

Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board

STC Region Today

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Applications Have Been Submitted to NYS Department of State (DOS) for Review



This year's applications were varied: infrastructure improvements, fiber-optic connectivity, a demonstration farm feasibility study, and more. STC worked closely with the applicants to ensure that the applications met the match requirements, would show measureable progress on ARC's performance measures, and included

feasible long term funding mechanisms. If you are considering an ARC application, contact Victoria Ehlen to discuss the grant program requirements. STC submitted six FY 2016 applications to NYS DOS for review, and the FY17 process will begin in the spring.

Connecting Southern Tier Libraries to the Southern Tier Network's Open Access Dark Fiber Southern Tier Library System seeks project support for construction to connect 17 public library outlets to the Southern Tier Network's open access dark fiber in Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben counties to develop economic, education and social opportunities in Southern Tier communities.

Makerspace—Developing Innovators and Innovation in Southern Tier Central New York The project will create and nurture entrepreneurs and a skilled workforce and will support startups through the development of a Makerspace at Incubator Works ELM. A Makerspace is a physical location where people gather to share resources and knowledge; work on projects; network; and build. The Makerspace will provide tools and space in an open access area.

Schuyler County Diabetes Self Management Project This project will create access to a Diabetes Self-Management Program currently not available in Schuyler County. A community campaign will educate

the public on the prevalence of diabetes. Four people will be trained to facilitate classes designed to reduce hospitalizations and reduce premature deaths.

City of Corning Economic Development Strategy This project will include preparation of an Economic Development Strategy for the City of Corning. The strategy will be based on non-traditional site-based economic development and will focus on small scale innovative and entrepreneurial businesses and business activities. The strategy will enhance the City's role as a regional population center for technology, manufacturing, and destination tourism.

CCE Schuyler Small Farm Demonstration Incubator & Education Center The project involves investigation and conceptual design to establish a new small farm demonstration site, incubator, and Cornell Cooperative Extension education center, located on a potential donor property in Schuyler County. The long-term goal is to target emerging commodities and production practices for new and small farms in the region.

EDA Application Changes



This year the EDA has revised its application process. Applications are now accepted on an ongoing basis, and the EDA regional representative, Andrew Reid, will work very closely with the Economic Development Districts (EDD's like Southern Tier Central) and the project applicants to fund outstanding projects. Any community that shows significant economic distress (high unemployment or low per-capita-income) is eligible for EDA funds to improve infrastructure that will result in substantial job creation. EDA grants require a 50/50 match with a maximum grant amount of \$5 million.

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NYSERDA

Schuyler County

STC has partnered with the Schuyler County Planning Department to assist Schuyler County municipalities with planning and zoning issues. Funded by New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), this project aims to incorporate “Cleaner, Greener Principles” while addressing a variety of other opportunities and challenges in municipalities. These Cleaner Greener Principles include ideas and issues such as: smart growth, mixed use development, natural resource preservation, active transportation, and farmland protection.

STC first worked to update the County Wide Comprehensive Plan (CWCP) in the spring-summer of 2015, incorporating additional Cleaner Greener Principles and incorporating the effects of new local and state laws. The updated CWCP was re-adopted by the County Legislature in July 2015.

Below are updates on the progress of each of the municipalities STC is currently assisting:

Town of Dix – NYSERDA Project

STC staff has been working with the Town of Dix since late spring of 2015 to update their zoning law. A few of the issues being addressed are: the creation of a new zoning map; protecting agriculture; incorporating appropriately located mixed use and commercial development zones; signs; and making sure the updated code is simplified and easier for residents and developers to understand. The steering committee is working to complete the new law and present their proposed changes to the Town Board by early spring 2016.

Village of Montour Falls– NYSERDA Project

The Village of Montour Falls has assembled a committee to carry out the Comprehensive Plan Process. Over the summer the committee, with the assistance of interns, designed and administered a Village-wide survey. The survey produced a 22% response rate. The results are now being aggregated and Census data is being assessed as chapters for the plan are being drafted for the committee to review.



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Town of Catharine—NYSERDA Project

The Town of Catharine has been working with Schuyler County Planning Department, STC, and consultant team Randall-West on revising existing zoning law to meet the needs of the community, protect community character, and better align with the recently adopted comprehensive plan. Catharine hopes to finish up the process by early spring.

Town of Reading– NYSERDA Project



Town of Reading residents attend one of the public meetings.

STC is working with the Town of Reading to write a new comprehensive plan in order to address new goals and challenges that have arisen since their last plan in 2004. Beginning in July 2015, STC has helped form a steering committee, written and distributed a resident survey, and held

two public meetings to gather as much input from the community as possible. The survey results have been collected and are currently being analyzed. STC will continue meeting monthly with the committee to begin writing chapters for the plan throughout the winter and spring months. STC hopes to have a draft plan ready to be reviewed and adopted by the Town Board in early fall 2016.

Steuben County

Riverside-Painted Post NYSERDA Joint Comprehensive Plan Project

This interesting project is just getting started. Each of the Villages has a Comprehensive Plan Committee in place, and the inaugural meetings are about to get underway. These committees (with the assistance of STC and NYSERDA funding) will guide the planning process for each village.

