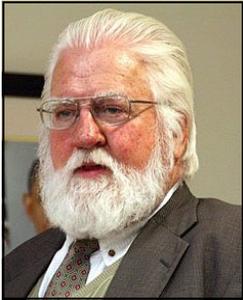


2013 ANNUAL REPORT



Message from the Chair *Dennis A. Fagan*



After working with STC for many years in my professional role, I am now chair of the STC board.

The STC Board of Directors covers Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties and is comprised of publicly elected officials and special interest representatives from business, labor, industry, municipalities, county planning boards, agriculture, and the environment. The board members work together for the region, and I thank them for the time and energy that they give to the board and its committees.

The committees also contribute a great deal to the work of STC and to the region's progress. The Economic Development Policy Committee (EDPC) contributes to and reviews the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which is an important tool for evaluating the region's economy and for obtaining grants and other funding for important projects. The EDPC and the Regional Human Services Committee review and rate the Appalachian Regional Commission applications every year. A conference planning committee and a transportation committee are also valuable planning and review bodies.

The STC staff pulls it all together and ensures that programs and projects will have meaningful and measurable impacts. They are to be commended for their hard work, experience, and dedication.

It is a strong collaboration and one that adds a great deal of value to the region. I look forward to continuing my work with Southern Tier Central.

STC Receives Funding Through Regional Economic Development Council

The Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council received a Top Performer award at the announcement of the third round of funding for the Regional Economic Development Council initiative. At that event, the region also was awarded \$81.9 million for projects in 2014. Two of the funded projects were developed by Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board (STC) with its partners:

The Southern Tier Network will receive \$5 million to extend its dark fiber backbone into Tioga and Broome Counties from Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties, targeting business, education, health, government, and public safety.

STC will receive almost \$240,000 over three years to work with Schuyler County to update its Comprehensive Plan with energy efficiency-related goals, objectives, and strategies. The updated plan will be used to create a "Guide to Environmental Planning in Schuyler County," including model zoning regulations, Comprehensive Plan amendments, and energy-related laws.



Governor Andrew Cuomo; Marcia Weber, STC Executive Director; and Tom Tranter, Co-Chair of Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council, after announcement of the Southern Tier's Top Performer Award in December.

Executive Director's Report

Marcia D. Weber

As you'll see in this report, STC provided assistance in numerous planning and development contexts across our region in 2013. We worked with people from many occupations and from all levels of government, representing our three counties plus the larger regions of which we are a part.

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Foodways Tour was an example of successful collaboration. Federal Co-chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission, Earl Gohl; the NYS Secretary of State, Cesar Perales; their staff members; Sarah Clark, Deputy State Director of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's office; and several STC staff and board members participated in the ARC Foodways Tour, which focused on food and its expanding role in economic development. Representatives from wineries, agritourism, hospitality, and other food and drink producers talked about their concerns and needs, what would help them (such as exemption from the NY tariff when sending wines to Canada), and regional branding. It was an impressive show of talent and strength from an important economic driver in our ARC district.

The Regional Leadership Conference again brought together municipal leaders from across our counties and beyond. More than 450 people attended the 29 training sessions.

STC worked with the Southern Tier Network (STN) to develop a \$5 million project to extend STN's fiberoptic infrastructure (now in Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties) to include Tioga and Broome Counties as well as parts of Tompkins and Allegany Counties. This project will receive funding from New York State.

STC served as liaison with FEMA on the region's flood risk mapping project and provided education to the STC region concerning that project, the phasing out of subsidized rates in the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, and the discontinuation of funding for the U.S. Geological Survey's river and rain gauges (which are important for flood forecasting).

Working at the federal, state, regional, and local levels (with partners at all those levels) and with planning and technology, STC explores new ways to address long-term issues and to prepare for the region's future.



John Ingle (on left), Owner of Heron Hill Winery, and Cesar Perales, NYS Secretary of State, discussed economic development challenges in Heron Hill's bottling room during the Appalachian Regional Commission Foodways Tour in June 2013.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Funding



STC received and approved six applications, all of which were very highly rated by STC committees and the STC board. A request for \$555,705 in Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funding for these six projects was submitted to NYS for review before transmission to ARC.

