

STC REGION TODAY

Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben Counties

New York State

Spring/Summer 2009

Appalachian Regional Commission Projects for 2010



The applications for fiscal year 2010 Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funding are already undergoing the first step of the review process. They were due on June 12, and STC staff is now reviewing the eight projects submitted, with committee and board reviews to follow in July.

"It's an interesting collection of projects," says Executive Director Marcia Weber. "We have a variety of workforce training programs, all serving different populations. There is also a study for a commercial district improvement strategy; water and sewer projects; and a renewable energy system with a math, science, and technology curriculum; a youth entrepreneurial project will allow students to develop a student-run business. These projects address the goals of the ARC program as well as New York State strategies."

This year, in order to align the funding requests with the state's economic priorities, additional consideration will be given to proposals that address well one or more of the following state-wide priorities:

- Increasing employment or preparation of New York State's workforce for employment in careers
- Economic development
- Development of infrastructure
- Development of green technologies and industries
- Fostering rehabilitation of local pockets of distress

Project requests for FY2010 total \$677,266. ARC has funded projects in Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties equaling about \$38 million over the last 40 years.

The current requests are for the following projects:

Airport Corporate Park Water & Sewer - sponsored by Chemung County IDA for an extension of 3,000 linear feet of water line, installation of a pump station, 800 feet of sewer force main, and 250 feet of gravity main.

ARC - \$150,000 TOTAL - \$459,935

The Center at Horseheads Industrial Access Road & Sewer Project

- sponsored by the Chemung County Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA) in conjunction with the Chemung County Highway Department; seeks to reconstruct Road E in the Center at Horseheads to County Road Standards, expand the sanitary sewer system and dedicate the upgraded road and sewer to Chemung County for future maintenance. This road will serve all of the companies located in the Center at Horseheads including Thomas & Bettes, Gas Field Specialist, Schlumberger Corp, FedEx, Hancor Incorporated, and 11 other companies.

ARC - \$150,000 TOTAL - \$1,990,043

Burdett/Odessa Commercial District Improvement Strategy

- sponsored by Schuyler County Partnership for Economic Development (SCOPE D) to engage a consultant and bring together key stakeholders to develop a commercial district strategy for the Villages of Burdett and Odessa, thereby enhancing opportunities for revitalization and growth for these two gateway communities.

ARC - \$15,000 TOTAL - \$30,000

The Bridges - sponsored by the YWCA Elmira and the Twin Tiers to enable women who have been displaced from the workforce to gain access to secure employment through training and education.

ARC - \$35,800 TOTAL - \$71,600

Bridge to Employment - sponsored by Chemung ARC, Chapter, NYSARC, Inc. to provide 18 adults with disabilities the intensive training they need to move from segregated, sheltered employment to community based employment.

ARC - \$66,467 TOTAL - \$203,700

EcoSMART Project - sponsored by Watkins Glen School District. Will serve as a community demonstration of renewable energy systems that will provide middle school students with the 21st century math, science, and technology workforce readiness skills needed for success in college and careers.

ARC - \$86,300 TOTAL - \$188,411

(ARC projects continued on Page 5 of this report)

Regional Leadership Conference Continues to Grow



Member of Assembly Thomas F. O'Mara gave the keynote address.

More than 450 local officials, community leaders, presenters, and exhibitors attended the 13th annual Regional Leadership Conference on April 9 at Corning Community College. This year's theme was "A Program Designed with You in Mind."

The day of learning and sharing kicked off with a welcome from the Chair of the Steuben County Legislature, Philip Roche. Member of Assembly Thomas F. O'Mara gave the keynote address, which included the current status of the state economy and impacts for local governments.



Steuben County Legislature Chair Philip Roche welcomes participants to the conference.

A total of 28 classes and workshops were offered throughout the day on a variety of topics including zoning, community wind power, grant and project management, smart growth, stormwater management practices, stream processes and demonstration, Freedom of Information Law (FOIL), green building guidelines, community housing needs

assessment, use of the Internet for efficiency, GIS for transportation, and a variety of other practical topics. On average, participants rated the content and presenters of the classes over a 4 on a 5-point scale, with 5 being excellent.

Sponsored by STC, the conference is supported, in part, through a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and through donations from participating counties and agencies.

A trade show and resource exhibit was held throughout the day, including 29 companies and agencies with products and services for local government.

