanced STC website** provides access to a wealth of information about local flood hazards, flood safety, and mitigation techniques.

Energy

STC will serve as a clearinghouse for county and other groups seeking education about the natural gas exploration on the **Marcellus Shale**. 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.

Transportation

Wrote application to Senator Schumer for ARRA funds for **Rte. 15/I-99** upgrade.

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

Census 2010

STC coordinates regional Census work in partnership with U.S. Census Bureau.

Local Government Leadership Training

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

Total attendance 450 officials, 28 workshops offered.

78 Schuyler County local government officials attended, **100% of Schuyler County municipalities represented**, 92% of participants reported conference “useful” or “very useful” for their positions in local government.

STC Assistance to Schuyler Committees and Organizations

- REDEC Board of Directors
- Guthrie Board of Trustees and Guthrie Health Clinic Advisory Group
- STC Schuyler County Human Services Committee
- Rural Stormwater Coalition
- Meads Creek Watershed Citizens' Committee
- Friends of the Chemung River Watershed
- Schuyler County Water Quality Coordinating Committee
- Environmental Emergency Services (EES) Board of Directors
- Schuyler-Steuben Transportation Committee
- Bicycle Advisory Committee/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Montour Falls Improvement Association

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

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Year</u>
<u>Schuyler County</u>			
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 (region;awarded)	42,000	FHA/NYDOT	2009
Education Opportunity Network II (region;awarded)	50,000	ARC	2009
Susquehanna Action Plan (region; pending)	328,152	ARRA/NY	2009
Burdett/Odessa Commercial Dist Imp Strat.(pending)	15,000	ARC	2009
EcoSMART Project (pending)	86,300	ARC	2009
Schuyler County Youth Entrepreneurial Proj(pending)	<u>73,699</u>	ARC	2009
TOTAL 2009 Pending	\$503,151		
TOTAL 2009 Awarded	\$469,000		
STC Rural Stormwater Prog.(region;2008-2010)	249,000	NYSWQIP	2008
S2AY Rural Health Network School Dental II (region)	89,800	ARC	2008
Education Opportunity Network I (region)	\$149,732	ARC	2006
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
First Street Reconstruction Watkins Glen	<u>150,000</u>	ARC	2006
TOTAL 2006-2008	\$818,532		
TOTAL 2006-2008 plus 2009 Awarded	<u>\$1,287,532</u>		