STEM Deployment Project to enhance science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education (Greater Southern Tier BOCES)
ARC: \$150,000 Total: \$1,041,333

Construction of Southern Tier Regional Farmers' Market Building at the Chemung County Fairgrounds (Chemung County Agricultural Society)
ARC: \$150,000 Total: \$1,100,000

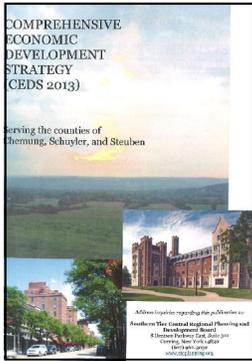
Pathways to School Readiness and Success: Planning Project to create a skilled workforce through a unified early childhood delivery system (Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc.)
ARC: \$20,705 Total: \$49,129

IT Disaster Recovery Project at Schuyler Hospital to develop a separate redundant failover data center (Schuyler Hospital, Inc.)
ARC: \$150,000 Total: \$300,100

Hammondsport/Urbana Waterfront Revitalization Plan and Trail Design to guide land development and water uses of the Keuka Lake waterfront (Steuben County Industrial Development Agency)
ARC: \$45,000 Total: \$90,000

Steuben County Local Agricultural Markets Plan to advance agricultural based economic development opportunities (Steuben County Industrial Development Agency)
ARC: \$40,000 Total: \$140,000

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)



The 2013 STC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) includes revised data and maps, as well as an updated list of proposed economic development projects. Willie Taylor, Regional Director of the US Economic Development Administration (EDA), reviewed and accepted the CEDS, describing it as an

“innovative, regionally-driven economic development strategy.” He further stated, “The priorities and focuses outlined within your CEDS document will help form the foundation of how EDA reviews applications for Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs from your region.” To add new projects to the 2014 CEDS, visit the STC website and complete the CEDS project form.

Downtown Revitalization in Addison

The Village of Addison and STC worked closely with Preservation Architects to facilitate construction on four Main Street Façade Restorations. This is part of a \$190,000 New York Main Street project that also includes streetscape improvements in Addison’s historic district.



Transportation

STC served as a member of the regional application evaluation committee for the Transportation Enhancement Program for Region 6 of the NYS Department of Transportation. The following projects from the STC region were funded:



- City of Corning East Pulteney Street Pedestrian Safety Improvements
- Chemung County Chemung River Corridor Trail and Lackawanna Trail Improvements
- Campbell Hamlet Sidewalk Project
- Town of Chemung Sidewalk Placement Project

Telecommunications



By the end of 2013, the Southern Tier Network project was nearly complete, with 222 miles of fiber installed and customers using the fiber. The network is working with service providers to bring fiber to their cell towers, which will improve service for consumers in this region and also bring the fiber into rural and underserved areas. This resource is being marketed for local and regional economic development as well as public safety, education, municipal government, and health care.

In December 2013, STN was awarded \$5 million in New York Empire State Development funds to extend its fiber ring into Tioga and Broome Counties, with connections to Cornell, Binghamton, and Alfred Universities as well.

HUMAN SERVICES

The Regional Human Services Committee and the three county human services committees continue to meet for sharing of information and ideas to improve the quality of life in the region. Topics included shared services, child abuse prevention, aging in place, and mortgage assistance. The regional committee also reviewed and rated Appalachian Regional Commission projects, with input from the county committees.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Planning Assistance

STC offers planning assistance by contract. Seven municipalities in our region take advantage of this service, which is partially subsidized by ARC.

The **Town of Caton** in 2013 reviewed many subdivision applications and evaluated the potential for wine-related and distillery business within the Town.

The **Town of Corning** oversaw the new Corning Hospital project and reviewed many conditional use permit applications for businesses. STC helped the planning board make minor changes to their zoning law to encourage business in appropriate zones.

The **Village of Painted Post** received several applications for at-home businesses and mixed uses. The planning board began reviewing their zoning law and asked STC to draft changes to further encourage mixed uses in areas with denser development.

The **Village of Riverside** was kept busy with the new Tops market development in Pulteney Plaza. The planning board reviewed the site plan for both the market and the addition of gas pumps on the property.

The **Town of Campbell** has a relatively new planning board; STC worked to bring all members up to speed, offering training and advising on regular applications. This intense training will enable the planning board to conduct its own reviews in the future.

The **Town of Veteran** is in the final stages of a two-year project to develop a Comprehensive Plan. The draft plan was presented to the Town Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals in September and is expected to be adopted in early 2014.

STC and **Schuyler County** were awarded a grant for \$239,776 to fund assistance to Schuyler County communities for writing and updating comprehensive plans and land use regulation.

