



## SOUTHERN TIER CENTRAL REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Thursday, February 19, 2026  
In-person

### ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Jack Wheeler, called the STC Board Meeting to order promptly at 9:00 a.m.

#### ATTENDANCE

Chemung County – Courtney Dunn, Anita Lewis, David McCormick, and Joe Roman

Schuylers County – Shawn Rosno, Joann Lindstrom, and Mark Rondinaro

Steuben County – Kelly Fitzpatrick, Tom Hauryski, Jamie Johnson, Jenn Miller, Marie Myers Shearing, and Jack Wheeler

STC Staff – Chelsea Robertson, Katie Heverly, Jack Cook, Victoria Ehlen, Liv Lovejoy, Dot Richter, Cathy Rook, Alison Salisbury, and Janet Thigpen

#### WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

- a. Chelsea Robertson introduced **new STC Senior Planner, Alison Salisbury**, to the board. Alison recently returned to the Southern Tier region, after 15 years of working as a Foreign Service Officer abroad, to begin her new role at STC on February 2, 2026. Welcome Alison!
- b. Chelsea also introduced two **new STC Board members: David McCormick**, Chemung County Planning Commissioner, and **Courtney Dunn**, Chemung County Transit Manager. We are very happy to have Dave and Courtney join the board. Welcome!

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion duly made (Joe Roman and Kelly Fitzpatrick) and carried, the January 15, 2026, **Board Meeting Minutes** were approved.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 1. **Nominating Committee and Annual Meeting**

- a. Jack Wheeler presented the nominations for the **2026 STC Board Leadership**:  
Chair – Shawn Rosno, Schuyler County  
Vice Chair – Jennifer Furman, Chemung County  
Treasurer – Katie Heverly, STC  
Secretary – Chelsea Robertson, STC

On a motion duly made (Jack Wheeler and Jenn Miller) and carried, the board approved the leadership nominations.

- b. Chelsea Robertson presented the STC **2026 Committee Assignments** to the board and reviewed particular assignment requirements and changes. On a motion duly made (Jamie Johnson and Mark Rondinaro) and carried, the Committee Assignments were approved.

### 2. **Audit Committee**

- a. The **Abstract of Claims** presentation was made by Jamie Johnson. On a motion duly made (Jamie Johnson and Mark Rondinaro) and carried, 6 abstracts totaling \$11,935.39 were approved.

### 3. **Budget and Personnel Committee**

- a. An update regarding the **Status of Federal Funding** was made by Chelsea Robertson. Chelsea stated the STC Budget and Personnel Committee did not meet prior to the Board Meeting today because the federal budget has been passed and not much has changed with the ongoing federal funding delays. EDA funding was awarded to all NYS regions except ST8 and STC. To help secure EDA Planning Partnership Grant funding for our region, Chelsea has been working directly with 4 elected officials: Congresswoman Claudia Tenney, Congressman Nick Langworthy (his office has been very engaged and helpful), Senator Chuck Schumer, and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. Kelly Fitzpatrick asked if letters of support from STC Board Members would be helpful regarding the EDA funding issue. Chelsea stated she is hoping to hear back soon from the elected officials she spoke to but that letters of support may be needed. Mark Rondinaro, President of the Inter-County Association of Western NY, said they have a meeting tomorrow that Claudia Tenney is also scheduled to attend. Mark said he will bring up the funding delay issue on behalf of STC. Jamie Johnson also offered his assistance stating he will set up an introduction with Claudia Tenny's Outreach Director, Allison Barkowski, to Chelsea Robertson.

### 4. **Economic Development Policy & Strategy Committee (EDPSC)**

- a. Victoria Ehlen presented the **ARC Waitlist** to the Board for approval. Victoria said she spoke with 7 different organizations over the past two months resulting in 4 waitlist applications that were reviewed by the EDPSC. The funding request for the 4 projects totals \$1,083,532 and the applicant rankings given by the EDPSC are as follows:
  - Score 99 - City of Hornell, Hornell Intermunicipal Wastewater Engineering
  - Score 89 - City of Hornell IDA, Shawmut Industrial Park Access Road Project
  - Score 87 - United Way of Southern Tier, Building Capacity Impact Exchange
  - Score 77 - EOP Chemung County, Engineering - Ernie Davis Community Center and Legends Hall

On a motion duly made (Mark Rondinaro and Kelly Fitzpatrick) and carried, the ARC Waitlist applications were approved for submission to NYS for review and then hopefully inclusion into their 2026 funding package. Anita Lewis abstained.

## REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. Chelsea Robertson gave a planning update for **STC's 29<sup>th</sup> annual Regional Leadership Conference**. The conference date is June 11, 2026, and will be held at SUNY Corning Community College. Save-the-Date flyers were given out to the board members. To date, we have 12 vendors, 4 sponsorships (for canvas tote bags, lanyards with name tags, breakfast, and lunch) and 3 advertisements and all vendor and sponsor payments have been collected. The venue space has room for up to 25 vendor tables and STC plans to offer some invitational vendor tables to a few non-profits. Currently, Chelsea Robertson and Alison Salisbury are working on the class schedule and obtaining speaker commitments. Chelsea asked if any board member has an interest in speaking at this year's conference or if they have any suggestions for class topics, to please let her know. The next planning phase will focus on rolling the class schedule into the participant registration form for distribution to the local governments in the STC region.
2. The **Grants Update** was presented by Chelsea Robertson who began by congratulating Dot Richter, STC's Grant Administrator, for securing a \$400,000 Housing Rehab grant award for the T. of Corning's CDBG program. It's the same program STC rolled out for the T. of Cameron four years ago and then later to the T. of Thurston. Great job Dot! Chelsea also stated that 604b funding is coming in slowly. STC was awarded a LGE (Local Government Efficiency) grant and has signed the contract, so STC expects to see that funding soon. Chelsea also mentioned the TTAP (Twin Tiers ARISE Program) employer survey developed and distributed by Victoria Ehlen. Victoria commented that a few responses from the Twin Tiers region were received, specifically 10 responses from the Horseheads area, 3 from Corning, and a few from Hornell, but more responses would be appreciated. Chelsea asked the board to please help distribute the employer survey to any of their contacts that are appropriate. Jack Cook and Jenn Miller submitted applications to the Municipal Parks & Recreation (MPR) grant, as did the Town of Southport, and Chelsea Robertson submitted a small application on behalf of the Town of Thurston. The MPR grant amount is capped at \$900,000 per project. Everyone is anxious to see their MPR grant applications awarded.
3. Chelsea Robertson gave a **Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA)** update. The EDA now requires all Regional Boards to complete a NICRA, but none of the consultants STC reached out to for assistance had experience creating a NICRA for a regional board or local government. So STC Accountant, Katie Heverly, stepped up and dove into the process details to establish a NICRA rate for STC. Thanks to Katie's efforts over several months, STC has received its federal NICRA designation - final for 2025 and provisional for 2026 - and can now charge indirect cost rates where applicable. Chelsea commented that this is a really big deal for STC and "Great job, Katie!"

## INTER-BOARD REPORTING

1. The **2026 Inter-Board Reporting Schedule (DRAFT)** was presented by Chelsea Robertson to the board for their review. Beginning in 2025, STC Board members who sit on other boards throughout the STC region, were asked to present brief inter-board reports to STC sharing the happenings and highlights from the other organizations. To continue the inter-board reporting program in 2026, a draft schedule was created so board members know which month their presentations are due. Because there are so many other organizations, it will take two years to cycle through the complete list of inter-board reports. The inter-board reports are extremely helpful to STC providing current information and finding coordination among organizations, especially leading into grant

segments. If any amendments are needed to the schedule, please let Chelsea know.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

1. Chelsea Robertson reminded the board there is **no STC Board Meeting in March**. However, Chelsea will be reaching out to the new STC board members in March or April to schedule an orientation session with them.
2. The **next STC Board Meeting** will be held **virtually on April 16, 2026**.
3. Chelsea Robertson alerted the board to some **parking issues** (involving other tenants in the building) that led The Krog Group to issue parking permits to all tenants/staff of the building. Visitors are allowed to park in the parking lot as long as it is only a short-term stay (not all day). If the lot is full, there is additional parking by the day-care center, along 1<sup>st</sup> Street, or along Pine Street. If parking becomes too problematic, then Chelsea stated the solution may be to move the board meetings to Thursday afternoons or to Friday mornings when parking is more available.
4. Liv Lovejoy shared with the board that on February 24, from 5:30 - 7:30 pm, a Public Participation Meeting will be held at the Odessa Community Room to begin the walkability study for **Odessa's Complete Streets Plan**. Then on March 21, from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, a community walk is scheduled for approximately 1 mile around downtown Odessa for participants to identify problem, priority or opportunity areas along the streets. Participants are encouraged to share their observations with the STC Project Contact, Liv Lovejoy. On April 12, from 2:00 – 4:30 pm, at the Odessa Community Room, a Public Participation Meeting will be held for the public to review recommendations and strategies based on the findings from the previous public meeting, community walk, and charrette activities set up at the Dutton S. Peterson Memorial Library. Residents are encouraged to provide their feedback. This walkability study was funded through the Schuyler County Dept of Health.

#### ADJOURN

On a motion duly made (Jack Wheeler and Kelly Fitzpatrick) and carried, the Board Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.