



March 17, 2016 Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER– Chair Donna Draxler called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM in the STC Conference room.

ATTENDANCE

Chemung County – Ted Bennett; Donna Draxler; Ernie Hartman; Kimberlee Middaugh; Randy Reid

Schuyler County – Phil Barnes; Kate Bartholomew; Judy McKinney Cherry; Tim O’Hearn; Kristin VanHorn

Steuben County – Amy Dlugos; Joe Hauryski; James Johnson; Steve Maio; Robert Nichols; Scott VanEtten; Jack Wheeler; Alan Reed – ex-officio

STC Staff – Marcia Weber; Susan Cratsley; Brittany McKerlie; Chelsea Robertson; Kemberli Sargent

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – On a motion duly made (McKinney Cherry/Johnson) and carried, the minutes of the February 18, 2016 meeting were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Audit Committee**

- a) **Abstract of Claims** – the audit committee reviewed abstracts totaling \$3,676.99. On a motion duly made (VanEtten/Hauryski) and carried, the abstracts were approved.

2. **Budget and Personnel**

- a) Staff Resignation – Kemberli Sargent, STC Planner, is moving to Atlanta. Efforts to hire a new planner are underway.
- b) Update on STC Accounting – with Brittany McKerlie as new Accountant, the accounting process is moving forward; 2015 will be closed out soon.
- c) Travel Reimbursement Rate – the budget and personnel committee recommends that the travel reimbursement rate be increased to \$.54 per mile, in line with the General Services Administration (GSA) guidelines. On a motion duly made (Hartman/Bartholomew) and carried, the travel reimbursement rate will be increased.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

1. Appalachian Regional Commission Conference, Washington, DC – the conference will be attended by Marcia Weber, Victoria Ehlen, and Amy Dlugos. A major topic will be the ARC POWER initiative relating to coal-impacted communities, which was discussed at the last STC board meeting. Marcia hopes to determine if the program

encompasses NYS's supply chain, with the possibility of job training and retraining for the STC area.

REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. **Wind Energy and the STC Region** – STC Senior Planner Chelsea Robertson met with NextEra, a clean energy company, regarding wind energy in the southern tier. NextEra has not yet met with communities. Local laws may need to be revised if wind energy generation is contemplated. The group discussed at length the environmental and economic benefits of wind and solar energy.
2. **Meetings with NYS Broadband Program Office** – STN's Board Chair (M. Weber) and CEO (S. Manning) met with the NYS Broadband Program office to discuss the state's funding proposal for fiber to the home. Marcia handed out maps and noted that most of the STC area is not eligible for the \$5 million funding for Phase 1 of this project. Southern Tier Network will continue to pursue this issue.
3. **Intergovernmental Review**
Steuben County

1603 Corning Painted Post Airport Improvement Project

Project Applicant: Town of Erwin IDA

Description: airport major crack repair and airfield pavement sealing.

Federal Agency: FAA

Cost: Federal: \$270,990 State: \$15,055 Local: \$15,055 Total: \$301,100

On a motion duly made (VanEtten/Bennett) and carried, the intergovernmental review was approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Other** – there was no other business brought before the board.
2. **Next Board Meeting** - the next board meeting will be the annual dinner on April 21, 2016 at the Harbor Hotel, Watkins Glen.

ADJOURN – on a motion duly made (VanEtten/Bartholomew) and carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cratsley
Executive Assistant