STC Flood Assistance Program

Flash flooding in August 2013 was yet another reminder that STC is in a flood-prone region and that development is vulnerable to flood damage. The STC Flood Mitigation Specialist helps the region to address these risks by providing technical assistance with floodplain management, flood mitigation, and flood warning. STC assisted Chemung County with a grant application to expand the locally-operated flood warning system by installing additional precipitation and stream gauges.

Computer Assistance

STC has provided affordable technology assistance to local governments for more than two decades. STC staff guides the use of computers to accommodate day-to-day needs and the ever-changing demands of government operations. This includes guiding system upgrades, GIS support, maintenance, trouble shooting problems, training, and customizing desktop applications. STC is able to use LogMeIn Rescue to remotely manage and resolve technical problems, which saves time and money. (Some assistance is partially subsidized by grant programs.)



STC assisted the Town of Corning with site plan review for the new Corning Hospital site on Rt. 352. The Town's planning board worked closely with STC and Fagan Engineers to evaluate submitted site plans and plans for the extension of water lines. The hospital is scheduled to open its doors in mid-2014.

Regional Leadership Conference



The conference kicked off on April 3rd with a welcome from Mr. Theodore (Ted) Bennett of the Conference Planning Committee (left) and a keynote address by NYS Comptroller, Mr. Thomas DiNapoli (right). On April 4th, the keynote was given by STC Executive Director, Ms. Marcia Weber.

More than 450 local officials, community leaders, presenters, and exhibitors attended the 17th annual STC Regional Leadership Conference on April 3rd and 4th at Corning Community College. This year's theme was "Leadership: Sharing the Vision."

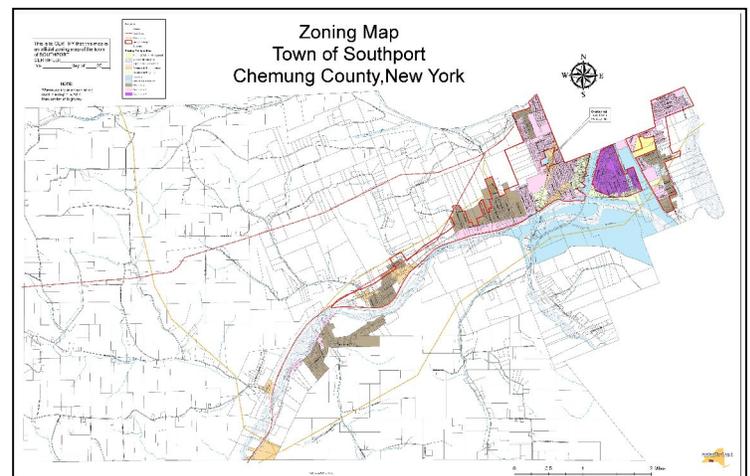
29 classes covered a variety of topics, including planning and zoning issues, tourism, budgeting, code enforcement issues, open meetings laws, agricultural plans, and a variety of other practical topics. In addition, 28 businesses and agencies exhibited products and services at the trade show.

STC received an array of positive evaluations on the conference, such as "Excellent and well informed presenters" and "Very informative. Enjoyed and learned a lot." 65 of the region's municipalities (84%) were represented at the conference.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

STC provides computer mapping assistance and technical support to municipalities and other organizations. Examples include:

- Worked with the Town of Southport to complete and update the Town's zoning map
- Assisted the Town of Horseheads with mapping of snow plow routes, emergency service areas, and zoning updates
- Provided mapping for the Town of Veteran comprehensive plan
- Completed GIS mapping of municipal water and sewer infrastructure in Steuben County
- Participated in the Chesapeake Bay Land Use Workgroup and provided land use data for the Chesapeake Bay watershed model (which is used to allocate the required reduction of pollution loads to the Chesapeake Bay)



The Town of Southport's original zoning map was created by a company no longer in business in the area. STC re-created and updated the zoning map for the Town.

Flood Resistant Communities

With funding from the NYS Department of State, STC is providing technical and planning assistance to promote the development of sustainable, economically-viable communities that are not subject to the devastating impacts of floods and flash floods. In order to build the capacity of local governments, STC conducted floodplain management training for planning board members and developed a new course on Elevation Certificates for Code Enforcement Officers. STC has helped several comprehensive planning committees integrate flood risks into their municipal plans. Additional assistance for municipalities included review of flood-related aspects of land use regulations and assistance with revisions to floodplain management laws. Work is underway on a regional Flood Education Plan that promotes additional public education about flooding and identifies key public information messages.