The planning process will take about 18 months, and the results of the plan will be a list of actionable items and implementable laws to improve the quality of life, disaster resilience, sustainability, and energy use within the villages. Kemberli Sargent and Victoria Ehlen are leading these projects on behalf of Painted Post and Riverside.

Additional details about the project will be available as the communities advance the planning process.

STC's Planning School Is an Ongoing Success

STC's Planning School hosted 8 lectures this year, including the most recent in December. The 8 classes covered topics such as SEQR; agriculture; dealing with conflict and heated meetings; budgeting for villages and towns; grant writing; and planning for new officials. Attendance averaged 19 people per class, with attendees from 50 communities and 12 organizations. A total of 122 individuals participated in these training opportunities. STC looks forward to seeing those interested in code enforcement at the January 19th class (using the Williamson Law Book Company CEO Software). The February 16th class will feature Finance for Local Governments.



One of the 8 planning school classes held at STC.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update Is Underway



The 2016 CEDS will have a new focus on economic resilience against natural disasters and economic shifts. The CEDS will also incorporate the findings of the recently completed I-86 plan and the Southern Tier's Upstate Revitalization Initiative Plan. This CEDS will focus on how STC and other development organizations in the region can take

action to improve economic conditions in the Southern Tier.

Because STC's CEDS deadline has changed to March from July, the CEDS process is starting earlier this year. STC is seeking input from the public, local officials, and organizations throughout the region for a SWOT analysis. Please contact STC ASAP with your thoughts on the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats to the region. The draft CEDS will be released in mid-January, and comments are requested from the public from January 17 through February 16, in time for inclusion in the 2016 CEDS.

Town of Southport: Zoning Update and Green Infrastructure

Municipal land use regulations can have a direct impact on local water quality and flood risks. This includes stipulations on lot size and setbacks, buffers between streams or lakes and development, minimum parking requirements, and more. When the Town of Southport was updating their zoning law in the summer-fall of 2015, STC worked with the town's consultant and steering committee by reviewing the proposed zoning changes and providing suggestions for edits, as well as new language to enhance water resource protection. One goal was to remove barriers to using Green Infrastructure practices that can help filter and clean the water. This will make it easier for developers to comply with stormwater permit requirements. The recommendations also provide protections for existing environmental resources that naturally contribute to flood mitigation and high water quality. Finally, STC wanted to include zoning language that would increase the town's Community Rating System (CRS) score with the intention of lowering flood insurance rates for the town residents.



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Small Business Growth Program: Maximize Broadband's Benefits for Growth

How can businesses and industries benefit financially from utilizing the region's high speed broadband? A joint project of the region's economic developers and the Southern Tier Network, funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission, set out to demonstrate that financial benefit.

By filling out a short survey, a business is connected to a team that will show the potential growth and cost savings of implementing Internet applications that have helped similar businesses prosper. The savings from efficiencies and increased business can more than cover the cost of implementing a new process.

For more information about this program, contact Marcia Weber at weber@stny.rr.com.

Flood Resilient Communities

Resilience has become a paradigm for managing risk. We want our communities to be resilient to flooding and other disasters, but what does that mean? And how can communities become more resilient? This was the topic of a workshop held in Big Flats on October 14, which STC co-sponsored with the Chemung County Stormwater Coalition and the Environmental Finance Center of Syracuse University.

A flood resilient community is one in which residents and institutions have the capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from flooding with minimal outside assistance.

Workshop participants learned about strategies for flood resilience: (1) manage water where it falls, (2) make space for water, and (3) live with floods. Presentations addressed local flooding problems, examples of projects that reduce flood damage, watershed processes, planning and land use tools for managing flood risks, sustainable management strategies for roadway drainage, green infrastructure techniques for managing runoff, funding sources, and more. Breakout sessions provided an opportunity to discuss challenges, opportunities, and strategies for improving flood resilience in our local communities.

One of the main purposes of local government is to promote health and safety. In the STC region, this means managing risks from flooding, which each county has identified as the highest priority hazard. Contact STC for more information and assistance with improving flood resiliency.

Congratulations!



The Chemung County Stormwater Coalition was recognized by the Water Environment Federation in a national competition of municipal stormwater management programs. The Coalition was awarded two silver stars, one for Program Management and the other for Innovation. Nice work!

The Sustainable Keuka Lake Project

The Sustainable Keuka Lake project is in its third and final year. This project has spent much of the last two years collecting data from watershed officials while educating the decision makers for the watershed Towns and Villages.



