



Flood Recovery & Water Resource Specialist

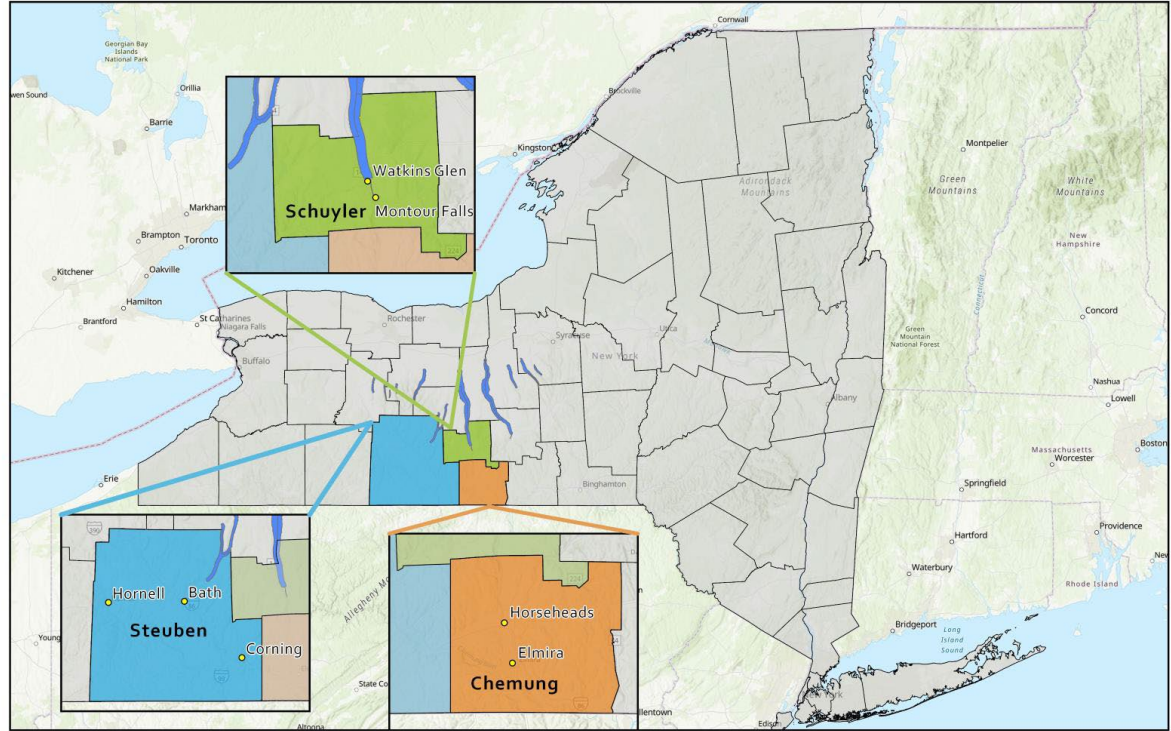
Expected Salary Range: \$65,000 - \$90,000

Southern Tier Central Regional Planning & Development Board

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Who is STC?

Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board (STC) is a regional planning organization that serves Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben counties in New York State. STC works in partnership with local governments, economic and community development organizations, and human services agencies to address shared regional challenges and improve the economy, environment, and quality of life across jurisdictional boundaries. It also functions as the designated local development district for the Appalachian Regional Commission and the U.S. Economic Development Administration, helping bring federal investment and technical assistance to the Southern Tier region while acting as a bridge between local, state, and federal partners.



STC's Offices are located in Corning, New York. The 3-county region includes three cities (Elmira, Corning and Hornell) and a total of 76 municipalities. Founded in 1969, STC is governed by a board of directors and is recognized by New York State as a quasi-governmental entity. Currently STC has a staff of 8 and is looking to add two positions; an Environmental Planner / Senior Planner as well as a Flood Recovery Specialist.

More information concerning STC's current work and budget can be found here: [STC 2025 Annual Report](#).



About the Southern Tier Central Region

The Southern Tier Central (STC) region of New York, covering Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben counties, is a predominantly rural with approximately 190,000 residents. Its economy functions moderately well but continues to face challenges related to persistent poverty, low workforce participation, aging infrastructure, housing constraints, and high regulatory and energy costs. The region has a strong manufacturing base, particularly in rail, glass, fiber optics, and advanced manufacturing, alongside a stable but evolving agricultural sector that includes dairy, vineyards, and value-added products.

Geographically and environmentally, the region benefits from abundant water resources, clean air, low natural disaster risk, and a high quality of life supported by outdoor recreation and safe communities. Development patterns are shaped by river valleys, historic floodplains, and varied terrain, with urban centers concentrated near waterways and rural lands supporting agriculture and forestry. Infrastructure coverage is widespread but uneven, with notable concerns related to electric grid capacity, broadband competition in rural areas, and aging transportation assets. Despite these challenges, the Southern Tier Central region plays an important role in New York's economy, contributing over \$12 billion annually to state GDP while offering opportunities tied to collaboration, available land, advanced technology, and innovation within its established manufacturing and agricultural traditions.



