



June 20, 2013 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER– Chair Dennis Fagan called the meeting to order at 4:45 PM in the STC Conference room.

ATTENDANCE

Chemung County – Theodore Bennett; Ernie Hartman

Schuyler County – Philip Barnes; Dennis Fagan; Thomas Gifford; Rocky Kambo; Timothy O’Hearn

Steuben County – Mark Alger; Joe Hauryski; Jamie Johnson; Scott Van Etten

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Dennis Fagan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On a motion duly made (Ernie Hartman/Mark Alger) and carried, the minutes of the March 21, 2013 meeting were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Audit Committee**

- a) **Abstract of Claims** – (in packets) Scott Van Etten reported that the audit committee reviewed abstracts totaling \$82,288.86. On a motion duly made (Joe Hauryski/Mark Alger) and carried, the abstracts were approved.

2. **CEDS Committee – Approval of the 2013 Comprehensive Development Strategy (CEDS)** – Prior to today’s STC board meeting, the CEDS Committee met and reviewed the 2013 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and recommended that it be submitted to the STC Board for approval. The CEDS was updated and revised on June 11, 2013 by the Economic Development Policy Committee based on input from a variety of individuals and community organizations. Copies and CDs of the CEDS are now available, and it will be put on the STC website. On a motion duly made (Timothy O’Hearn/Mark Alger) and carried, the CEDS was approved as presented for submission to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) by June 30, 2013.

3. **Budget and Personnel** – (see below for executive session)

4. **Regional Human Services Committee** – the committee met and discussed ARC projects; cuts to the human services agencies; and the new affordable health care act. It was reported that of the 90 programs funded by United Way of the Southern Tier, 85 will receive an increase in United Way funding; the volunteers who make the funding decisions believe very strongly that the

programs deserve to receive continued support, especially in light of other funding cuts.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. **Annual Dinner Date for 2014** – due to the school break in April 2014, the STC Annual Dinner will be a week later than usual; it will be held on April 24, 2014.

REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. **Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)**
 - a) **Visit to STC by ARC Federal Co-Chair** - the ARC Federal Co-Chair will be visiting the area on June 27, 2013 as part of the Appalachian Region FoodWays Tour and to review ARC-funded projects. The tour will visit Finger Lakes wineries and other food-related sites. Marcia encouraged board members to join in the tour and will send the board an itinerary.
 - b) **ARC Application Process for 2014** - Projects are due in the STC office by September 13, 2013.
 - c) **Letter Regarding Basic Agency** – the Economic Development Policy Committee will send a letter to Empire State Development requesting that they serve as basic agency for the Appalachian Regional Commission projects involving construction. The agencies that currently serve that function involve so much extra work for the applicants that many of the potential applicants will not apply for ARC funding
2. **Flood Program Report** (in packets)

Janet Thigpen reported that she was elected to the Board of Directors for the Association of State Floodplain Managers. She is the Chapter Director representing state chapters from the northeast. The board congratulated her on her election.

Risk MAP Project Update – Janet has not heard anything from FEMA about the Chemung Watershed flood risk mapping project since October when the project was “on hold.”

Levees – Board packets included a fact sheet and a paper about levee certification for FEMA’s current mapping project. Janet discussed this information and noted that levee certification projects are included in the 2013 CEDS.

Flood Insurance Reform Act - Janet discussed the phasing out of subsidized rates in the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 and provided a FEMA fact sheet about these changes. The board packets also include a spreadsheet showing the number of flood insurance policies in each STC municipality that could be affected by this act.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – The governor announced \$500 million in grant funding for mitigation projects in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. Janet is working with the counties and others to identify potential projects.

US Geological Survey (USGS) Gauges – Five of the USGS river gauges and 8 rain gauges in the STC region had been scheduled for discontinuation due to lack of funding. Funding came through from the Sandy relief bill to support operation of these gauges until October 1.

- a) **Letter Regarding Funding for the National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP)** –

On a motion duly made (Joe Hauryski/Mark Alger) and carried, a letter regarding Fiscal Year 2014 funding for USGS gauges was approved to be signed and sent.

Project for a Flood Resistant STC Region– STC staff conducted a kick off meeting for the Local Waterfront Revitalization Project (LWRP) for a “flood resistant STC region.” The Project Advisory Committee discussed ideas for a regional flood education strategy. Janet has developed educational materials in conjunction with the Upper Susquehanna Watershed Flood Working Group, which she chairs.

STC staff is working with the Town of Big Flats to review the allowed uses in their Conservation District, which encompasses most of the floodway.

Janet attended Community Rating System (CRS) training and is planning to form a CRS Users Group to support the 11 STC municipalities that currently participate and help other communities develop CRS programs. This program enables discounts in flood insurance premiums, but it is difficult for small municipalities to implement, and STC communities currently qualify for only 5 or 10% discounts.

3. **I-86 Update** – Ted Bennett gave an overview of the progress of I-86. He handed out the new “I-86 Travel Guide” and discussed this at length with the board.
4. **Regional Leadership Conference Report** – Chelsea Robertson, STC Planner, reported that another successful Regional Leadership Conference took place in April. For the second year, the conference expanded from one day to two, and this accommodated the large crowds that the conference draws from all three counties. 32 sessions were held, with more than 450 people in attendance. Keynote speeches were made by Thomas DiNapoli, NYS Comptroller, on Wednesday and Marcia Weber on Thursday.

The revenue from sponsorships and registration fees increased this year, and Appalachian Regional Commission funds paid for remaining costs. 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.

5. **Intergovernmental Review**

Steuben County

1309 – Hornell Airport FY 2013 Projects

Project Applicant: City of Hornell

Description: select a suitable site for a new obstruction beacon, make recommendations for modification to existing aviation easements, right-of-way and proceeding with right-of-way incidental work, environmental documentation for subsequent phases of the work, such as ROW acquisition.

Federal Agency: FAA

Cost: Federal: \$103,500 State: \$5,755 Local: \$5,755 Total: \$115,100

On a motion duly made (James Johnson/Scott Van Etten) and carried, the intergovernmental review was approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Letter of Support for Regional Farmers Market** – (in packets) On a motion duly made (Dennis Fagan/Scott Van Etten) and carried, the board recommended signing and sending the letter in support of the Regional Farmers Market.
2. **Resignation of Board Member** – A letter of resignation from the STC board was received from John Burin, who retired from his position in Elmira. The board asked Marcia to send a letter of appreciation. She will speak to Tom Santulli about a replacement from the City of Elmira.
3. **Next Board Meeting** – the next meeting will be on July 18, 2013.
4. **Executive Session** - On a motion duly made (Mark Alger/Scott Van Etten) and carried, the board went into **Executive Session** for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. STC staff left the meeting for this discussion.

On a motion duly made (Scott Van Etten/Mark Alger) and carried, the board came out of executive session.

Action – the board approved the change in the planner position filled by Jennifer Marotto from part time to full time, with an accompanying increase in salary. The board also approved the promotion of Chelsea Robertson from planner to senior planner in recognition of her increasing responsibilities and supervisory role. These changes will be entered into the personnel/civil service system immediately.

ADJOURNMENT – the meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cratsley