

# STC REGION TODAY

Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben Counties

New York State

Fall 2012

## 2013 APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION (ARC) APPLICATIONS RECEIVED



ARC applications for FY 2013 are in. Six completed projects have been received by STC and recommended to the state for funding; after the state review, the applications go to ARC. The recommended ARC projects request a total of \$659,989.

The projects submitted are as follows:

**Southern Tier Network Marketing** - sponsored by Southern Tier Economic Growth (STEG), this project will develop a marketing plan and promotional materials for the Southern Tier Network Fiber Optic Infrastructure.  
ARC - \$35,000 Total - \$70,000 Score - 75

**Wayland Business Park Water and Sewer** - sponsored by Steuben County Industrial Development Agency (SCIDA), for the extension of municipal water and sewer lines to serve a 150 acre multi-tenant business park in the Town of Wayland. The park will ultimately serve up to 1.2 million sq. ft. of development.  
ARC - \$150,000 Total - \$1,430,000 Score - 70

**Regional STEM Education Center** - sponsored by the Wings of Eagles, to renovate the existing 14,400 square foot horse stable into classroom space for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education.  
ARC - \$149,999 Total - \$300,700 Score 70

**Southport Economic Development Strategy** - sponsored by the Town of Southport, to produce an economic development strategy for Southport.  
ARC - \$25,000 Total - \$50,000 Score 69

**Schuyler Hospital Data Center Upgrade** - sponsored by Schuyler Hospital, this project will upgrade and enhance the primary data center equipment providing improved Information Technology to the Health Care Information Systems servicing the Schuyler Hospital main campus and all affiliated satellite facilities via installation and implementation of a new technology data server farm.  
ARC - \$150,000 Total - \$352,810 Score 66

**Prattsburgh Water District Improvements** - sponsored by the Town of Prattsburgh, to correct various deficiencies in the Prattsburgh Water District, including cleaning and restoration of wells, refurbishment of iron/manganese treatment systems, replacement of water main, and other improvements. Will result in modernization of the system and restoration of long term reliability and service.

ARC - \$150,000 Total - \$1,830,000 Score 65

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS



Construction began this spring on the Southern Tier Network (STN), launched in February 2011 with a \$9.7 million grant from Corning Incorporated and \$2.2 million from Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties. STN is moving forward rapidly in building an optical fiber broadband network in the three counties and expects to be completed by the end of 2013. Businesses, schools, public safety departments, government, and health care facilities are working with STN to configure their networks. Service providers are determining how best to expand their services using the STN backbone.

This open access network will provide significantly greater bandwidth and the highest available connectivity speeds in the region.

The Southern Tier region has developed a strategy for technology-led development, and the fiber backbone will be one component used to attract technology-based business into the region. Studies show that these progressive businesses demand a choice of providers and low cost, high speed broadband access. The STN fiber will provide these components as well as a foundation for service providers and other entities seeking to control their own capacities.

For more information and an update on the route and the progress of construction, please check out [southerntiernetwork.org](http://southerntiernetwork.org).

## FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM: COSTS ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE



When the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was established, one of the objectives was to transfer the costs of private property flood losses from the taxpayers to floodplain property owners. Although the program was administered by the federal government, it was not financed by tax dollars. Insured flood losses were paid for by policyholder premiums, thus reducing the need for disaster assistance. This program was financially solvent for more than three decades. However, that ended with the 2005 hurricane season. The NFIP was forced to borrow \$21 billion from the U.S. Treasury to make flood insurance payments for damages from Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma.

Recent legislation (the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012) has reauthorized the NFIP for five years and made numerous changes. The bill addresses the program's insolvency by requiring a ten-year repayment plan for the current insurance fund debt (\$17 billion) and establishing a reserve fund. Increases in flood insurance premiums are required to achieve these goals. Some of the changes are:

- ◆ Insurance subsidies are phased out for some older buildings so that premiums are based on the height of the lowest floor (or non-residential dry floodproofing) relative to the Base Flood Elevation on the current map (or above grade if no flood elevation is provided). These actuarial rates can be quite high, particularly for buildings with basements. **Subsidized rates are eliminated for several classes of structures, including: second homes, business properties, any new policy or lapsed policy, and any policy for a newly purchased property.**
- ◆ The cap on rate increases (within any risk classification) is increased from 10% to 20% per year.
- ◆ Minimum annual deductibles are increased.
- ◆ When flood hazard maps change, a property that has higher rates as a result of the new map shall have the new rates phased in over a five-year period.