WATER RESOURCES

Federal Flood Programs and Policies

Federal projects and policies can have a significant impact on local management of flood risks. In 2013, STC staff provided information, technical assistance, and advocacy on the following issues:

Federally operated stream and precipitation gauges:

STC staff wrote letters supporting full federal funding for key gauges that are needed for flood warnings. Although funding was secured for some of the threatened gauges, the Seneca Lake level gauge and 5 precipitation gauges were discontinued due to lack of funding.

Flood insurance: Changes to flood insurance rates for buildings that pre-date floodplain mapping took effect in 2013, resulting in higher rates for many policies. STC provided information about these changes, developed training on Elevation Certificates (which are used for elevation-based insurance rates), and researched strategies for mitigating buildings to reduce both flood risks and flood insurance costs.

Flood hazard mapping: A FEMA mapping project for the Chemung and Cohocton River Watersheds was concluded without producing any new Flood Insurance Rate Maps. STC assisted with communications regarding this project and can provide some of the modeling information developed by FEMA.

Flood control levees: The flood zone designation for levee-protected areas on new FEMA maps depends on whether the levee system is “certified” as meeting specific design, operation, and maintenance standards. STC staff investigated issues related to the potential costs for certification of local levees and the anticipated impacts on protected communities if FEMA’s mapping project were to proceed without certification of levees.

Local advocacy for improved flood policies is coordinated with state and national efforts through staff participation in the NYS Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association (as Policy Committee Chair and Board member) and the Association of State Floodplain Managers (elected to the Board of Directors in June 2013).



Strategy for a Sustainable Keuka Lake

STC began work on the Strategy for a Sustainable Keuka Lake project, as funded through the New York State Department of State Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. The grant includes six key components:

- A **toolbox** of resources for municipal governments including model laws/ordinances, model language for comprehensive plans, training materials, maps, and fact sheets
- Extensive land use **training, education, and public outreach** to each municipality, including 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 to provide assistance on project tasks and establish a structure for continued assistance after the grant has ended
- **Mapping** of the watershed, zoning, infrastructure, and viewsheds to be used for training and public outreach, as well as creation of mapping resources for the toolbox
- A watershed-wide **agricultural plan** and assessment
- An **action plan** to guide future endeavors of the Keuka Lake Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA) after completion of this project

Anticipated project benefits include: 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. The Keuka Lake LULA will use the Strategy for a Sustainable Keuka Lake to work toward cleaner, viable, better planned communities that will be desirable places to live, work, and play – 10, 20, 30 years from today. For more information visit the project website at: www.sustainablekeuka.net.

