



SOUTHERN TIER CENTRAL REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Thursday, April 16, 2026
(Virtual)

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Shawn Rosno, called the STC Board Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Chemung County – Jennifer Furman, Courtney Dunn, Ernie Hartman, Anita Lewis, Joe Roman, Judith Rowe, and Kyle Sullivan

Schuyler County – Shawn Rosno, Carl Blowers, Joann Lindstrom, Judy McKinney Cherry, and Mark Rondinaro

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

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

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Shawn Rosno briefly introduced four new members to the STC Board of Directors and will formerly introduce each member at next month's in-person Board Meeting. Welcome to our new Board Members!

- Hilda Lando, Steuben County Legislature
- Michael Volino, Steuben County Legislature
- Courtney Dunn, Chemung County Transit Manager
- David McCormick, Chemung County Planning Commissioner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion duly made (Ernie Hartman and Jamie Johnson) and carried, the **February 19, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes** were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **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, 8 abstracts totaling \$19,724.18 were approved.

2. **Budget and Personnel Committee**

- a. The **Committee report** was given by Shawn Rosno who announced that Janet Thigpen, STC Flood Mitigation Specialist, will be retiring sometime this summer. Chelsea Robertson will be submitting job postings for Janet's position and asked the Board to please share the job opening with their networks.
- b. Chelsea Robertson presented the **Budget and EDA update** stating STC still has not received EDA funding from our 3-year contract. Chelsea had several meetings with the EDA and our elected officials are actively involved on behalf of STC, so some progress has been made. Chelsea thanked the Board for their help contacting elected officials to discuss the EDA funding delay and stated she would keep the board in the loop for any further developments.

3. **Economic Development Policy and Strategy Committee**

- a. The **Fiscal Year 2027 ARC Cycle** presentation was given by Victoria Ehlen. Victoria stated, typically at this time of year, we would be in discussions planning for the fall Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) application deadline. However, since the implementation of the new ARC Pathway system and New York State's preference to review all applications simultaneously, STC will now utilize a pre-application with an earlier deadline like the other LDDs (Local Development Districts) in NYS do. The Pathways system provides an easy-to-use application format (using a single Word document versus the multiple forms previously used) and review capability. Victoria gave an overview demonstration of what a non-construction application looks like in Pathways, noted that the SF-424 questions are shown in a checkbox format, and that the EDSPC or any other reviewing committee can access the materials. The new system shows the executive summary first and then asks questions regarding the organizational capacity, partnerships, budget, and performance measures before asking for the project description. Victoria concluded her report by asking the Board for approval to open an ARC grants cycle with an approximate start date of May 1st and approximate end date of June 26th. The goal is to have the ARC applications complete and ready for committee review prior to the CFA (Consolidated Funding Deadline), as ARC grants are well matched by CFA grants.
On a motion duly made (Mark Rondinaro and Judith Rowe) and carried, approval was given for STC to open a new ARC grants cycle.

REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. The **2025 Annual Report Debut** was presented by Chelsea Robertson who thanked the STC staff for a job well done. STC's Annual Report is uploaded to STC's website and Chelsea will email a direct link to the report to all Board members. Printed copies of the Annual Report (in its booklet form) will be handed out at the in-person May Board meeting. Last year, a Return on Investment section was added to the Annual Report, which was very popular and appreciated by the counties, and was therefore included again this year. Although programs do not run by calendar year, Chelsea said that STC did an excellent job of outlining 2025 activities for technical services provided, ARC grants

transmitted, funding secured, and regional initiatives and municipal contracts to reflect each county's return on their investment. Some of the other sections in the Annual Report are: ARC, Regional Leadership Conference, TTAP, EDA, special projects STC is working on, CSC, Broadband Expansion, CDBG, and Water Quality/Flood Resilience. Chelsea encouraged the Board to please review the Annual Report and reach out to her if there are any questions.

