

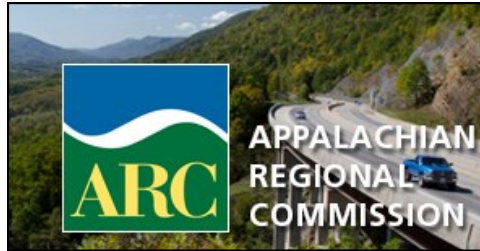
STC Region Today

Serving: Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties

New York State

Fall 2016

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



STC submitted six applications to Department of State for their review. After the state review, the applications go to ARC. The ARC project request from STC for 2017 is \$569,604.

The projects submitted are as follows:

Equipment Installation to Light Southern Tier Network (STN) Fiber in Southern Tier Public Libraries: the project will make 100Mbps/100Mbps broadband internet connectivity possible in 21 public libraries by installing the equipment and supplies needed to light existing dark fiber for the purpose of developing economic, education, and social opportunities for 143,291 residents or 59,366 households in Southern Tier communities. Project Sponsor: Southern Tier Library System.

Local Agriculture and Land Use Leadership Institute (LALULI): LALULI will provide training to 35 local leaders in Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben counties in order to increase their individual and collective capacities to strengthen the agriculture and food industry, while simultaneously protecting farmland and open space, in ways that are compatible with regional and community goals; and increase the number of viable farms and food related businesses in the region and the overall contribution of these businesses to the region's community and economic vitality and quality of life. Project Sponsor: Cornell University CaRDI.

Modernization of Food Co-Packing and Training Facility: the primary goal of this project is to develop a job training program that aligns with local economic development needs and assists people with barriers to employment to develop skills needed to enter the workforce. Project Sponsor: Schuyler County Chapter, NYSARC, Inc.

Planning in Water's Way: the project will provide data, tools, and cost estimates to municipalities, private developers, and IDA's to support implementation of flood mitigation and flood damage prevention activities that improve the region's economic resilience. Project Sponsor: Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board.

Poverty Spotlight: to develop and implement an innovative, robust, cost-effective program to develop 10 new leaders who will work with 100 households in their high-risk neighborhood in Elmira, NY to assess their situation and help all program participants move from some dimension of poverty to empowered agent of personal and community change. Project Sponsor: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County.

Steuben Local Foods Development Project, Cornell Cooperative Extension's Local Foods Development project will promote economic growth for specialty crop farmers in Steuben County through training and events, the establishment of a Farmers Market Collaborative and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Fair, Agriculture in the Classroom, and branding support. Project Sponsor: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County.

BEWARE!!!

of Email and Browsing Hackers! Tips from STC's Technology Coordinator

- 1st **YOU**, the user, are in charge of your own internet usage, phone, and email. You are the judge while you are browsing, surfing, and reading email.
- 2nd Be cautious when clicking on URLs in emails or social media programs, even when coming from trusted sources and friends. **NEVER** dial a phone number that is identified in an email or on a web page. You always need to call a trusted number that you have dialed in the past or look up the number using another method to verify that the number is real. Be suspicious and think before you click: never view, open, or execute any email attachment unless you expect it and trust the sender. If you need to, call the sender by phone to be completely confident.
- 3rd Be cautious when **PROVIDING** information via social networking sites. Do not click on the shortened URLs that are often presented.
- 4th **REMEMBER** that when you open an attached file in an email or download a file from the internet, it can take over your computer and not be detected by any security applications. So, when in doubt, don't open any attached file.
- 5th Be **SUSPICIOUS** of search engine results and only click through to trusted sources when conducting searches. Use a web browser URL reputation solution (add-in browser tool) that shows the reputation and safety rating of web sites from searches.
- 6th If you are entering personal, professional, or financial details online, look for visual cues that **IDENTIFY** safe websites. Scan the web page for a trust mark (an icon or logo that indicates what a website is doing to protect its viewers). Never disclose any confidential personal, professional, or financial information unless and until you can confirm that any request for such information is legitimate.
- 7th **INSTALL** security applications to minimize your problems.

To end, remember you are in **CHARGE** of your own destiny: don't click on anything or perform tasks that a web page or email might suggest to you. What you click on could allow someone to take control of your computer, making it go down for hours or even days—plus, this could cause **IRREVOCABLE** damage. Please have backups/copies of all your information (data files).

