



October 21, 2021

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER– Chair, Carl Blowers, called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM in the STC Conference room. The meeting was a hybrid meeting so board members had the option to either attend in person or through teleconferencing.

ATTENDANCE

Chemung County – Aaron Dowd; Vinnie Azzarelli; Ernie Hartman; Kevin Meindl; Dawn Burlew; Mike Collins,

Schuyler County – Kristin VanHorn; Carl Blowers; Fonda Chronis; Jim Ryan, Phil Barnes

Steuben County – Heather Reynolds; Jack Wheeler; Jenn Miller; Jamie Johnson; Scott VanEtten

STC Staff – Chelsea Robertson; Victoria Ehlen; Brittany McKerlie; Maggie Costello, Janet Thigpen

Guest – Michael Stumpf, Place Dynamics.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – On a motion duly made (VanEtten/Burlew) and carried, the minutes of the September 16, 2021 meeting were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- a) **Staffing updates** – Chelsea updated the committee on the hiring process for both Secretary and Planning positions. The committee discussed appropriate starting salary ranges. Further the committee discussed salary compression and asked what the counties are doing. Schuyler and Steuben are studying existing salaries and studies should be complete by the end of the year. STC will also pull together data on salaries for the current positions in the office.
- b) **Budget Breakfast** – To be scheduled for Monday November 8th at 9am.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

- a) **Abstract of Claims** – The audit committee reviewed abstracts totaling \$27,729.16. On a motion duly made (VanEtten/Johnson) and carried, the abstracts were approved.

REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- 1) **Update on Flood Mapping Project and Risk Rating 2.0**, Janet Thigpen - Our region is still waiting for FEMA mapping to be updated. There is currently no date on when that project is expected to begin. NYS DEC is completing some preliminary work to help inform the FEMA mapping, but that project is delayed as they are waiting on lidar data. Once the DEC project is complete our region will have non-regulatory supplemental data to go along with the region's older floodplain maps. It is likely that sometime after the completion of that project, FEMA will use that data to help inform their mapping efforts.

FEMA has drastically reworked how they rate a properties flood insurance. The goal is to charge insurance rates based on the risk of the structure. The process has not been completely transparent,

as such we are concerned about the data being used. We are waiting to see more from FEMA to better understand the new rating system. It appears that one third of our region's policies rates will go down, half of the policies rates will go up less than \$120 a year and 5% will see increases of over \$250 a year. We do not know who falls into which category yet. We hope to come back to the board in a few months with more information.

- 2) **Cares Act Data Update**— Michael Stumpf from Place Dynamics presented, in person, an update on data collected as a part of the EDA Cares act project. Michael discussed employment by industry, asked the group about the region's existing industry clusters. Discussed the similarities between our region's wineries and what he has experienced out west. Jamie Johnson expressed concern over the data being before the pandemic. Chelsea explained it is the only data available for everyone to use and that we have to start somewhere.

Michael also said we have access to mobile device data that is current. He asked the group if there are certain areas, retail, business parks, employment locations where we'd like to see mobile device data for a particular area. Jenn Miller expressed she'd be interested in seeing everything. Jamie expressed he would be most interested in seeing downtown data.

Michael expressed, to the board, to let him know what areas individuals are most interested in.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 1) **Next Board Meeting** – November 18, 2021

ADJOURN - On a motion duly made, (VanEtten/Johnson) and carried, the meeting adjourned at 10:02am

Respectively submitted,
Chelsea Robertson,
Executive Director