2. An **ESD (Empire State Development) Housing Initiative** presentation was given by Chelsea Robertson. Southern Tier 8 (east of STC) is currently conducting their own Housing Initiative, for their 8 counties, funded by ARC. As ST8 began their study, ESD approached STC and ST8 simultaneously about doing a Housing Initiative study for the Southern Tier ESD Region (which incorporates both STC and ST8) to be paid for by ESD. Chelsea let ESD know that STC would gladly participate in the ESD Regional study, would provide the latest housing needs assessments, and collaborate to address the housing needs in the region. Since ST8 had already started their own Housing Initiative approximately 3 months ago and was actively collecting data, ESD decided they would wait and begin their wider-area housing study after ST8 finishes theirs. Chelsea is also speaking regularly with Omar Sanders, the ESD Southern Tier Regional Director, and will keep the Board informed as things progress.
3. The **Intergovernmental Review** presentations were given by Alison Salisbury.
 - a. **IGOR 2602** – Alison Salisbury / Janet Thigpen
APPLICANT: NYSDEC Division of Water requested \$14,000,000 in federal funding from the Performance Partnership Grant (PPG) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for fiscal year 2026. The application combines funding from two categorical grants (Clean Water Act Sections 106 and 319) into the PPG, which supports DEC efforts to prevent, reduce and eliminate water pollution to both surface water and groundwater. Review comments were received from Janet Thigpen and Marie Myers Shearing. STCRPDB approved with comments and the Date of Clearing House Action for IGOR 2602 was 3/18/26 (to meet the 30-day process timeframe).
 - b. **IGOR 2603** – Alison Salisbury / Janet Thigpen
APPLICANT: NYSDEC Division of Water requested \$5,000,000 in federal funding through the EPA's Mandatory Grant Programs for State FY26-27 Clean Water Act 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning. The 2026 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning Grant will fund efforts in alignment with the three main components of the work plan: Water Quality Management and Planning, Water Quality Standards, and Total Maximum Daily Loads. Three review comments were received from Joe Roman, Janet Thigpen, and Marie Myers Shearing and one "no comment" was received from David McCormick. STCRPDB approved with comments and the Date of Clearing House Action for IGOR 2603 was 3/18/26 (to meet the 30-day process timeframe).
 - c. **IGOR 2604** – Alison Salisbury / Janet Thigpen
APPLICANT: The Town of Erwin, IDA, requested \$185,895 in federal funding for the Corning-Painted Post Airport (7N1) - Rehabilitate Transient Aircraft Apron (Design) Project. The project is the design and bidding phase service for the rehabilitation of the transient aircraft parking apron with an asphalt mill and overlay treatment and full depth spot repairs. This project includes topographic surveying and mapping, geotechnical investigation, design of pavement, grading, drainage, pavement markings and tie-down system. The project also includes

relocation and raising of an electrical duct-bank transecting the apron. A positive comment with condition to approve the project was received from Janet Thigpen, who wrote, “This project MUST be covered by a Floodplain Development Permit from the Town of Erwin.” Another comment was received from Marie Myers Shearing stating it could be adverse “depending upon where the relocation of the electrical duct-bank transecting the apron is” and that “this agency has no interest in the project.” STCRPDB approved with comments/conditions and the Date of Clearing House Action for IGOR 2604 was 3/18/26 (to meet the 30-day process timeframe).

d. **IGOR 2605** – Alison Salisbury / Janet Thigpen

APPLICANT: NYSDEC Division of Water requested \$96,087 in federal funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the NY Chesapeake Bay Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) Grant to support ongoing efforts to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay by implementing projects that reduce nutrients and sediment in the Chesapeake Bay watershed in New York. Three comments to approve were received from James Diederich, Joe Roman, and Marie Myers Shearing. STCRPDB approved with comments and the Date of Clearing House Action for IGOR 2605 was 3/18/26 (to meet the 30-day process timeframe).

e. **IGOR 2606** – Alison Salisbury

APPLICANT: NYSDEC Division of Air Resources requested Federal Assistance for Clean Air Act, Section 103, Air Pollution Control Grant funding to be used to support two National Air Toxics Trend Stations (NATTS) in New York State, located in Rochester and the Bronx. NYSDEC’s application is for \$358,000 in federal funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for State Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

On a motion duly made (Marie Myers Shearing and James Johnson) and carried, Intergovernmental Review 2606 was approved.