Source: some content from Symantec

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Assistance

STC GIS staff has been working with Chemung County to create an enterprise GIS system. Structured Query Language (SQL) databases have been created and loaded with data from various county departments. Databases were designed based on the type of data within the database. For example; we have created a facilities streets database which includes features such as roads, striping, and guide rail. Tax parcel information is contained within a cadastral database. An emergency operations database contains features used with the 911 maps.

Map services were created to allow departments to utilize data from other departments without directly accessing the data. As data is updated, the map services get updated. This provides up-to-date data continuously to share within county departments. Some of the information is hosted to an ArcGIS online account where municipalities can access up-to-date data and maps. Map viewers were created on ArcGIS online to include tools such as measuring and querying of data from a web map. These web map applications can be used on a PC, tablet, or phone.

STC staff and Chemung County Stormwater Technician Jessica Verrigni presented at the 2016 Western NY Stormwater Conference and Tradeshow. The presentation was on the web application that converted their paper inspection process into an android application. The application allows the stormwater technician to use a tablet device to enter inspection data as well as location information and pictures. All the information collected is stored in a database online and then integrated back to the coalition's GIS system.

Economic Development Administration (EDA) Application Changes

Several communities in our region are eligible for EDA grants based on data reported in the American Community Survey (ACS); 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. Victoria Ehlen is willing to work with your community, the County IDA, and our EDA regional representative to fund outstanding projects. Applications are now accepted on an ongoing basis (there is no deadline). EDA grants are 50/50 match with grant amounts ranging from \$100,000 to \$3 million.



Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update

The 2017 CEDS annual update will be a brief and informative summary of economic trends in the region and will identify priorities for development. This update will focus on how STC and other development organizations in the region can take action to improve economic conditions in the Southern Tier. STC's annual CEDS update is due March 1, 2017, so the CEDS process is starting earlier this year. STC is seeking input regarding significant events and trends across the region from the public, local officials, and organizations throughout the region. Please contact STC ASAP with your thoughts on the future of the three-county area.

Planning School Continues

STC's Planning School continues to be a great success. Classes have begun for the fall. 2016 training opportunities have included training for code enforcement officers; accessing grant resources; financial implication of shared services; ARC grant workshop; and email in the 21st century. Flood Modeling for your Community will be the next training session on November 15, 2016.

New Staff at STC

Since our last newsletter, two people have joined the STC staff.

Brittany McKerlie filled the Accountant/Fiscal Officer position in February 2016. Brittany previously worked for a public accounting firm and in the private sector. She received a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Business Administration in Accounting from Alfred University. Brittany received the New York State Society of CPAs (NYSSCPA) "Excellence in Accounting" award and served on an advisory council for Alfred State relating to the accounting program in 2014.

Gabriel Holbrow has been at STC since May 2016, filling the Planner position. Gabriel's experience includes working as a planner in Cayuga County and as a transportation policy researcher in Tokyo, Japan. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Geography with General Honors from the University of Chicago and a Master of Arts in Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning from Tufts University. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

Planning Assistance

STC is happy to offer technical planning assistance to municipalities by contract. We currently work with six municipalities on a variety of planning related issues. Our services are often used to assist the municipal planning board by revising submitted application materials, writing up technical analysis of the application and offering the board recommendations on how they should proceed with an application. Often this ensures that the planning board and code enforcement officer are meeting the legal restraints of their adopted land use regulations or state requirements. Through these contracts we have also been known to assist in grant research and writing as well as provide special reports and analysis of key issues in the municipality. If your municipality is interested in this service, please contact our office at 607-962-5092.

“Cleaner, Greener Communities” in Schuyler County

STC has been assisting towns and villages in Schuyler County with planning and zoning projects, thanks to funding from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). With grant funding through NYSERDA’s “Cleaner, Greener Communities” program, the project aims to address the particular opportunities and challenges in each municipality while incorporating principles including smart growth, mixed-use development, active transportation, natural resource preservation, and farmland protection.

In Schuyler County, STC has been working since fall 2014 in partnership with the Schuyler County Planning Department. Below are updates on the progress in each of the municipalities that STC is currently assisting.

