



May 19, 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; Thomas Tranter

Schuyler County – Phil Barnes; Judy McKinney Cherry; Dennis Fagan; Tim O’Hearn; Kristin VanHorn

Steuben County – Amy Dlugos; Joe Hauryski; Steve Maio; Scott VanEtten; Jack Wheeler

STC Staff – Marcia Weber; Susan Cratsley; Victoria Ehlen; Brittany McKerlie; Chelsea Robertson

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – On a motion duly made (Tranter/McKinney Cherry) and carried, the minutes of the March 17, 2016 meeting were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Audit Committee**

- a) **Abstract of Claims** – the audit committee reviewed abstracts totaling \$57,074.69. On a motion duly made (Tranter/McKinney Cherry) and carried, the abstracts were approved.

2. **Budget and Personnel**

- a) New Planner Hired – STC has hired a new planner who will start on May 23. The committee recommends that the starting salary be raised to the amount that was in the budget for the former planner in order to reflect the new planner’s previous experience. On a motion duly made (McKinney Cherry/VanHorn) and carried, the salary for the new planner was approved.
- b) Appointment of Records Management Officer – on a motion duly made (VanEtten/Tranter) and carried, the board appointed Brittany McKerlie, STC Accountant, as the Records Management Officer.
- c) Acceptance of STC’s 2016 Cost Allocation Plan – The committee reviewed the 2016 Cost Allocation Plan and recommends it to the board for approval. On a motion duly made (Fagan/VanEtten) and carried, the 2016 Cost Allocation Plan was approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

1. Southern Tier Network (STN) Meeting with Governor’s Office -- Marcia Weber, Tom Tranter, and others met with Governor Cuomo’s staff and the NYS Broadband Office staff in New York City to discuss the requirement by the Public Services Commission that in order to allow the Time Warner Cable-Charter Communications merger to go through, Time Warner Cable must serve the unserved and underserved areas within its franchise areas. New York State will not spend state dollars in those franchise areas through at least the first round of funding on the assumption that Time Warner will upgrade its system at

no cost to NYS. The Southern Tier group that met in NYC expressed doubt that this will happen and said that the Southern Tier Network is being prevented from implementing a plan that it had developed for its region. The NYS representatives answered that the funding restriction might be lifted in Round 2, allowing STN to apply for funding for its project then.

2. NYSERDA Grant for Clean Energy Communities Program (CECP) –This grant has been awarded to the members of the New York State Association of Regional Councils (NYSARC), of which STC is a member. Central NY and Capital District planning boards are the leaders for this project, and the other planning boards are the contractors. One full time person would need to be hired at STC to provide outreach and assistance to local communities, with a goal of having them become Climate Smart Communities. Other local stakeholders to be involved would be climate and energy consultants, community based organizations, and environmental and economic development agencies. Marcia asked the board members for their assessment of the need for such a program; there was a consensus that there is a need for expertise in evaluation of solar projects as well as a central coordinator for the various programs on alternative energy being offered throughout the three counties. Marcia will continue developing the project for the STC region.
3. Consolidated Funding Applications (CFA) for STC Region – The board discussed possible CFAs for the region.
4. Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) – The board discussed the advantages of PDRs, giving various local ones as examples.

REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. **Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Update** – STC provided ARC grant application training at Planning School. It was a great success. There is potential for several workforce/training ARC applications from the community this year.

Victoria asked if anyone knows of any organization that would be submitting an ARC application and asked that those organizations be advised to contact STC as soon as possible. Applications are due in the STC office by September 13, 2016.

2. **Local Development District Conference in Washington, DC April 3-5** – the conference was attended by Marcia Weber, Victoria Ehlen, and Amy Dlugos. The conference focused mostly on the ARC POWER initiative relating to coal-impacted communities. STC determined that the STC area does not fit the criteria for this funding.
3. **Intergovernmental Review**

New York State

1606 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

Project Applicant: NYS Department of Health

Description: to capitalize the Drinking Water State Fund in New York State.

Federal Agency: EPA

Cost: Federal: \$39,900,000 Applicant: 11,970,000 Total: \$51,870,000

1613 Environmental Finance Center Grant Program

Project Applicant: Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center

Description: to build the technical, managerial, and financial capacities of regulated entities – state and local government, tribal communities, and the private sector – to comply with

environmental regulations, improve environmental quality, maintain essential infrastructure and build sustainable communities.

Federal Agency: EPA

Cost: Federal: \$4,800,000 Total: \$4,800,000

STC Region

1609 Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) Application to USDA Rural Development

Project Applicant: REDEC Relending Corporation

Description: loan for recapitalization of its existing revolving loan program which provides financial assistance in the form of loans to start-up and expanding businesses located in Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben Counties.

Federal Agency: USDA Rural Development

Cost: Federal: \$500,000 Total: \$500,000

On a motion duly made (McKinney Cherry/VanEtten) and carried, the intergovernmental reviews were approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Other** – Marcia Weber thanked Tom Tranter for his very interesting and lively keynote address at the annual dinner.
2. **Next Board Meeting** - the next board meeting will be on June 16, 2016. At this meeting the STC 2015 Audit will be presented.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cratsley
Executive Assistant