Flood Recovery & Water Resource Specialist

Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board (STC) is growing and seeking a Senior Flood Recovery & Water Resources Specialist to lead highly technical flood recovery, flood mitigation, and water resource programming across a three-county region.

This senior-level position plays a regional leadership role in flood recovery planning, watershed management, hazard mitigation, and grant-funded infrastructure and resilience programs. The Specialist will work closely with counties, municipalities, state and federal agencies, and partner organizations to develop, implement, and coordinate complex flood recovery and risk-reduction efforts.

This is a full-time civil service position, with a civil service exam to be administered at a later date. Regular attendance at evening meetings is required (average two per month).

About the Role

STC seeks a highly experienced and technically skilled professional with demonstrated expertise in floodplain management, flood recovery, water resources, environmental planning, and intergovernmental coordination. This role requires the ability to exercise independent judgment, manage complex regulatory and grant requirements, and serve as a technical resource and mentor within a multidisciplinary planning organization.

Strong written and oral communication skills are essential, as this position frequently represents STC in technical discussions with municipal leaders, agency staff, consultants, and the public.



Essential Duties and Responsibilities

The Senior Flood Recovery & Water Resources Specialist will:

- Serve as STC's technical lead for flood recovery, flood mitigation, and water resource planning
- Collaborate with local, state, and federal partners to identify, evaluate, and prioritize flood recovery and mitigation projects
- Compile, manage, and analyze flood, hydrologic, environmental, and spatial data, and prepare technical documentation, statistics, plans, maps, and reports
- Develop written and oral materials explaining flood recovery strategies, flood risk management approaches, and mitigation best practices
- Engagement with water quality groups concerned with the Finger Lakes, the Upper Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay watershed and associated tributaries
- Provide high-level technical assistance to counties, municipalities, water quality groups, and environmental organizations
- Review and provide expert input on floodplain-related studies, plans, and projects initiated by FEMA, NYS agencies, federal partners, non-profits, and consultants
- Lead grant seeking, writing, administration, and compliance for flood recovery, flood mitigation, water quality, and resilience funding programs
- Monitor and interpret federal and state regulations and policy related to flooding, wetlands, levees, stormwater, and water quality
- Deliver training, outreach, and public presentations on floodplain management, flood recovery, hazard mitigation, and stream processes
- Coordinate with emergency management, land use, and public works partners to assist in updating flood recovery plans, mitigation strategies, warning systems, and response procedures
- Maintain active participation in regional, statewide, and national professional organizations focused on flooding, stormwater, and water resources
- Provide technical planning input on drainage improvements, flood protection infrastructure, floodplain restoration, and resilience projects

Qualifications

The minimum qualifications include: A bachelor's or master's degree in planning, environmental studies, geography, public administration, engineering, or a related field, along with relevant professional experience of 2 or more years. Regular attendance at evening meetings is required (average of two per month).

This is a highly technical role. Strong candidates will demonstrate experience in the following areas:

- ★ *Advanced knowledge of floodplain management, flood recovery, and hazard mitigation (CFM or close alignment with ASFPM standards)*
- ★ *Technical experience working with FEMA, NYS DHSES, Army Corps of Engineers, and other federal and state agencies*
- ★ *Extensive experience with federal and state grant programs, including writing, budgeting, reporting, and compliance*
- ★ *Proficiency with GIS, spatial analysis, and flood-related mapping*
- ★ *Familiarity with hydrology, geomorphology, watershed processes, and flood risk modeling concepts*
- ★ *Strong data analysis, problem-solving, and technical writing skills*
- ★ *Proven ability to manage multiple complex projects simultaneously*
- ★ *Skilled public speaker with experience presenting technical concepts to non-technical audiences*
- ★ *Demonstrated ability to work independently while also leading collaborative, multi-partner efforts*
- ★ *Experience stepping into a technical leadership role within an organization or program*

Preferred Certifications & Technical Skills

The following are not required, but are considered significant assets for this senior-level role:

- Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM)
- Advanced GIS expertise (ArcGIS, geodatabases, spatial analysis)
- Experience with hazard mitigation plans, flood recovery action plans, or watershed implementation plans
- Familiarity with environmental permitting and regulatory coordination
- Experience supporting Climate Resilience, CDBG-MIT, HMGP, BRIC, or similar programs

Work Environment at STC

STC is a small friendly team of professionals who work closely together to meet the needs of our region. Our collaborative office environment provides a flexible 35-hour work week and extensive benefits such as NYS Retirement System, 457 plans and platinum-level health insurance. While staff generally report to the office daily, regular travel throughout the region and occasional night meetings can also be expected. Policies allowing for a 4-day work week exist and an accommodating family-friendly flexible schedule is allowed.

How to Apply

Please apply by submitting a resume, relevant work samples and a cover letter to: Chelsea Robertson, Executive Director at crobertson@stcplanning.org

