

STC REGION TODAY

Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben Counties

New York State

Fall 2008

Appalachian Regional Commission Projects Submitted



The region looks to the Appalachian Regional Commission for funding, and for good reason: over the last 38 years, just under **\$38 million** in ARC grants funded high priority projects in Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties.

For fiscal year 2009, seven local governmental, economic development, health, and nonprofit organizations made the case that their projects merited Appalachian Regional Commission funding.

The projects total \$582,747 in ARC funds, with matching funds bringing the total proposed investment in this region to about \$1.2 million.

Each project has been rated by STC's Regional Human Services Committee or its Economic Development Policy Committee, depending on the type of project. The STC Board approved the committees' ratings at its July meeting, and the projects were sent to the New York State Department of State, which administers the ARC Program for the state's 14 Appalachian counties.

The Department of State will review the projects and rank them with projects from the Southern Tier East and Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Boards. DOS staff will meet with STC's staff and committees later in the fall to deliver the 2009 ARC Investment package for New York State.

The following projects were submitted:

Core IT Infrastructure/Equipment Upgrade at Schuyler Hospital - sponsored by Schuyler Hospital, Inc. to upgrade information core technology/equipment. This will enable installation of medical information systems to facilitate compliance with the federal mandate for Electronic Medical Records.
ARC - \$150,000 TOTAL - \$322,260

S²AY Rural Health Network School Dental Partnership - sponsored by S²AY Rural Health Network, Inc. to provide in-school dental services to those children without access to dental care through the use of a mobile dental program.
ARC - \$89,800 TOTAL - \$187,319

Chemung County Child Development/Mental Health Cross Training Initiative - sponsored by the Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben Workforce New York to improve mental health services for children by developing and implementing a self-sustaining professional development program for child development and mental health workers that includes a cross-training curricula, monitoring/mentoring activities, and program evaluation.
ARC - \$59,091 TOTAL - \$119,079

Integrated Care and Assistance Network Expansion Project - sponsored by the Steuben Child Care Project, of Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, to expand the scope of services offered through its I-CAN program to include consolidated marketing, business management, and tax preparation assistance for family-based child care small business in Steuben County.
ARC - \$48,638 TOTAL - \$100,312

Steuben County EMS Youth Corps - sponsored by the Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital for the Rural Health Community Systems to teach teens how to respond to emergencies in rural Steuben County. The long term goal is that these students will join the local EMS Corps.
ARC - \$75,300 TOTAL - \$151,137

Revitalization of Clemens Square - sponsored by the City of Elmira to revitalize Clemens Square, located in the heart of Elmira's Central Business District. It will involve the incorporation of both hardscape and softscape elements that will create increased parking and enhanced economic development opportunities for adjacent commercial properties.
ARC - \$144,918 TOTAL - \$289,835

Watkins Glen Lakefront Management and Development Strategy - sponsored by the Schuyler County Partnership for Economic Development (SCOPED) to further implement the Watkins Glen Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan as it pertains to economic development activities on the Seneca Lake waterfront. Issues to be addressed include enhanced public use/access of the waterfront, traffic circulation, parking and recreational uses, regulatory issues, and design guidelines.
ARC - \$15,000 TOTAL - \$30,000

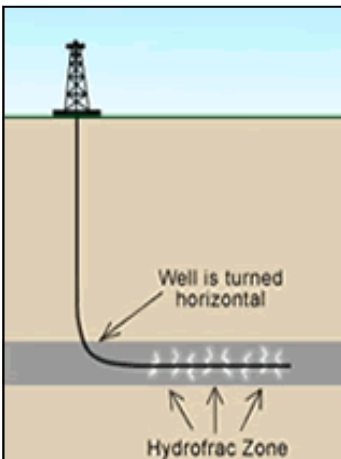
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Natural Gas Drilling in the Marcellus Shale

The recent increase in natural gas exploration and drilling across the Southern Tier brings with it the hope for an economic boost to our region. But some area residents also see this as a potential threat to the environment, particularly our water resources.

Rising energy costs have led to considerable interest in the gas potential of the Marcellus Shale, which lie 3-4,000 feet below the STC region and extends east into the Catskills and south to West Virginia. In order to extract natural gas from this formation, energy companies are proposing to conduct horizontal drilling followed by hydraulic fracturing (hydrofracing) to open up conduits through which the gas can flow out. Although these are not new techniques, they have not been widely used in New York State. As a result, the potential environmental impacts are not specifically addressed in the existing Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) that guides review. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has begun work to supplement this GEIS to assess of the potential environmental impacts of horizontal natural gas drilling in the Marcellus formation.

