



February 21, 2013 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER—Senior Board Member Ted Bennett called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM in the STC Conference room.

ATTENDANCE

Chemung County – Theodore Bennett; Thomas Tranter

Schuyler County – Philip Barnes; Kate Bartholomew; Thomas Gifford; Timothy O’Hearn

Steuben County – Amy Dlugos; Mark Ryckman; Scott Van Etten; George Welch

STC Staff – Marcia Weber; Susan Cratsley; Chelsea Robertson; Janet Thigpen

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS –Ted welcomed everyone to the meeting

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On a motion duly made (Timothy O’Hearn/ Scott Van Etten) and carried, the minutes of the January 17, 2013 meeting were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Audit Committee**

- a) **Abstract of Claims** – Thomas Tranter reported that the audit committee reviewed abstracts totaling \$12,580.02. On a motion duly made (Thomas Tranter/Thomas Gifford) and carried, the abstracts were approved.

2. **Budget and Personnel**

- a) **2012 Income Statement** (distributed at meeting) – Marcia Weber reported that the books have been closed out for 2012. The totals are very close to what was projected at the beginning of November 2012 and reported to the board. Any difference is due to the receipt of grants and contractual items. The STC audit is underway.

The fund balance has increased with funds from 2012. Marcia proposes that a portion of 2012’s contribution to the fund balance be used to hire a part-time planner. Several planning opportunities have arisen for which additional staff is needed. It is expected that the new planner would write grants and procure new contracts, making the position self-sustaining. The budget and personnel committee and the board agreed.

- b) **Update on STC Lease** –STC and the Krog Corporation, STC’s landlord, have come to an agreement regarding the lease. The amount has been finalized, and the term of the lease is five (5) years.

3. **Nominating Committee**

- a) **Report** – Chair Timothy O’Hearn presented the board’s slate of officers for 2013-2014. They are as follows:

Chair	Dennis Fagan
Vice Chair	Donna Draxler
Executive Secretary	Marcia Weber
Treasurer	Patrick Donnelly

- b) **Election of 2013-2014 STC Board Officers** – On a motion duly made (Thomas Tranter/Thomas Gifford) and carried, the slate of officers for 2013–2014 was approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

1. **2012 Accomplishments** – Marcia sent to each county legislature a report detailing STC’s 2012 accomplishments in that specific county. The report is available for others in hard copy or electronically and will be sent to the board.
2. **Southern Tier Network Meeting with NYS** – The Southern Tier Network board met with representatives from the NYS Broadband Office and the Office for Cyber Security in the Department of Homeland Security. David Salway, NYS Broadband Office, discussed possible partnership and marketing opportunities. Bob Gehrler, Homeland Security, discussed his office’s critical infrastructure mapping and data, including that of bridges and roads. His agency will now map all NYS fiber networks in one Geographical Information System database, and he will reach out to STN within the next 6 months for their help. Following the meeting, the NYS staff and representatives of the STN board toured the Corning Inc. research and development facility, Sullivan Park, to see developments related to the fiber infrastructure.

REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. **Flood Program Report** – Janet Thigpen reported that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Chemung Watershed Risk Map Project is currently on hold and there has been no further communication from FEMA regarding the scope of work. She distributed a draft report she is preparing about the levee certification issues. It includes a very rough estimate of the cost to certify levees for this mapping project (perhaps \$1-2 million), discusses the costs and consequences of not certifying them, and articulates numerous outstanding questions. A federal task force is currently evaluating options for improved alignment between FEMA’s levee certification process and the US Army Corps of Engineers levee inspection program.

Janet reported that some of the river and rain gauges in the STC region operated by the US Geological Survey (USGS) and used for flood forecasts are scheduled to be discontinued on March 1 due to lack of funding. Janet wrote a letter about the need for Congress to implement a permanent funding stream for high priority gauges, which was sent to the entire NY Congressional delegation from the NYS Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association (NYSFSMA). She received a reply from USGS indicating that the shut-down date has been shifted to June 1 because they are optimistic about receiving stop-gap funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as requested by Senator Schumer and Member of Congress Reed. This would cover operating costs through September 30, 2013.

STC staff is working on the “Flood Resistant STC Region” project and has an advisory committee meeting scheduled for March 6 to brainstorm about a flood education strategy for this region.

The federal map of “urbanized areas” has changed due to the 2010 census. As a result, the Towns of Catlin and Corning will soon receive formal notification of the need to develop stormwater management programs and obtain permit coverage through the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program. Janet has talked to both towns and plans to help them apply for waivers.

As chair of the Public Policy Committee of the NYSFSMA, Janet sent FEMA suggestions for implementing the 2012 Flood Insurance Reform Act. Because Congress is rolling back subsidized rates, it is important for FEMA to improve the rate structure so that insurance costs correlate more closely with flood risks.

**2. Intergovernmental Review
Steuben County**

1304 – Construct approximately 50,000 SF of Asphalt Transient Parking Apron

Project Applicant: Town of Erwin IDA

Description: construct asphalt transient aircraft parking apron (12 to 15 tie downs), including associated pavement markings and site drainage improvements.

Federal Agency: FAA

Cost: Federal: \$385,200 State: 21,400 Applicant: \$21,400 Total: \$428,000

Tabled until the March meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **STC Committees Review/Assignments** – Anyone wishing to join or resign from a committee should let STC know. The committee roster is on the STC website, with hard copies available from STC.
2. **Old Business** – Marcia reported that the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) Conference in Washington, DC will be on March 10–12, 2013. Expenses will be paid by STC. Interested board members should contact STC by tomorrow.
3. **New Business** – Chelsea Robertson reported that the STC Regional Leadership Conference will be on April 3 and 4 at Corning Community College. Registration forms are in board packets, and board members are encouraged to attend.
4. **Next Board Meeting** - the next board meeting will be on March 21, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT – On a motion duly made (Timothy O’Hearn/George Welch) and carried, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cratsley