Chemung County had 121 officials who attended representing 16 out of 17 municipalities (94%). Schuyler County had 78 officials who attended representing 12 out of 12 municipalities (100%), up from last year's total of 54 officials from 11 of the municipalities. Steuben County had 182 officials who attended representing 35 out of 47 municipalities (74%). Altogether, the STC Region had 381 officials who attended representing 63 out of 76 municipalities (83%).

A total of 92% of the participants who completed the evaluation felt that the information and contacts from the conference were "useful" or "very useful" for the positions in local government. A participant commented, *"This is the best conference that I have attended – learned very much."*

Thank you to all the participants, presenters, exhibitors, staff, and the Conference Committee. A special thanks to David Jordan and Daniel Wilhelm, who helped with registration, and Dennis Abbey, the conference photographer.



Scott Austin showing his Imaginative Engineering Energy Efficient Vehicle.

Pictures of the Thirteenth Annual Regional Leadership Conference

Door Prizes

Kevin Smith, Village of Watkins Glen - WGI tickets;
Dale Terry, Village of Elmira Heights - gift basket;
Tracie Crane, Painted Post - gift certificate for Cabella's;
Fred Hall, Town of Dix - CorningWare;
Ray Acomb, Town of Dansville - LPGA tickets;
Amedeo Fraboni, Town of Dix - bottle of wine;
Marvin Switzer, Town of Reading - vest jacket;
Dan McGovern, Wellsburg - gift certificate;
Richard Sullivan, Town of Addison - gift certificate;
John Schubmehl, Wayland - gift certificate.

Thank you to Watkins Glen International, Three Rivers Development Foundation, and Larson Design Group for their generous support.



Thomas Dobrydney, Chemung County Stormwater Coalition, and Janet Thigpen, Flood Mitigation Specialist for STC, demonstrating stream behavior using the Emriver Model .



One of the many companies and agencies that took part in the trade show.

Photos courtesy of Dennis Abbey



Local government officials attend one of the many classes held throughout the day.

**Next year's conference
will be on April 15, 2010.
Be sure to mark
your calendars!!**



Natasha Phillip, Attorney with NYS Department of State, and Patricia Matson, Land Use Training Specialist with NYS Department of State, presenting at the Site Plan Review & Special Use Permits class.

Tenth Annual River Float Spotlights White Wagon



Thanks again to the Wellsburg Fire Department for providing emergency back up.

The Tenth Annual River Float, sponsored by the Chemung Basin River Partnership, launched Friday, May 29th from the Town of Ashland launch site at Toll Bridge Park. Approximately fifty participants paddled 10.1 miles down the Chemung River and finished their trip at the new White Wagon Launch site in the Town of Chemung. Paddlers enjoyed breakfast provided by the Chemung County Sportsmen's Federation and the Catherine Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Jim Pfiffer, the new director of the Friends of the Chemung River Watershed, described the new group's work. Paddlers were met with a lunch sponsored by the Town of Chemung and took part in the dedication of the new White Wagon river access site, built by the Chemung County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Town with funds from NYS Senator George Winner, Member of Assembly Tom O'Mara, and Cassella Waste Management.

The River Float has been an annual event sponsored by the Chemung Basin River Trail Partnership (CBRTP), a network of governmental agencies with the goal of improving public access to the Chemung River and its tributaries while promoting the protection of the watershed. Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board co-chairs the CBRTP.



Paddlers wait under a bridge for the rain to let up.

The Friends of the Chemung River Watershed is a newly formed not-for-profit organization of community volunteers whose mission is to protect, preserve, and promote the watershed and to improve economic resources, the quality of life, and the natural environment for the residents of the Chemung River Watershed. STC staff serves on the Board and fully supports the work of the Friends.

Special thanks to Chris Merola, Ranger Outfitters, for leading the Float, and to Dave Buck, Endless Mountain Outfitters, for providing additional expert assistance. For more information on the Friends of the Chemung River Watershed, the Partnership, and future events, please visit www.chemungriverfriends.org.

The trip was sanctioned by the American Canoe Association, which provided insurance.



Jennifer Fais presents Chemung Town Supervisor George Richter with a commemorative 10th Annual Float kerchief.