The County Water Quality Coordinating Committees in the region and other local organizations are following this issue closely. Of particular concern are the potential impacts on water resources and water quality. The proposed hydraulic fracturing techniques use millions of gallons of water. Two companies have already obtained approval from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) for surface water withdrawals and consumptive water use to support gas drilling operations in the STC region, and another company's application is pending. Another concern is the potential release of contaminated water to groundwater. In order to obtain a better understanding of these issues, the Chemung County Water Quality and Stormwater Committees sponsored a special meeting with presentations by Fortuna Energy and the SRBC. Local committees are preparing letters to DEC highlighting issues that they would like to see addressed in the Supplemental GEIS.



Although we may welcome the economic and energy development potential of this industry, local organizations are also sending the message that development of this resource should be conducted in a safe and responsible manner.

STC staff provides county Water Quality Coordinating Committees with technical support on this and other water resource issues.

Watkins Glen First Street Project Completed



The next time you visit the Watkins Glen lakefront area, take note of the newly renovated First Street. Funded through a \$150,000 construction grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission, the project included renovation, repaving, widening, storm sewers, curbs, and parking for 50 cars to benefit the new Watkins Glen Harbor Hotel and the surrounding entertainment district.

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Rural Stormwater: Let Your Voice Be Heard!



An exasperated property owner consults with his attorney in a role play presentation about the Stormwater Construction Permit at a forum for local officials in June. This was one of four stormwater training sessions sponsored by the Chemung/Schuyler/Steuben Rural Stormwater Coalition and funded by the STC Rural Stormwater Program.

Stormwater from Most of the STC Region Drains to the Chesapeake Bay!



The Chesapeake Bay has serious water quality problems, and New York is working with the other states in the watershed to address those problems. Following completion of the *NYS Tributary Strategy for Chesapeake Bay Restoration* in 2007

(<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/33279.html>), efforts have shifted to the difficult task of implementing the strategy's recommendations.

Urban sources constitute about 5 percent of New York's nutrient load to the Bay. This amount has increased, even as the population has remained relatively stable, due to increases in the amount of "developed" land. Addressing the quality of stormwater runoff is thus an important, albeit relatively small, part of New York's tributary strategy. The recommended approach is to focus on effective implementation of current programs for managing stormwater runoff, rather than creating new initiatives. These existing programs include stormwater permits (for construction, industrial activities, and MS4 in urban areas) as well as outreach, training, and technical support. Although improved implementation of these efforts in New York should benefit the Bay, it will also contribute to local improvements in water quality, reduced drainage problems, and lower flood risks.

The current objective of the Chesapeake Bay Program with respect to urban stormwater is to achieve "No Net Increase" of pollutants from new development. The techniques for achieving this goal include:

- *Where possible, **infiltrate** stormwater on-site (to reduce the volume of surface runoff and recharge groundwater).
- *Where practical, capture and **reuse** stormwater (for irrigation or other uses).
- *Where practical, design practices to provide **evapotranspiration** of stormwater.
- *Provide **detention/retention** of stormwater to reduce the rate and volume of runoff.
- *Provide **treatment** of stormwater to remove pollutants.

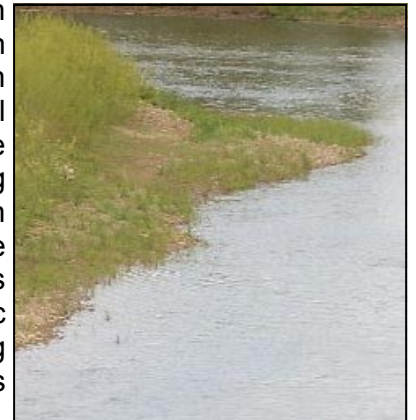
STC staff participated in development of the *NYS Tributary Strategy for Chesapeake Bay Restoration*, provides ongoing support for implementation of the strategy, provides technical assistance with local stormwater management, and will participate in a Chesapeake Bay Stormwater Retreat in October.

Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Funds Awarded

Four southeast Steuben communities were awarded a grant of \$26,430 from the NYS Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) to create a "River Vision" for the Chemung River from its beginning in Painted Post to the Steuben County line. The City of Corning is the lead applicant on behalf of the Village of Painted Post, Village of Riverside, City of Corning, and Town of Corning. The project totals \$52,860 including match provided by the communities.

The year-long project will bring the river-related trails, launch sites, and amenities in southeast Steuben County into a coherent whole, dovetailing with the recently released "Chemung River Comprehensive Master Plan" developed with LWRP funds in neighboring Chemung County and filling in "gaps" in regional, state, and interstate blue and green trail systems.