Town of Catharine, Schuyler County

Catharine’s zoning rewrite committee has worked tirelessly to refine a new zoning law, subdivision law and wastewater management law that is easy to understand and meets the objectives set out by their comprehensive plan. Catharine has held three public outreach sessions to gather public input and also to help educate the residents on the changes to the zoning law. As of October, Catharine has fully adopted their new wastewater management law and they hope to have their revised zoning law and subdivision law adopted by the end of 2016.

Town of Dix, Schuyler County

In February 2016, the Town Board of the Town of Dix adopted a new zoning law, based on nearly a year of work with a steering committee of town residents. Dix has had zoning since 2007, but this update incorporated appropriately located mixed-use and commercial development zones, simplified the code by combining similar zones, and made it easier for residents and developers to understand. To ensure a smooth transition to the new law, STC led a training for members of the Town Board and Planning Board in June 2016, focusing on how to use the new zoning law.

Village of Montour Falls, Schuyler County

The village is closing in on their comprehensive plan process. After a year of work the Village has drafts of almost every chapter and is expected to have a full rough draft out for review by the end of the year with hopes of adoption in early 2017. Concurrently the village began working with consultant Randall + West to do full revisions of their zoning code based on the draft comprehensive plan. The zoning law rewrite committee began working on their revisions in August and are expected to have a draft zoning code by mid-2017. This committee has put an emphasis on updated and enforceable design guidelines. The hope is to design a quaint downtown and attract business to the downtown. The village has also expressed a strong desire to protect the natural resources that exist in their community and to better meet the needs of the small village population by implementing complete streets principles and working to create a more walkable community.

Village of Odessa, Schuyler County

STC began working with the Village of Odessa in late summer 2016 on revising the village’s zoning law. With assistance from STC, the Schuyler County Planning Department, and consultant team Randall+West, a steering committee of Planning Board members and village residents is working to bring the zoning law up to date with the opportunities and challenges that Odessa faces today. Randall+West hosted a kick-off meeting and public open house in September 2016 to gather community input about the community character the law should foster and create. STC hopes to have a proposed new law ready for review and consideration by the village trustees by early spring 2017.



Town of Reading, Schuyler County

STC is working with the Town of Reading to write a new comprehensive plan in order to address new challenges and identify new goals that have arisen since their last plan in 2004. STC helped guide the plan's steering committee through more than a year of work, including a townwide survey of residents, public meetings, focus groups, and presentation of a complete draft plan at a community meeting in September 2016. Based on the community feedback, the steering committee has recommended a final draft plan to the Town Board for their consideration. The new plan reaffirms Reading's assets as a rural community while promoting strong economic opportunity. The steering committee is working with the Town Board toward adoption by the end of 2016.

Meanwhile, one of the needs identified in the new comprehensive plan was an update to the town's land use law. With continued grant funding from NYSERDA, STC secured the Steinmetz Planning Group to work as consultant with the town on updating the land use law. The Town has established a steering committee and invited the consultant team for a Community Land Use Workshop in October 2016. The steering committee is working toward having an updated law to present to the Town Board for their consideration by early spring 2017.



STC Senior Planner Chelsea Robertson gives a presentation at the Town of Reading public meeting.

Riverside-Painted Post New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) Joint Comprehensive Plan Project

The Villages each have a Comprehensive Plan Committee in place, there have been several public meetings, and surveys are being completed by residents of each village. The planning process will take about another 12 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 village. Chelsea Robertson, Gabriel Holbrow, and Victoria Ehlen are leading these projects on behalf of Painted Post and Riverside. Additional detail about the project is available on the STC website: www.stcplanning.org.

Sustainable Keuka Lake

The three year Local Waterfront Revitalization project funded through New York State Department of State for Keuka Lake municipalities is



winding down. The three year project has resulted in five semester-long Cornell University studies; a "toolbox," or guide to municipalities on land use practices around Keuka Lake; and numerous trainings and outreach to better educate the elected officials and public. Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA) for Keuka Lake is a group that meets monthly and works on these issues; after three years of work on the education front, they will now move on to other levels of implementation. They will be writing grants to achieve some of the land use protection goals around the lake and will work with their individual municipalities to adopt more stringent land use regulations that will encourage smart growth while preserving the life the residents love.

2016 Regional Leadership Conference



Keynote Speakers for the conference were G. Thomas Tranter, Corning Enterprises and Co-Chair for Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council (l) , and Mark F. LaVigne, APR Deputy Director for the NYS Association of Counties (r).