ARC Projects for 2010 (continued)

Schuyler County Youth Entrepreneurial Project

- sponsored by the Schuyler Teen Center-Catholic Charities Schuyler, this project is a collaborative effort between the Schuyler Teen Center, Workforce New York, Americorps, the Watkins Glen Central School District, and Elmira College business students. It will implement and evaluate a youth entrepreneurial project in Schuyler County. As a result, jobs will be created and students will gain hands-on entrepreneurial experience and job skills training.

ARC - \$73,699 TOTAL - \$147,709

Founders Pavilion's Green House Project

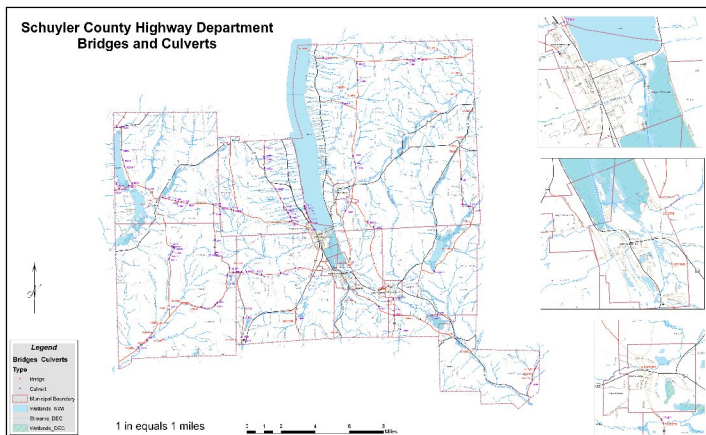
- sponsored by Founders Pavilion, a workforce training project to enable 200 staff members to receive the updated skills they will need for a new state-of-the-art skilled nursing facility based on the Green House Concept. This will involve cultural change in long-term care.

ARC - \$100,000 TOTAL - \$200,000

Drainage System Mapping

STC has begun mapping stormwater drainage systems for the rural areas of the region. Information about culverts, bridges, and other drainage structures will be built into a GIS system that can be utilized for doing analysis or just viewing the system. Forms have been created to maintain inspection results and keep the data up to date. Once structures have been located, highway departments will receive paper, digital, and online maps of their systems.

If you are interested in having your drainage system mapped, please call 607-962-5092 ext. 210; ask for Dave, or email gisstc@stny.rr.com.



Funding Secured for USGS River Gauges

STC extends our thanks to the agencies whose collaborative efforts have restored funding for river gauges in our region: NYS Department of Environmental



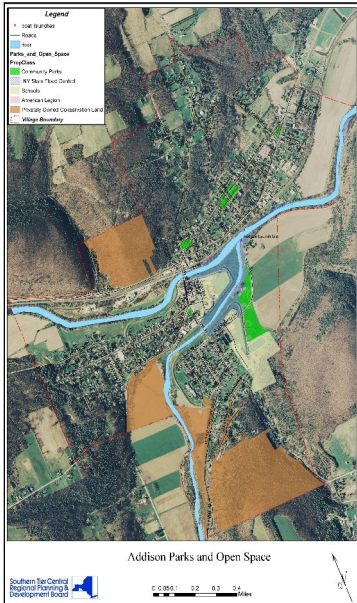
Conservation, Susquehanna Flood Forecast and Warning System, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Baltimore, and U.S. Geological Survey. Many of the region's gauges, including those used for river forecasting, were previously threatened with discontinuation due to lack of funds.

Real-time information about river levels is essential for flood forecasting, operation of flood control structures, and emergency operations during flood events. Other uses of gauge data include: bridge design, floodplain mapping, flood mitigation, water quality permits, water quality monitoring, water supply management, drought management, and recreational safety. Despite widespread use of this information, the source of money to maintain gauges and process the data has been a repeated concern. This is because collaborative funding mechanisms are impacted by many different budgets.

While we are grateful that funding for gauges in our region has been restored (for now), STC will continue to advocate for permanent funding through a single agency for priority gauges in the nationwide system.

This report has been funded in part by the following Federal agencies: Appalachian Regional Commission; U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) through Section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act (administered by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC); NYSDOS/NYSDEC Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program; NYS Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration; NYSEDA: USEPA Chesapeake Bay Program.

