



June 18, 2015 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER—Chair Donna Draxler called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM in the STC Conference room.

ATTENDANCE

Chemung County – Ted Bennett; Donna Draxler; Randy Olthof; Tom Tranter

Schuyler County – Dennis Fagan; Tim O’Hearn; Kristin VanHorn

Steuben County – Mark Alger; Amy Dlugos; James Johnson; Steven Maio

STC Staff – Marcia Weber; Susan Cratsley; Victoria Ehlen; Chelsea Robertson; Janet Thigpen; Laurie Thompson; Dan Wilhelm

INTRODUCTION – Chair Donna Draxler introduced Steuben County Legislator and new STC board member, Steven Maio, and Laurie Thompson, who is assisting Dan Wilhelm with accounting. Everyone introduced him/herself.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – On a motion duly made (Alger/Johnson) and carried, the minutes from the March 19, 2015 and May 14, 2015 meetings were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Audit Committee**

a) **Abstract of Claims** – the audit committee reviewed abstracts totaling \$84,050.05 (March – June). On a motion duly made (Tranter/Alger) and carried, the abstracts were approved.

2. **Approval of the STC 2014 Audit** (emailed) - On a motion duly made (Tranter/Fagan) and carried, the 2014 audit was accepted as presented.

3. **Budget and Personnel**

a) A joint grant application for NYSERDA funding is being submitted by the members of the New York State Association of Regional Councils (NYSARC), of which STC is a member. The grant is for Cleaner Greener and Smart Growth. The actual applicants for the funding will be the Capital District for the eastern part of the state and Central NY for the western part, which includes STC, STE, and STW. All planning boards will contribute match to the project. Because this match was not in the original STC budget, the Budget and Personnel committee discussed this proposal and recommended that the board approve STC’s contributing the match. On a motion duly made (Alger/Johnson) and carried, the board approved STC’s participating in the grant application and contributing the match.

REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. **Flood Program Update** – Janet Thigpen, CFM, STC Flood Mitigation Specialist gave the following report:
 - a) **Baseline Water Quality Program** – The STC application for 4 more years of 604(b) funding to support the baseline water quality program was approved.
 - b) **Stormwater** – STC is completing a review of Big Flats and Southport local land use codes for consistency with current standards for stormwater management. STC is developing an application for Water Quality Improvement Program funding to conduct this type of code review for other MS4 municipalities.
 - c) **State Flood Risk Management Standard** – Janet has been asked to participate in the Drafting Team for a State Flood Risk Management Standard.
 - d) **NFIP Reforms** – Increases in flood insurance costs took effect in April, and Janet is addressing questions.
 - e) **Community Rating System (CRS)** – Janet is facilitating a Community Rating System (CRS) Users Group and working with local communities to improve their classification.
 - f) **Flood Resistant STC Region** – Janet has conducted several flood education and training sessions.
 - g) **Flood Smart Communities** – STC will partner with The Nature Conservancy on a Flood Smart Communities project.
 - h) **ASFPM** – Janet has been involved in national flood policy issues through the Association of State Flood Plain Managers (ASFPM) and was re-elected to the Board of Directors.
 - i) **Flood Warning** – Janet continues to work with EES and the local Flood Warning System as it transitions into updated software and operating procedures.
 - j) **Other** - STC is included in a joint proposal that will be submitted for preparing the Steuben County hazard mitigation plan.

2. **2015 Regional Leadership Conference** (in packets) - Chelsea Robertson, STC Senior Planner, reported that another successful Regional Leadership Conference took place in April. The two day schedule seems to accommodate the large crowds it draws from all three counties.

33 sessions were held, with more than 400 people in attendance. The revenue from sponsorships and registration fees increased this year but still ran at a deficit due to the increase in the cost of food and materials. The conference planning committee is looking at ways to increase funding for next year with the goal of making the conference self-sustaining in the future.

3. **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Approval (CEDS)** handed out at the meeting - The CEDS was updated and revised on June 10, 2015 by the Economic Development Policy and Strategy Committee based on input from a variety of individuals and community organizations. STC will be required to do a complete 5 year update in March 2016. On a motion duly made (Alger/Olthof) and carried, the CEDS was approved as presented for submission to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) by June 30, 2015.

4. **Planning School** – Planning School was a great success, and planning for the fall is underway. If anyone has any suggestions for sessions, please let Victoria know.
5. **Visit June 2 by Appalachian Regional Commission Executive Director** – STC hosted a visit for ARC Executive Director Scott Hamilton to show him what STC is doing in the region with ARC funds. They visited the Ceramics Corridor/Incubator Works in Erwin and the new incubator building in the Town of Big Flats; discussed the Southern Tier Network and how that is benefiting the area; and visited the Town of Southport to talk about their Economic Development Plan.
6. **Intergovernmental Review
1508 Housing Preservation Grant (HPG)**
Project Applicant: Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation, Inc.
Description: 8 owner-occupied single family homes will receive housing rehabilitation grants to correct health and safety hazards and energy inefficiency.
Federal Agency: US Dept. of Agriculture, HPG program
Cost: Federal: \$33,631 State: \$67,200 Applicant: \$8,400 Total: \$109,231

STC staff recommends approval. On a motion duly made (Alger/O’Hearn) and carried, the intergovernmental review was approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Old Business** – no old business
2. **New Business** – Ted Bennett handed out the new I-86 Travel Guide.
3. **Next Board Meeting** - the next board meeting will be on July 16, 2015.
4. **Other** – with Mark Alger’s impending retirement, this will be his last meeting. The board and staff thanked Mark for his tenure and guidance and wished him the best.

ADJOURN – on a motion duly (Alger/Bennett) and carried, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cratsley
Executive Assistant