The project will result in a Southeast Steuben "River Vision" and an expanded River Council covering the length of the Chemung River including the stretch in Pennsylvania. Over the long term, communities hope to improve public access to the Chemung River, protect the river's natural resources, generate jobs/revenue for outdoor sports/water-related businesses, strengthen community cooperation, and further advance the Chemung River as part of the Susquehanna River Trail and the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network.



A trail along the banks of the Chemung River is envisioned from Corning to Elmira.

The "River Vision" Project dovetails with the Parks and Trails New York recent technical assistance grant to the Chemung Basin River Trail Partnership as part of the "Healthy Trails, Healthy People" Program. Parks and Trails New York will assist with the development of a 16-mile multi-use Chemung Valley Riverside Trail that will link the City of Corning with the City of Elmira along the banks of the Chemung River. If you are interested in helping with the trail development, please contact Jennifer Fais at jfais@stny.rr.com.

The Ninth Annual River Float Spotlights Addison

The Ninth Annual River Float, sponsored by the Chemung Basin River Trail Partnership (CBRTP), launched Sunday, June 1st from the Village of Addison Tuscarora Creek launch site on Cleveland Drive. Approximately fifty participants paddled 12.4 miles down the Canisteo, Tioga, and Chemung Rivers and finished their trip at the City of Corning Conhocton Street landing. Paddlers enjoyed breakfast provided by the Addison Bicentennial Celebration Committee. Assemblymember Jim Bacalles presented a proclamation supporting the work of the Partnership. The proclamation was signed by both Jim Bacalles and New York State Senator George Winner, Jr. Rich Hurley, with the Sierra Club Water Sentinels program, distributed bags, gloves, and litter grabbers to the boaters to help clean up and document the state of pollution of the waters. At the end of the day, the river was a little cleaner as over five garbage bags of litter were removed. In addition to normal garbage, the paddlers discovered and later returned a wayward "Danger" buoy that likely escaped from the Cowanesque Dam. Zachary Cratsley received a backpack from the Sierra Club for providing assistance as a youth volunteer. This year marked the first time that the trip was sanctioned by the American Canoe Association, which provided insurance.

The River Float is an annual event sponsored by the CBRTP, a network of individuals, organizations, and governmental agencies with the goal of encouraging sustainable usage of the Chemung watershed through educational outreach and activities. Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board co-chairs the CBRTP. Special thanks to the Village of Addison for hosting the launch. For more information on the Partnership and future events, please visit www.chemungrivertrail.com.



Rich Hurley, Sierra Club Water Sentinels, hands out river clean-up equipment to paddlers.

Wind Projects in the STC Region

STC continues to provide up-to-date information and local assistance to communities in the region through the STC Local Government Wind Program. **The following updates have been excerpted from the Wind Power Education Project (WPEP) Bulletin July 28, 2008:**



Howard Town Board Gets Wind Update

The Howard Town Board has received a report from the town Planning Board on a proposed wind farm. The planning board has been dealing with various aspects of the project, including the draft SEQR findings statement, a decommissioning and restoration plan, and a road use agreement, which will be reviewed by the town highway superintendent. The Planning Board will also be submitting cultural mitigation suggestions to the Town Board.

Court Dismisses Prattsburgh Lawsuit

A State Supreme Court judge has dismissed a conflict of interest lawsuit against the town of Prattsburgh, in part because wind developer First Wind had not been heard in the case. The dismissal clears the way for the town to exercise eminent domain powers to force several landowners to allow a transmission cable, essential to the development of First Wind's 36-turbine project, to be buried under a private road. Opponents of the wind farm are expected to immediately file a new suit.

E.On Moves Forward In Hartsville

German energy company E.On has said it intends to develop a 50 to 80 MW wind farm in Hartsville—meaning 33 to 46 turbines—although its predecessor, Airtricity, held off on developing the same site due to insufficient wind data. A German-owned company, E.On purchased the North American division of Airtricity in October 2007. The proposed development has already been the source of some controversy in the town of 500 residents. Current Supervisor Dombert has invited representatives from E.On and the Steuben County Industrial Development Agency to attend a Town Board meeting to explain the payment in lieu of taxes proposal and the community host agreement.

CEDS – Planning for the Region’s Future

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for 2008-2009 is completed and ready to provide direction to the region.

STC develops the CEDS to coordinate economic development activities on a regional basis and to qualify the region for major development grants through the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and other agencies also use the CEDS to document the need for funding for area projects.

Regional and community based agencies and organizations play a major role in developing the CEDS. Areas addressed by the strategy include transportation, infrastructure, workforce skills and support systems, business development, telecommunications, housing, tourism, agriculture and farmland protection, energy and the environment, and asset based economic development.