- ◆ Premiums can be paid either annually or in more frequent installments.

The Act allows for private insurance to satisfy flood insurance coverage requirements if it meets certain standards. It also requires an assortment of studies, including an analysis of affordability issues. However, the bill does not actually address affordability and will lead to dramatically increased premiums for many policyholders.

Although this bill includes significant changes, it does not constitute sweeping reform of the NFIP. In 2010, STC staff worked with the NYS Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association to prepare a policy paper, "Rethinking the National Flood Insurance Program" (available in the document library at [www.stcplanning.org](http://www.stcplanning.org)). That paper states, "The solvency of the NFIP cannot be restored by simply increasing premiums without major rethinking of the price structure." It provided a comprehensive set of recommendations for major revisions to the NFIP. STC staff will continue to advocate for effective reform of all components of the National Flood Insurance Program.

<b>NFIP Policy Statistics</b> (As of 7/31/2012)	
	Number of Policies
Chemung County	752
Schuyler County	68
Steuben County	1,010
<b>STC Region</b>	<b>1,830</b>



*Flooding in Wellsburg (Chemung County) from Tropical Storm Lee in September 2011.*

## TOWN OF VETERAN COMP PLAN

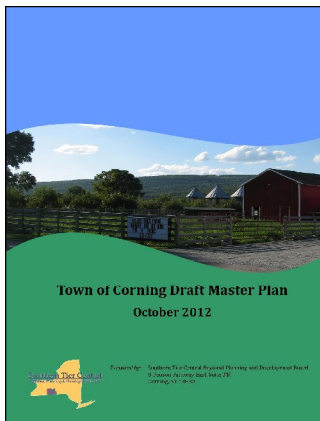


The Town of Veteran has officially begun their comprehensive planning process. In 2010, the Town conducted a Town-wide resident survey. The Town has since hired STC and appointed a comprehensive planning committee to begin writing the Town's comprehensive plan. The Town expects the plan to be written and finalized by the middle of 2013 and to begin implementing recommendations of the comprehensive plan by revising the Town's land use laws through 2014.

## MASTER PLAN UPDATE TOWN OF CORNING



The Town of Corning is excited to announce that a final draft version of their updated Master Plan is complete! The Town has been working with STC and a Master Plan committee for 16 months to reach the public and write a plan for the future of the Town. STC will present the plan to the Town Board in November, and public comment will be accepted until November 30<sup>th</sup>. A copy of the draft plan can be found at: <http://stcplanning.org/index.asp?pageId=194>.



Is your municipality interested in comprehensive planning? STC may be able to help you. Call Chelsea Robertson at 607-962-5092 for more information.

## SEE YOU AT THE SOUTHERN TIER STORMWATER SYMPOSIUM!



Chemung County Stormwater Coalition, Environmental Finance Center, and STC have teamed up to produce the Southern Tier Stormwater Symposium. This training program will provide training to engineers, contractors, and municipal boards. The program will be held at the Radisson in downtown Corning, beginning at 11am and ending at 8pm. Come for a full day or join us for dinner and the nighttime program.

This training will provide a great opportunity not only to earn continuing education credit but to learn about stormwater practices, funding opportunities, and how to make your municipality stormwater friendly; and to network with others in the region.

You can register for this program by visiting our website at: [www.stcplanning.org](http://www.stcplanning.org) and clicking on the "Stormwater Symposium" button on the right of the screen. See you there!