INTER-BOARD REPORTING

1. Jamie Johnson presented an inter-board report for the **Finger Lakes Wine Country Tourism Marketing Association Inc.** Jamie said he and Sean Rosno both sit on the FLWC board which is responsible for developing a brand to showcase the 5-county tourism region of Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, and Yates counties. Originally the brand focus was solely on regional wine assets, but over the years, the brand message has expanded to include the beauty of the region, outdoor experiences, and year-round affordable activities that attract tourists. The brand messaging is promoted through an integrated marketing program that includes websites, paid media, social media, and most importantly influencer relationships. Jamie also stated the organization is currently in transition. At the beginning of this year, longtime President Laury Ward, retired and the FLWC Board decided to transition away from paid staff to a board-run organization to eliminate administrative costs and focus on tourism related contracts. The board also decided to seek an internationally known firm to handle and promote all of the marketing for FLWC and recently reviewed marketing proposals submitted from around the country. The firm selected will manage the outside relationships and implement the FLWC vision for promoting tourism in the area while the board will handle the local investor relations and work closely with local partners. Finalizing this transition will take place over the next few weeks and months and the board is excited about the new direction and marketing

opportunities for FLWC.

2. Joann Lindstrom, the Director of Planning for the **Schuyler County Planning Commission**, presented an inter-board report. The Schuyler County PC is comprised of 17 community members, one representative from each of the 8 townships, one representative from each of the 4 villages, and 5 more representatives who are leaders in Agriculture, Business, Industry, the Medical field, and Tourism within Schuyler County. The current board is very strong, involved, well-educated, and interested in the reviews that come before them. County Planning Commissions are required in NYS by general municipal law and meet monthly. Half of the towns in Schuyler County do not have zoning and only 3 out of the 4 villages have zoning, so not many referrals are received by comparison to neighboring counties. One of the biggest challenges for the board is educating the municipalities on the requirements for sending referrals. Over the past couple of years, the Schuyler County PC has received a lot of special use permits for short-term rentals, specifically in the Town of Dix and the Town of Reading. Joann concluded her report stating a few days ago the NYS Dept of State came to Montour Falls to conduct an evening training for the local Planning and Zoning Board members and the Schuyler County Planning Commission members.
3. Marie Myers Shearing sits on the board for **Steuben County Conference & Visitors Bureau Inc, DBA Explore Steuben**, and presented an inter-board report. Marie stated Hilda Lando is also on this board and that the SCCVB 2025 Annual Report was recently completed and is available online. Kevin Peterson is the President of SCCVB and Dave DeGolyer, Director of Communications, will be retiring on May 1st. SCCVB is very active on social media with Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube/@ExploreSteuben, and the Explore Steuben App. Visitors may also learn more about the county by visiting the website at ExploreSteuben.com. The ExploreSteuben website is very engaging and informative, highlighting communities, things to do, places to eat or stay, events, and contains video and podcast links. Something new that will roll out soon is the Tourism Academy Hospitality Training Initiative, which is an online tourism learning platform. The Corning Museum of Glass has already made plans for their customer service representatives to use this new platform. Marie also mentioned the Steuben County Destination Management Plan (DMP) and Steuben Placement and Revitalization Council Colab (SPARC), comprised of 6 pods that meet separately to focus on tourism and getting projects moving. Hilda Lando added that through Steuben County's Destination Development Grants (DDG) program a total of \$100,000 was approved for various non-profit organizations in the county to encourage tourism. Victoria Ehlen added a reminder that an ARC grant application could potentially double the county's DDG grant award money, if Steuben County is identified as the match.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. The **next STC board meeting** will be in-person at STC on **May 21, 2026**.
2. Chelsea Robertson reminded everyone that the **2026 Regional Leadership Conference is June 11, 2026**, and the **deadline for submitting participant registration forms and payments is May 22nd**. Chelsea asked the Board to please share the registration information with their municipalities and contacts.

ADJOURN

On a motion duly made (Mark Rondinaro and Jenn Miller) and carried, the Board Meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.