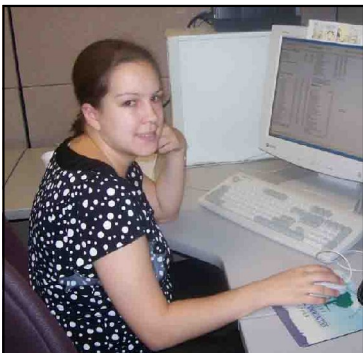
Addison Comprehensive Plan Shows Promise for the Village



STC contracted with Addison to produce the Village's first comprehensive plan, and the document is nearing completion. A comprehensive plan is required to pursue the economic development grants that would substantially benefit the village. The comprehensive plan is meant as a living document. The potential impacts of retiring baby-boomers and climate change

are addressed as they relate to the village. Ideas for improving the public perception of Addison are proposed. STC also utilized new data to perform a retail analysis, which outlines the areas of potential retail growth in downtown Addison. Visit www.stcplanning.org to stay up-to-date on the Village of Addison planning process.

Community and Economic Development Intern

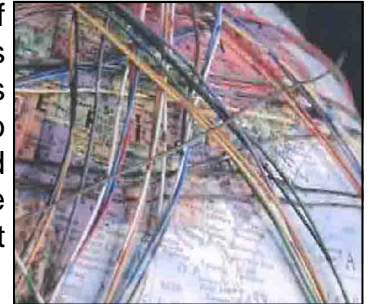


Desiree Calderella participated in a six week internship with STC during April and May as a community and economic development intern. A Political Science major at Elmira College, she provided valuable assistance with updating economic profiles, researching information for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), and preparation of an evaluation summary of the Regional Leadership Conference. Desiree hopes to have a career relating to government or community development.

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Broadband Projects

Since the completion of its Telecommunications Study in 2006, STC has been looking for ways to bring high speed broadband to areas of the region where it is not available.



All three counties are now working on projects that could make that happen. In addition, Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board and Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board are teaming up to study the possibility of fiber becoming available across the whole Southern Tier.

The possibility of broadband funds coming from New York State and from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus funds) makes "now" the right time to explore the options. More information will follow as it is available.

STC Celebrates its 40th Year

STC celebrated its fortieth year at its annual meeting in February. Past board members and staff joined current board, staff, and other guests at the festive event.

The keynote speaker was Randy Simpson from Schweizer Aircraft Corporation, talking about "Progress at Schweizer Aircraft." The accompanying film of Schweizer's newly designed helicopters was riveting.

Also at the meeting, the officers for 2009 were elected by the STC Board:

Chair	Thomas Santulli
Vice Chair	Philip Roche
Treasurer	Carol Whitehead
Secretary	Marcia Weber

The completion and availability of the 2008 STC Annual Report was announced, and Marcia Weber gave the Executive Director's Report containing highlights of the past 40 years.

2009 STC Board of Directors

Chair

Thomas Santulli, *Chemung County Executive*

Vice Chair

Philip Roche, *Chair, Steuben County Legislature*

Mark Alger, *Steuben County Administrator*

Theodore Bennett, *Chemung County Legislator*

John Burin, *Municipal Representative*

Donald Creath, *Steuben County Legislator*

James Curatolo, *Environmental Representative*

Thomas Gifford, *Chair, Schuyler County Legislature*

James Griffin, *Commerce/Business*

Richard Gunderman, *Chemung County Legislator*

Ernest Hartman, *Labor Representative*

Danielle Hautaniemi, *Schuyler County Planning*

Greg Heffner, *Steuben County Planning*

Shawn Hogan, *Municipal Elected Official*

Diana Hughes, *Chemung County Planning Board*

Kelsey Jones, *At Large - Schuyler*

Paul Marcellus, *Schuyler County Legislator*

Robert Nichols, *Agricultural Representative*

Timothy O'Hearn, *Schuyler County Administrator*

Mark Ryckman, *Municipal Representative*

G. Thomas Tranter, Jr., *Industrial Representative*

Scott Van Etten, *Steuben County Legislator*

STC Staff

Marcia D. Weber, *Executive Director*

David Bubniak, *GIS Specialist*

Susan M. Cratsley, *Executive Assistant*

Victoria Ehlen, *Planner*

Jennifer G. Fais, *Principal Planner*

Thomas D. McGarry, *Economic Development
Coordinator*

Janet L. Thigpen, *CFM, Flood Mitigation Specialist*

Timothy J. Tostanoski, *Technology Coordinator*

Daniel C. Wilhelm, *Accountant*

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