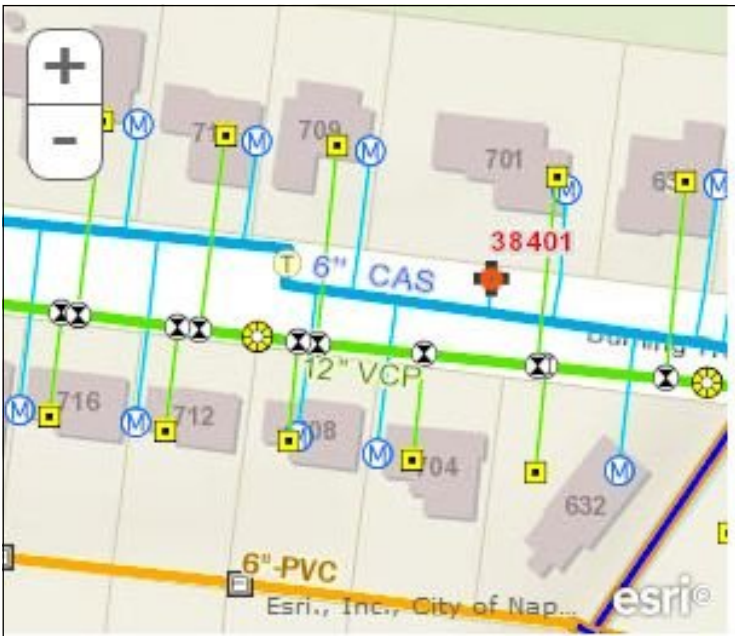
### Training agenda as follows:

- 11:00am: *Plenary: Stormwater Challenges for Local Communities (Pending PDHs, AIA and USGBC credits)*
- 12:00pm: *Lunch*
- 1:00pm: *Track 1: Site Plan Review for Code Enforcement Officers: Stormwater, Erosion and New Construction (Pending Code Enforcement Credit)*  
*Track 2: Stormwater Practices: Installation, Liability, Maintenance and Monitoring (Pending PDHs, AIA and USGBC credits)*
- 3:00pm: *Break*
- 3:30pm: *Track 1: Funding for Stormwater Management (Planning Board credit)*  
*Track 2: Porous Pavement: Design, Installation, and Maintenance (Pending PDHs, AIA and USGBC credits)*
- 5:00pm: *Hors D'oeuvre in Vendor Area*
- 6:00pm: *Local Regulations: Compatibility with Green Infrastructure Techniques (Planning Board credit)*



## GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)

STC has received a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission to digitize sewer and water systems in Steuben County, with work beginning in September 2012. The goal is to digitize paper maps for municipalities and convert CAD sewer maps to GIS. New paper maps with layers like aerial photography will be provided back to the municipalities. The data will be put into the GIS server, and municipalities will be able to use their data online. The data will also be used to assist economic development activities in the county to determine where infrastructure exists as well as other important information about the existing infrastructure.



## VILLAGE OF ADDISON NEW YORK MAIN STREET PROJECT (NYMS)

The Village of Addison is currently undertaking a NYMS project to spur almost \$300,000 in renovations to Main Street facades and second story apartments. The NYMS program will provide funding to restore approximately five facades and eight apartments in downtown Addison. STC has contracted with the village to provide contract administration assistance. Three buildings have already been approved, and that approval will result in the restoration of three facades and four apartments.

## STC TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE

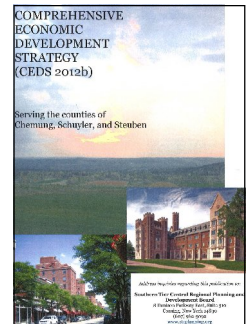


With user-friendly assistance, STC offers technical computer support to municipalities and other organizations, helping them to deal with information technology issues.

STC provides a technology assistance program that is familiar with the ins and outs of technology in day to day use. With our knowledge, we are able to troubleshoot most problems experienced by technology users with their computers and networks. STC can provide technical support over the phone, on-site, or with a live-remote session interface.

## 2012b CEDS and COUNTY PROFILES ARE NOW AVAILABLE

The 2012b Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) was adopted by the STC Board on June 21, 2012. This revised version of the CEDS includes updated maps and census data.