Committees

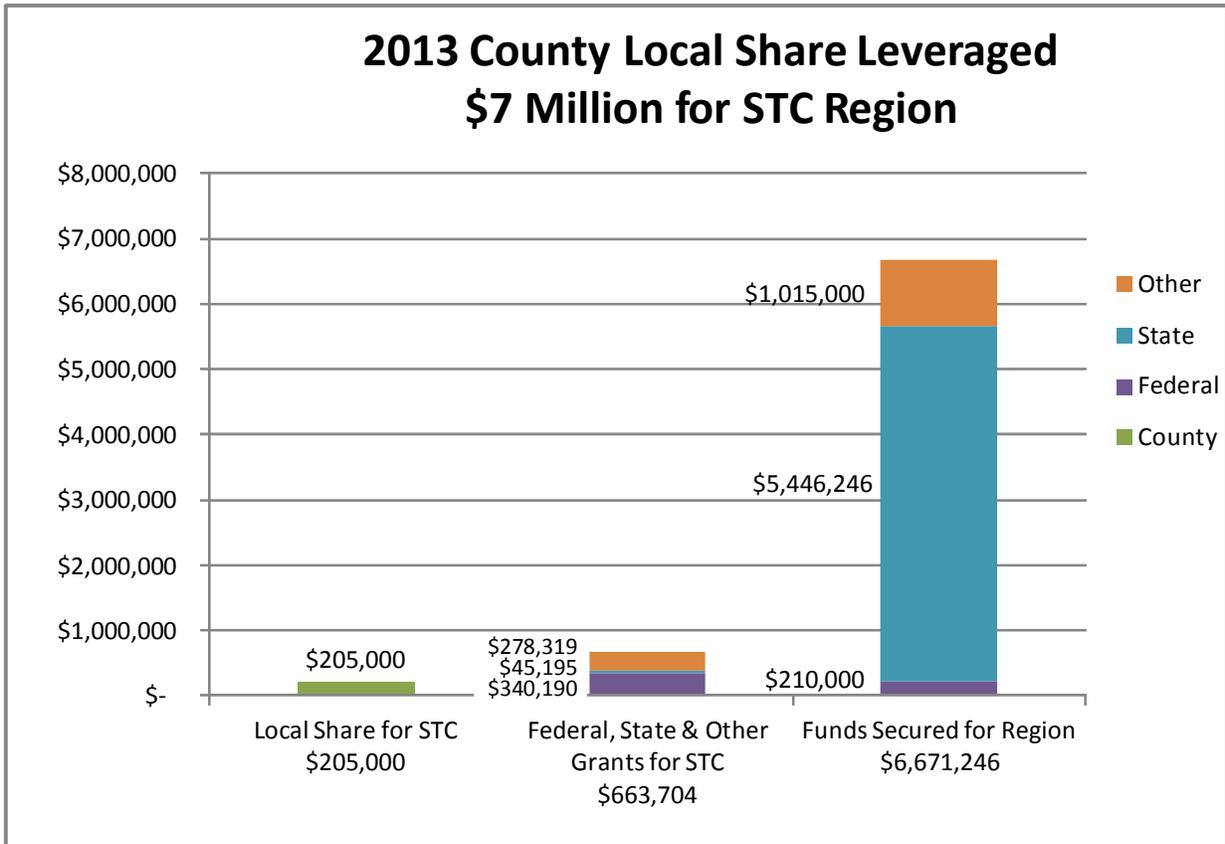
STC Advisory Committees promote regional coordination:

- Chemung County Human Services Committee
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee
- Economic Development Policy Committee
- I-86 Highway Advisory Committee
- Local Government and Leadership Training Committee
- Regional Human Services Committee
- Schuyler County Human Services Committee
- Steuben County Human Services Committee

STC staff actively participates in the following organizations and committees:

- Association of State Floodplain Managers Board of Directors
- Binghamton University Master of Public Administration Advisory Committee
- Chemung County Water Quality Strategy Committee
- Chemung County Stormwater Coalition
- Chesapeake Bay Program Land Use Workgroup
- Corning Hospital Board of Directors
- Elmira Chemung Transportation Council
- Elmira Corning Regional Airport Comprehensive Planning Committee

- Environmental Emergency Services (EES) – Board of Directors, Flood Warning Service, Public Information and Education Committee
- Keuka Lake Land Use Leadership Alliance
- My Place Child Care Center Board of Directors
- NYS Association of Regional Councils
- NYS Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association – Board of Directors, Chair of Public Policy Committee
- Ready, Set, Grow Child Care Center Board of Directors
- REDEC Board of Directors
- Route 15 Coalition
- Rural Stormwater Coalition
- Schuyler County Water Quality Coordinating Committee
- Schuyler-Steuben Transportation Committee
- Seneca Lake Area Partners in Five Counties (SLAP-5)
- Southern Tier Network Board of Directors – Chair
- Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Corporation
- Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council – Downtown Revitalization Workgroup, Infrastructure Workgroup
- Statewide I-86 Coalition
- Steuben County Water Quality Coordinating Committee – Vice Chair
- Upper Susquehanna Conservation Alliance – Co-chair of Flood Workgroup



2013 STC Board of Directors

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Chair, Schuylers County Legislature

Thomas Gifford
Schuylers County Legislator

Timothy O'Hearn
Schuylers County Administrator

Vice Chair, Donna Draxler
Chair, Chemung County Legislature

Ernest Hartman
Labor Representative

Randy Reid
Small Business/Minority Rep.

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Steuben County Administrator

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Chemung County Legislator

James Johnson
Commerce/Business Representative

Scott Van Etten
Steuben County Legislator

Amy Dlugos
Steuben County Planning

Rocky Kambo*
Schuylers County Planning

George Welch, Jr.
Steuben County Legislator

Robert Nichols
Agricultural Representative

*left during the year

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STC is also grateful for matching funds from Chemung, Schuylers, and Steuben Counties, the Steuben County Industrial Development Agency, and Three Rivers Development Corporation.

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