The 20th annual regional leadership conference was held on March 31, 2016 at Corning Community College. The conference was a success, and for the first time in 4 years the conference was able to return to a one-day format. Corning Community College graciously hosted us in their newly renovated facilities. Another addition to the 2016 program was the New York Association of Counties (NYSAC) Pelletier Institute courses, offering an accredited program for county officials to receive training. NYSAC provided the program and was able to offer 15 individual county legislators credits towards earning their Pelletier Institute certificate. STC is excited to begin this new partnership with NYSAC through our Regional Leadership Conference program.

The 21st Regional Leadership Conference is scheduled to be held on April 6, 2017. STC is currently gathering information on desired classes and speakers to invite to the conference. We welcome all ideas. Please email your class ideas to Chelsea at: plan@stny.rr.com. It is expected that we will stick to the one day format again in 2017 and look forward to seeing old faces as well as meeting new friends in April!

Steuben County Transportation Study

Steuben County was awarded federal funding in June 2016 from the Appalachian Development Public Transportation Assistance Program (ADTAP) to conduct a county-wide transportation study. Through 2017, STC is working with the Steuben County Planning Department and Steuben County Mobility Manager to carry out the first-ever complete, thorough survey of all transportation resources in Steuben County, including both formal transit agencies as well as community groups and other informal providers. The study focuses on transit not only as a means for the elderly and people with disabilities to access services but also as a way to build employment for everyone, particularly people in the gap between Medicaid transportation and car ownership. The study will produce recommendations on how to improve mobility without significant new services or significant new costs by more efficiently using existing services, coordinating better among these services, and strengthening informal resources to cover gaps. As part of the project, STC will be leading focus groups and interviews with formal and informal transportation providers as well as conducting a targeted survey of transportation users. STC hopes that this study will build on the work of successful regional transportation strategies in other parts of Appalachia in order to provide better access to jobs and services for the people of Steuben County.

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Clean Energy Communities

The Clean Energy Communities program is coming to STC in early December. Local governments in New York State can use this program to save energy costs, create jobs, and improve the environment.

A Clean Energy Coordinator will be employed by STC to work with local governments to take advantage of available funding and technical assistance opportunities and to develop clean energy goals and permitting processes. Funded by NYSERDA (NYS Energy Research and Development Authority), the program will be offered at no cost to local governments.

Look for information about the official start of the program later in November!

GUIDELINES FOR LEVEE-PROTECTED AREAS



The 1972 Tropical Storm Agnes flood overtopped the floodwall in Elmira.

The STC region has about 50 miles of levees that protect developed areas from flooding. Although most of the levee-protected communities are not mapped as high risk flood zones, this does not mean that there is no risk of flooding. No levee system can eliminate all flood risk. In 1972, flood waters from Tropical Storm Agnes overtopped many of the region's levees and wreaked havoc in areas that were thought to be protected. An extreme flood could happen here again.

What can residents and communities do to prepare for the possibility that levees could fail or be overtopped? STC has prepared a fact sheet with guidelines for levee-protected areas. Recommendations include:

- Keep flood risks in mind when locating and designing new development. The City of Corning Fire Station and Corning Incorporated Headquarters building are both elevated above the top of the levee in order to avoid flood damage, even if the levee overtops.

- Use floodproofing techniques that reduce the potential damage to buildings. Utilities can be elevated. Use water-resistant building materials in the lower parts of buildings. Install “check valves” in sewer traps to prevent floodwater from backing up into drains. Fuel tanks should be securely anchored with leak-proof openings.
- Locate vulnerable items upstairs if possible. Important documents can be stored in a waterproof safe or an off-site location.
- Prepare for an emergency. Develop an emergency plan and prepare an emergency kit. Evacuate if told to do so by a government agency.

Consider buying flood insurance. Standard insurance policies do not cover flood damage. You may qualify for a low-cost Preferred Risk Policy.

For the fact sheet or additional information, visit the STC website or contact Janet Thigpen at 607-737-5271.



During the Agnes flood, the floodwall kept the Canisteo River out of Hornell, but trapped runoff from the surrounding hills.



View of the Market Street area of Corning, around what is now the Centerway Square, when the Chemung River overtopped the levee in 1972.

2016
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**left during the year*

STC Staff

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Victoria Ehlen, *Economic Development Coordinator*
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