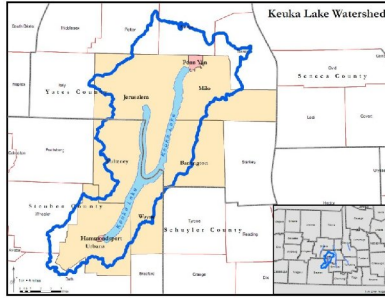
The Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council (STREDC) was included in the CEDS, and the CEDS vision was rewritten to match the STREDC vision. Some preliminary Marcellus Shale analysis was included in the CEDS. Regionally significant projects are now listed in the CEDS by goal.

Finally, the Regional Profile was updated for ease of use, based on the recommendations of the Economic Development Policy Committee and the CEDS Committee.

The 2012b CEDS and profiles are available on the STC website at [www.stcplanning.org](http://www.stcplanning.org).

## GRANT PROPOSAL FOR A SUSTAINABLE KEUKA LAKE

In April, the Keuka Lake Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA) group with the help of Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board (STC) applied for a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) grant to achieve LULA's goals.



The proposed "Strategy for a Sustainable Keuka Lake" will include six main components. If funded, all of these components will be delivered in three years' time beginning in the fall of 2013. All of the work will be overseen by a project advisory committee that will include representation from all participating municipal governments and other watershed stakeholders.

The six key components of the LWRP grant will be:

- ◆ A **toolbox** of resources for municipal governments including model law/ordinances, model language for comprehensive plans, training materials, maps and fact sheets.
- ◆ Extensive land use **training, education and public outreach** to each municipal government, assessment of local laws, watershed wide trainings, resident surveys and watershed wide visioning.
- ◆ Creation of a **water quality internship program** through Keuka College and Cornell University. The internship program will provide assistance on tasks throughout the grant period and will set up a structure of continued assistance after the grant has ended.
- ◆ **Mapping** of the watershed, zoning, infrastructure and viewsheds will be conducted to be used in training, education and public outreach as well as creation of materials that will be made available in the toolbox.
- ◆ A watershed wide **agricultural plan** and assessment will be conducted and presented to the municipal governments.
- ◆ As a culmination of three years of the above components, a new **action plan** will be created as a guide for the Keuka Lake LULA group and their future endeavors.

If funded, this strategy will provide many benefits to the Keuka Lake watershed including: preservation of natural resources and agricultural lands, improved coordination among watershed communities, development of hamlets, education of municipal officials and creation of a working relationship with the region's educational institutions. Ultimately this proposed project and LULA will work towards cleaner, viable, better planned communities that will be a desirable place to live, work and play.

## AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The upstate chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) held their yearly statewide conference at the Radisson in Corning September 19th—21st.



New York Upstate APA worked closely with STC to organize and produce a great conference. The 2012 theme was: "The Power of Planning."

The conference featured many presentations including a mobile natural gas tour, a downtown historic walking tour, presentations on local projects (including STC presenters Victoria Ehlen and Chelsea Robertson) and culminated in a keynote speech by Thomas Tranter, President of Corning Enterprises.

The conference served as an opportunity for professional planners from around New York State to see all that Corning has to offer.



## ERWIN/ PAINTED POST/ RIVERSIDE BROWNSFIELD OPPORTUNITY AREA (BOA) NOMINATION STUDY

Erwin/ Painted Post/ Riverside BOA Nomination Study is available online. This stage of the BOA process began in summer 2011 and will be completed by December 2012. STC is currently assisting the BOA communities with the required GEIS scoping, final project submission, and application for project advancement.

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## STC Staff

**Marcia D. Weber**, Executive Director  
**David Bubniak**, GIS Specialist  
**Susan M. Cratsley**, Executive Assistant  
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**Chelsea M. Robertson**, Planner  
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**Timothy J. Tostanoski**, Technology Coordinator  
**Daniel C. Wilhelm**, Accountant



**Southern Tier Central Regional  
Planning and Development Board**  
**8 Denison Parkway East, Suite 310**  
**Corning, New York 14830**  
**Phone: 607-962-5092**  
**Fax: 607-962-3400**  
**Email: [stcrpdb@stny.rr.com](mailto:stcrpdb@stny.rr.com)**  
**Web Site: [stcplanning.org](http://stcplanning.org)**

Southern Tier Central Regional  
Planning and Development Board  
8 Denison Parkway East, Suite 310  
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