



July 18, 2019

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER– Chair Dennis Fagan called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM in the STC conference room.

ATTENDANCE

Chemung County – Nicolette Wagoner; David Manchester; Ed Fairbrother;

Schuyler County – Kristin VanHorn; Dennis Fagan; Phil Barnes; Tim O’Hearn; Jim Ryan; Chad Hendrickson

Steuben County – Jack Wheeler; Heather Reynolds; Jenn Miller; Scott VanEtten; Steve Maio

STC Staff – Chelsea Robertson; Victoria Ehlen; Janet Thigpen; Maggie Costello; Brittany McKerlie; Stephanie Yezzi; Yvonne Terwilliger

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – On a motion duly made (Barnes/Wheeler) and carried, the minutes of the June 20, 2019 meeting were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- a) Dennis Fagan reported that regarding the disability insurance, the potential increase in the insurance benefit is still under evaluation.
- b) The Committee is also in the process of clarifying retiree health insurance benefits, with a possible decision on that at next month’s meeting.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

- a) **Abstract of Claims** – The audit committee reviewed abstracts totaling \$48,361.18. On a motion duly made and (VanEtten/VanHorn) and carried, the abstracts were approved.

REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. **CDBG Cameron Housing Project** – Maggie Costello told the Board that the Steuben County town of Cameron has an aging population, and a high low-to-moderate income population. The town supervisor has told her that one of his primary concerns is the housing situation there. In light of this, Cameron would like to submit a grant application to get CDBG funding for a housing needs assessment. They are asking for \$23,750.00 and the town of Cameron would contribute \$1,250.00 for a total of \$25,000.00. The goal here would be to address current and future housing needs in the town, and

ultimately to secure any type of non-profit development agencies looking to rehab or reconstruct some of the homes in Cameron. This grant application is a necessary step in the process of applying for funding for the renovation of these properties.

- 2. 2019 Leadership Conference Report** – Stephanie Yezzi reported that we had a great turnout for the 23rd Annual Leadership Conference on April 4th this year. There were 450 attendees, comprised of local planning and zoning board members, government employees, local officials, community leaders, presenters, and exhibitors. The format was kept the same as last year, with just one day of training and no keynote speaker. There were 37 classes which offered a total of 39 hours of training. Topics ranged from ditch maintenance, aging in place, crisis communication, land use and reducing flood risk. 82% of STC's communities were represented at the conference. The most popular classes seem to be connected with environmental planning and economic planning. According to the completed evaluation forms we received, 87% of the conference attendees considered the training to be useful or very useful. We received donations and sponsors in the amount of \$11,425.00 from county governments and other organizations. The cost for attendees this year was kept the same as the previous year, however, we raised the exhibitor's table fees from \$250 to \$300. This year we ended the conference with a small amount of surplus (\$2,414.00). We will put this toward next year's conference budget. Overall the conference was very successful!

- 3. Intergovernmental Reviews** – Janet Thigpen and Victoria Ehlen

1915 Improving Onsite and Remote Wetland Functional Assessment:

A Focus on New York City Water Supply Basins

Project Applicant: The Research Foundation for SUNY

Description: Request for research funding for wetland assessments and the NYC watershed

Federal Agency: USDA

Cost: Federal: \$301,530.00 Applicant: \$60,822.00 Total: \$402,050.00

1916 Village of Canisteo Water System Improvement Project

Project Applicant: Village of Canisteo

Description: Financial assistance for improvements to the Village's current water system.

Federal Agency: Environmental Protection Agency

Cost: Federal: not listed Applicant: not listed Total: not listed

On a motion duly made (VanEtten/VanHorn) and carried, the intergovernmental reviews were approved.

- 4. Director's Report** – Chelsea Robertson updated the board on STN's application last year for \$25,000 in augmentation funding, the focus of which would be on telecommunications. STN has been hearing a lot from our rural communities that there are educational needs regarding broadband and its barriers, 5G, cell towers and various telecommunications issues. STC has been looking into broadband grants and who might be eligible for them. STN has been looking at creating a redundant loop, so that the broadband has another avenue for communication if there's a break in the system (like when a pole goes down). STN has been able to address all the vulnerable spots, come up with solutions and a cost analysis for this project. The total cost came to \$3.8 million. Chelsea said that we are now a finalist for an ARC coal impacted community grant in the amount of \$1.6 million. We will know in September if that will be funded. The other 40% of the cost will possibly come from EDA at the end of their 2019 cycle. They have told Chelsea that they would like to fund 80% of this. The local match is 20% and 15% would come from STN through Guthrie. The balance could come from a small ESD grant from CFA. The project would be able to address all the issues such as 911, emergency management and redundancy for the entire network making it the strongest network in the region. Chelsea spoke about a Regional Telecommunications Training session that Stephanie Yezzi has put together. It will be on Wednesday evening, July 24th, at the Corning Community College Health

Education Center on Denison Parkway from 4:30 – 8:30. There will be speakers from Rochester Institute of Technology, Harter Secrest & Emery LLP, ECC Technologies and Corning Inc. and discussions will be about telecommunications technologies, 5G deployment, FCC regulations, local regulation “dos and don’ts”, what type build-out is necessary, application review and why it’s all important for us to understand. This training will address the needs of the communities seeking more knowledge about the technology and terminology involved with telecommunications. All are welcome to attend this informative program.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 1. Next Board Meeting** – The next meeting will be on September 26, 2019

ADJOURN – on a motion duly made (Barnes/VanEtten) and carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Yvonne Terwilliger
Executive Assistant