Community leaders, planning boards, organizations, and businesses find the CEDS useful for a wealth of information including economic data and trends, tables, maps, charts and priority lists. A copy of the strategy is available on a compact disc or can be viewed on the STC web site www.stcplanning.org

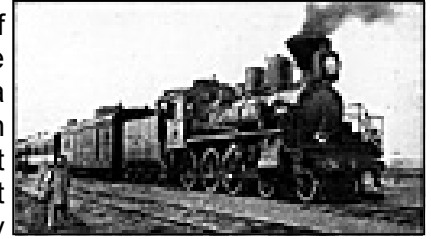
I-86/I-99 Corridor Economic Development Strategy Grant



The Appalachian Regional Commission announced approval of a \$40,000 grant to develop a comprehensive, inter-municipal economic development strategy for eight Southeast Steuben County municipalities within the I-86/I-99 transportation corridor. Sponsored by the Three Rivers Development Foundation, the project will develop a strategic plan through a consortium of stakeholders including municipal officials, economic development organizations, and property owners. The final plan will be adopted by the participating communities and will help to identify opportunities for the recruitment, establishment, or expansion of various types of businesses or light industry.

Railroad Tourism ARC Grant Approved

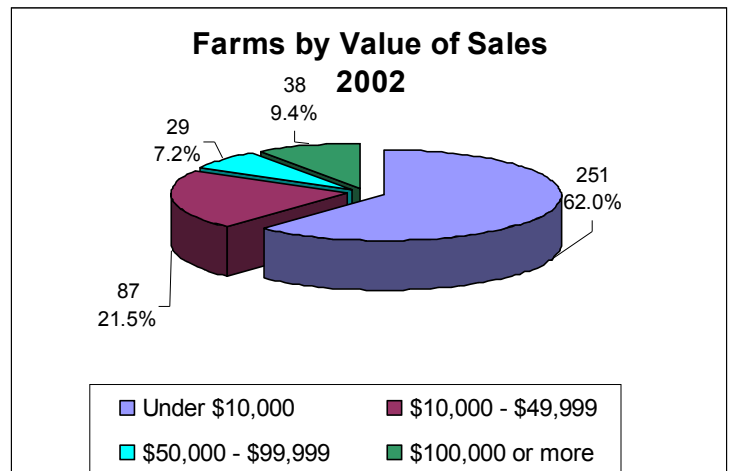
After many years of discussion, rail service for tourism may be a step closer in the Bath and Hammondsport area. A \$20,000 grant has been approved by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for a study sponsored by the Glenn H. Curtiss Museum to determine the feasibility of rehabilitating an inactive rail line from Bath east to Hammondsport for tourism and possible industrial services. The project capitalizes on the area’s rich aviation history and wine industry and will explore ways to assist tourism and provide expanded opportunities for existing businesses.



Economic Profiles Available

The 2008 county economic profiles are now available on the STC Web site at www.stcplanning.org or can be requested as a hard copy from the STC office.

Each county profile contains data and trends relating to population, employment, unemployment, major employers, income, housing, transportation, and agriculture. An example of the data is below. A regional profile is currently being prepared that will include a summary of the county profiles as well as information on tourism, business and industrial parks, business incubators, health services, higher education, air service, and highways.



Service and Support Today

When acquiring technology, do not overlook service and support. It is the most important reason to be selective when you choose a vendor in today's market.

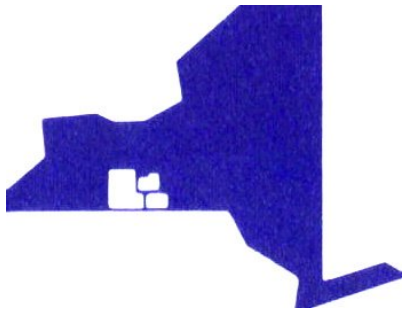
The key areas of cost savings resulting from better vendor service and support include:

- Reduced staff and technician costs
- Reduced downtime costs
- Longer life-cycles for PCs
- Reduced costs to upgrade to new components and peripherals
- Time saved with quick, high-quality tech support
- Higher efficiency resulting from a service staff that knows your business environment

Measuring the unmeasurable: service and support metrics include:

1. Speed of answering your call
2. Speed of shipping replacement parts or products (where required)
3. On-time performance of field service technicians
4. Overall return rate (a measure of overall satisfaction with products)
5. Results of ongoing customer satisfaction surveys

Referenced by: PC Magazine, 17th Annual Reader Survey: Service and Reliability. August, 2004.

