



SOUTHERN TIER CENTRAL REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Meeting Minutes – Virtual Meeting

CALL TO ORDER – Chair, Ernie Hartman, called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. This meeting was conducted virtually

ATTENDANCE

Chemung County – Aaron Dowd; Ernie Hartman; P. Michael Collins; Joe Roman; Tom Tranter; Vinnie Azzarelli

Schuyler County – Kristin VanHorn; Judy McKinney-Cherry, Jim Ryan; Chad Hendrickson; Phil Barnes (joined ½ way though the meeting).

Steuben County –Jenn Miller; Matt Sousa; Jamie Johnson; Jack Wheeler; Steve Maio; Bob Nichols; Heather Reynolds

STC Staff – Chelsea Robertson; Victoria Ehlen; Brittany McKerlie

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On a motion duly made (Johnson/Miller) and carried, the minutes of the February 17, 2022 meeting were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development Policy and Strategy Committee (EDPSC)

- a) **CEDS Presentation & Approval** – Jamie Johnson introduced how the 2022 CEDS process went and talked about how there was a particular focus on workforce and energy with a collaborative process between STC staff, Jamie, Jenn and the rest of the EDPSC committee. Victoria then took over and walked through the CEDS sections. She spoke to how the EDA grant eligibility has changed this year and has created a map based on the best available (EDA acceptable) distressed criteria data. One goal was added this year to the CEDS and that was STC will provide direct assistance to member counties and municipalities in grant seeking, formulation, writing and administration. The project list

pulled together by the EDPSC is on the following pages, with vital projected noted in green. STC addressed workforce challenges and utilized collected workforce data to formulate recommendations for our region. The CEDS also addressed both a retail analysis and housing vacancy. Energy is a huge concern for our region as well as inflation. Judy and Jamie also chatted about minor edits to language concerning transmission of energy. Jamie also noted that it appears that wages are beginning to increase in the region. On a motion duly made (McKinney-Cherry/ Azzarelli) and carried, the 2022 CEDS was approved.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

- a) **Abstract of Claims** - The audit committee reviewed the abstracts totaling \$11,643.99. On a motion duly made (Tranter/McKinney-Cherry) and carried, the abstracts were approved.

REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- 1) **DDAA Conference Notes and Findings** – Chelsea spoke about the DDAA Washington Policy Conference held in mid-March. The DDAA conference has improved significantly over the year. Chelsea said that DDAA stressed the importance of lobbying for grant applications and water/wastewater infrastructure project. CREC has been doing a number of projects offering technical assistance on ARPA funding and a study on the “Future of work in Appalachia”. ARC will have an increased funding in 2022-2023, we are not sure what long term funding levels look like. ARC, region wide, is looking to decrease match requirements for both ARC and EDA, so that we can accept more money. STC will work with ST8 and STW and look at potentially matching our dollars differently. Kyle Wilber at NYS is looking into potential options for ongoing NYS funding to support regional boards. NADO talked a lot about advocacy with us at DDAA and mentioned that earmarks are “back and popular”, NADO can help with sample letters of support and other advocacy resources. NYS is working on the basic agency issue and we hope to have a list of “approved” NYS basic agencies. We’ll give an update on this in a few months.

Broadband update:

- There is a lot of money for middle mile (Federal NTIA program).
- There is a lot of money for unserved (Federal BEAD program).
- Maps are being updated by both FCC and NYS.
- NYS is looking for digital equity and will fund competition.
- NYS will be funding local municipal broadband studies. This money will be released before everything else.

Maps, and funding will begin to be available at the end of 2022 through 2023.

- 2) **Attorney of Record** – STC’s attorney, Jeff Evens, has made a career change and STC is in need of having an “Attorney of Record”. We have found over the years that it doesn’t make sense to pay an attorney a retainer, as we have so little need for legal counsel. We will be paying hourly. The only reason this is timely and urgent is that STC does need an attorney to write a letter for our audit saying that we do not currently have any pending litigation. STC has met with and has previously used Harter Seacrest in the past. We are looking to make them our “Attorney of Record”. On a motion duly made (VanHorn/Tranter) and carried, Harter, Seacrest and Emery LLP has been named the Attorney of Record for STC.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 1) **Meeting time and Date** – STC did a doodle poll to see if there was a better time for us to be meeting every month. The 9am slot on the Third Thursday of the month is still the best time for us to be meeting. The biggest conflict is with Chemung County IDA. We asked Joe if he could move his meeting, he said no. Judy suggested we don’t mess with the date and time until Chemung County formally appoints their reps. So, for now we will keep our normal time and date. Our meetings for the rest of the warmer months will be virtual and not in person again until September. We’ll keep working on the meeting time/date.
- 2) **IDA Project updates** – Ernie asked if there are any IDA updates. Jamie, of Steuben County, said he will be awarding a project to Dalrymple for the new turning lane in bath. Costs are increasing. Joe Roman, of Chemung County, mentioned Ohio Logistics is moving forward, as is Stamp Fittings. Judy said that Schuyler County is at the final stages of having a terms sheet for Camp Monterey. She mentioned the buildings are in good shape, but the access to necessary energy may be a problem.
- 3) **Next Board Meeting** – April 21, 2022 – Virtual

ADJOURN - On a motion duly made, (Johnson/Roman) and carried, the meeting adjourned at 10:06AM.

Respectively submitted,
Chelsea Robertson,
Executive Director