



Southern Tier Central
Regional Planning & Development Board

September 19, 2013 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER– Chair Dennis Fagan called the meeting to order at 4:40 PM in the STC Conference room.

ATTENDANCE

Chemung County – Thomas Tranter

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

Steuben County – Mark Alger; Amy Dlugos; Joe Hauryski; George Welch

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On a motion duly made (Joe Hauryski/Mark Alger) and carried, the minutes of the July 18, 2013 meeting were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Audit Committee**

- a) **Abstract of Claims** – (in packets) the audit committee reviewed abstracts totaling \$33,293.69. On a motion duly made (Thomas Tranter/Thomas Gifford) and carried, the abstracts were approved.

2. **Budget and Personnel** – The budget and personnel committee will meet on November 7, 2013 to discuss the 2014 budget.

REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. **Risk MAP Project Update** – (in packets) Janet participated in a conference call with FEMA and Member of Congress Reed’s staff about the Chemung Watershed Risk MAP Project. This project is being closed out and FEMA will release what they have done so far as non-regulatory products. This is expected to consist of a final Discovery Report, survey data, and non-regulatory mapping products. FEMA plans to conduct a series of workshops about these products in November. The information transmitted will not include updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS). The levees do not need to be certified at this time.

Janet stated that 21 previously un-funded stream gauges in New York will be funded. However, 14 gauges will be discontinued on November 1, 2013. The discontinued gauges in our region are: Tuscarora Creek above South Addison, Cohocton River at Bath, and Seneca Lake at Watkins Glen.

Janet distributed a handout about the National Flood Insurance Program changes. Subsidized insurance rates for older buildings are being phased out and replaced with elevation-based rating. This could have a significant impact on real estate markets within the regulated floodplain. Janet is developing training about Elevation Certificates and floodproofing measures that can reduce insurance costs.

2. **Status of Appalachian Regional Commission Projects**

- a) **FY 2014** – ARC project applications are due at STC September 20 and to NYS Department of State by October 30. Victoria assisted the sponsors in project development and application writing. The Regional Human Services and Economic Development Policy Committees will review and rate the projects, and the ratings will be brought to the October board meeting for approval.
- b) **FY2013** –Projects funded are: Southern Tier Network Marketing; Southport Economic Development Strategy; and Regional STEM Education Center. The Schuyler Hospital Data Center Upgrade and Prattsburgh Water District Improvements are on the waiting list until funds become available. ARC approved funding for Wayland Business Park Water and Sewer, but a basic agency is still needed. Letters have been sent to Empire State Development (ESD) and Department of State asking ESD to take on this role, but ESD has not yet agreed. The board suggested other possible agencies.

3. **Intergovernmental Review**

Steuben County

1317 – Corning Community College Spencer Hill Improvements

Project Applicant: Corning Community College

Description: Spencer Hill Campus Improvements

Federal Agency: USDA Rural Development

Cost: Federal: \$7,371,250.00 State: \$10,371,250.00 Applicant:\$3,000,000.00 Total: \$20,742,500.00

On a motion duly made (Timothy O’Hearn/Thomas Gifford) and carried, this intergovernmental review application was approved.

New York State

1318 – Improving Vegetation Indicators of Wetland Conditions

Project Applicant: New York Natural Heritage Program

Description: improve vegetation-based wetland condition indicators for wetland scientists working in New York

Federal Agency: USEPA

Cost: Federal: \$172,070 Applicant: \$48,351 Other: \$28,925 Total: \$249,346

On a motion duly made (Timothy O’Hearn/Thomas Gifford) and carried, this intergovernmental review was approved with the following comments:

- a) The 4-day workshop should be replaced by a series of one-day workshops in 3 parts of the state, targeting experts still working out in the field.
- b) This project should be repeated every 5 years to assess impacts of climate disruption.
- c) The sources reviewed for this study may be inadequate to accurately reflect NYS’s biodiversity and thus may not fully enable accurate finalization of coefficients of conservation.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Next Board Meeting** – the next board meeting will be on October 17, 2013. The 2014 ARC projects will be presented for approval.
2. **Board Appointments for 2014** – all board appointments expire at the end of the year with the exception of Philip Barnes.
3. **Board Resignation** - Rocky Kambo, Schuyler County Director of Planning, will be leaving the board and the region. Marcia thanked Rocky for his term on the board and wished him well in the future.
4. **Other** – Tom Tranter reported that the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council has announced its priority projects. Of 25 capital projects, 9 are in the STC counties. The governor will visit the area in November to tour projects, and the funding announcement will be made in December.

ADJOURNMENT – the meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cratsley