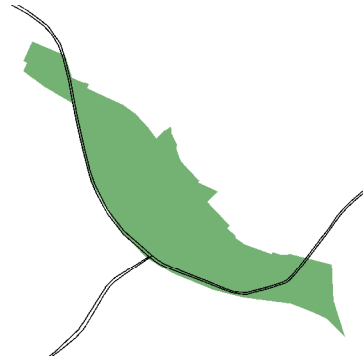


STC Will Celebrate 40th Anniversary in 2009

Save the date! The STC Annual Dinner is scheduled for **Thursday, February 26, 2009**, and it will be a celebration of 40 years of partnership with the region! We look forward to having you join us at this special event.

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Brownfield Opportunity Areas Study



STC is assisting the Town of Erwin and the Villages of Painted Post and Riverside with a joint study to help attract and retain good development and revitalize the communities. Funded through the Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program (BOA)

administered by the NYS Departments of State and Environmental Conservation, the project will study an area of approximately 500 acres within the three communities and identify vacant, underutilized, and brownfield properties for future redevelopment. A total of 79 properties has been identified for study including the 57 acre former Ingersoll-Rand foundry site in Painted Post.

A "brownfield" is defined as any real property, the redevelopment or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a contaminant.

Public participation is an important component of the study to ensure overall community support. A steering committee of local leaders and stakeholders has been organized and is providing oversight to the study. A working group of local officials and land owners is helping to identify boundaries and individual properties. Local citizens will be involved through public meetings that will include creating a vision for the future and reviewing study recommendations.

Completion of the "Pre-Nomination" is the first step of a three step process and is targeted for December 31, 2008. Future steps will include a detailed marketing analysis, site assessments, and development of an implementation strategy.

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STC Hires Planner



Victoria Ehlen recently joined the STC staff and will assist with a variety of projects: municipal planning and zoning, GIS mapping and data collection, and the Erwin-Painted Post-Riverside Brownfield Opportunity Area Program (BOA). She worked as a Community Development Associate with Corning Enterprises from November 2007

until August 2008. Victoria earned a Masters degree in Urban Planning from Binghamton University and Bachelors in both Economics and Urban Planning. Economic development, sustainability, and agriculture are some of her primary interests. A City of Corning resident since September 2007, she plans to permanently remain in the community.

Steve Carson STC Summer Intern



Steve Carson, a 2008 recipient of an MA in Geography from Binghamton University, was STC's summer intern this year. Steve undertook a sign regulation review project in the Village of Painted Post by photographing and measuring signs and recommending updates to the zoning law. He also worked with the Town of Caton, reviewing their

zoning map and suggesting a new hamlet zone among other ideas. He assisted on the creation of computerized zoning and site assessment maps. Steve also staffed the STC water education display at Finger Lakes Water Day. Helping organize and conduct the River Float rounded out his work with STC. We wish Steve the very best in his pursuits as the new town planner for the Town of Union near Binghamton.

GIS Specialist Returns to STC



Dave Bubniak returns to STC as the GIS Specialist. Dave spent the past three years with James Sewall Company, formerly Weiler Mapping, in Elmira. Dave accepted a GIS Analyst position with Sewall after his departure from STC in 2005 and worked as a consultant to local governments across New York State assisting with the development of GIS. He

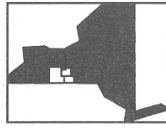
supervised a team of seven GIS technicians. Later in 2005 he was promoted to Senior GIS Analyst and supervised a staff of twenty seven GIS Technicians and Analysts. In 2006 Dave was promoted to a Project Manager in addition to managing the staff at Sewall's Elmira office. Dave managed several projects across the state and country. Projects ranged from data conversions, custom applications to 911 road centerline projects. Spring of 2008 found Sewall under a reorganization and focus change. Dave became the Business Development Manager for Public Administration with a focus on proposal writing, contract execution, and client liaison.

Dave has been married to his wife Chela for the past 16 years. They have two boys, Sean and Brandon, ages two and seven. He and his family have lived in the Town of Chemung for the past 11 years. Dave is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting and fishing.

Save the Date

The 13th annual Regional Leadership Conference is scheduled for **Thursday, April 9, 2009** at Corning Community College. Members of the conference advisory committee are already busy planning a full day of informative classes, innovative ideas, and opportunities for sharing. Suggestions for class topics and speakers can be submitted by calling the STC office or by email to tmcgarry@stny.rr.com

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Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC);
Chesapeake Bay Program; NYS Department of Economic Development; NYS Energy Research and Development Agency; NYS Department of State Brownsfield Opportunities Area Program; Susquehanna River Basin Commission; U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA); US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) through section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act (administered by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation)
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