Over the course of this grant, public input has been integral, with over 1200 responses to two surveys. These surveys have helped guide the many interns and the student workshops on what to investigate further. Out of the investigation have come many in-depth research reports from Cornell University, including:

- Agriculture report
- Waterfront revitalization report
- Viewshed identification and prioritization report
- Analysis of existing land use plans

In April, the Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA) conducted their annual training event in Penn Yan. At this event, data was collected on what types of regulations are supported. Training on land use options for protection was presented and well received. Since the training in April, project partners including STC, Yates County Cooperative Extension, and the Town of Wayne have been integral in presenting all the findings of the studies and the surveys of the past two years along with recommendations for improvement of local laws. Presentations to local boards will continue into the spring. Resources such as the “Sustainable Keuka Lake Municipal Handbook” and the “Map Viewer” for the Keuka Lake region can all be found on the project’s website at: www.sustainablekeuka.net

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

for the

20th Annual Regional Leadership Conference

March 31, 2016

at Corning Community College
Please join us for food, training, and
networking! Visit our website for more
information at:

www.regionalleadershipconference.info

19th Annual Regional Leadership Conference



ARC Federal Co-Chair Earl Gohl, and STC Executive Director Marcia Weber at the 19th Annual Leadership Conference.

The 19th annual conference was a great success. More than 400 local officials, community leaders, presenters and exhibitors attended the conference held on April 1st and 2nd at Corning Community College. We were honored to have Mr. Earl Gohl, Federal Co-Chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission, as our keynote speaker at the conference. Earl spent two days with us touring the region and participating at our yearly training event. There were 300 classes throughout the two day conference. Some of the most popular topics were procurement, executive sessions, court security, National Flood Insurance Program, Site Plan Workshop, and Re(visioning) Rural Communities. Based upon participants' evaluations, 95% considered the conference useful or very useful for their position in local government.

At the April conference we were also pleased to have a total of 28 business, non-profits, and government agencies show case their goods. Vendors pay to have a table at the conference, and this support allows us to continue to provide the conference at a low cost.

As we prepare for the 2016 conference, we are looking at a couple of changes. With the fantastic recent renovations at Corning Community College, we are expecting to return to a one-day conference for 2016.



One of the many vendor's at the 19th Annual Regional Leadership Conference.

The 2016 conference will be held on March 31st, 2016. We also are excited to announce the addition of a partnership with NYSAC and courses from the Pelletier Institute – a series of classes focused on County Government. We welcome these new changes and hope to see many of you there!

Antivirus? Anti-malware?

What's the difference between antivirus and anti-malware?



A virus is a piece of code that is capable of copying itself in order to do damage to your computer, including corrupting your system or destroying data. Malware, on the other hand, is an umbrella term that stands for a variety of malicious software, including Trojans, spyware, worms, adware, ransomware, and yes, viruses. So the logic follows: all viruses are malware.

Unfortunately we can't stop there because it's a little more complicated than that. Viruses are considered to be legacy threats. By this we mean: they've been around for a while and haven't changed all that much. They aren't used very often by today's cyber criminals, which is why many antivirus companies have evolved to fight more than "just" viruses. This can include infectious malware like worms, web threats like keyloggers, or concealment malware, such as rootkits.

Antivirus usually deals with the older, more established threats, such as Trojans, viruses, and worms. Anti-malware, by contrast, typically focuses on newer stuff, such as polymorphic malware and malware delivered by zero-day exploits. Antivirus protects users from lingering, predictable -yet-still-dangerous malware. Anti-malware protects users from the latest, currently in the wild, and even more dangerous threats. In addition, anti-malware typically updates its rules faster than antivirus, meaning that it's the best protection against new malware you might encounter while surfing the net. By contrast, antivirus is best at crushing malware you might contract from a traditional source, like a USB or an email attachment.

Thanks to www.malwarebytes.org for this information

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Projects

STC GIS staff worked with Schuyler County 911 with their migration to ESRI based dispatch software. The County's address point database was modified to ESRI geocoding scheme. Geocoding finds address locations on a map. Surrounding county roads, aerial imagery, fire districts, response zones, and other relevant data were loaded on the server. ArcGIS server was installed on a server within the county network. Map services and caches were created to work with the dispatch software. Training with the software to maintain current data were conducted. Processes and procedures were set up for the data to be maintained and then consumed by the dispatch software.

I-86 and Economic Development

STC Board member Ted Bennett continues to lead efforts to transform New York State's Route 17 to Interstate 86. As Ted says, it's not done until the highway is ALL designated an Interstate.

In the photo below taken at the 2015 STC Regional Leadership Conference, Ted tells Appalachian Regional Commission Federal Co-Chair, Earl Gohl, about the advantages to having an Interstate through the NYS Appalachian counties.

Ted is working now to fund an update to the New York I-86 Economic Development Benefits Study originally completed in 2000. The economic benefits of the completed portion of I-86 plus the potential benefits of the miles still to be converted are of significant value to the Southern Tier and to New York State.

The work done by the I-86 Innovation Corridor committee in developing a Strategic Action Plan, released in July 2015, will "accelerate public/private investment, create job opportunities, advance regional competitiveness, and create the magnetism to draw and keep young, skilled workforce participants." This action plan guides investments that will lead to the increased economic benefits expected from the I-86 designation still to come.



ARC Federal Co-Chair Earl Gohl and Ted Bennett at the I-86 vendor table at the 19th Annual Regional Leadership Conference.

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**left during the year*

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