



## January 19, 2012 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Joseph Hauryski called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM in the STC Conference Room.

### ATTENDANCE:

Chemung County: Theodore Bennett; John Burin; Ernie Hartman; Randy Reid; Thomas Tranter

Schuyler County: Kate Bartholomew; Stewart Field; Danielle Hautaniemi; Thomas Gifford;

Steuben County: Mark Alger; Amy Dlugos; Joseph Hauryski; Robert Nichols

STC Staff: Marcia Weber; Susan Cratsley; Victoria Ehlen; Dan Wilhelm

WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS – Chair Joe Hauryski welcomed everyone to the meeting. New Board Members Kate Bartholomew, Schuyler County Environmental Representative; and Randy Reid, Small Business/Minority from Chemung County were introduced.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On a motion duly made (Mark Alger/Thomas Gifford) and carried, the minutes of the November 17, 2011 meeting were approved.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### 1. **Audit Committee**

- a) **Abstract of Claims** – Thomas Tranter reported that the Audit Committee reviewed abstracts totaling \$56,657.48. On a motion duly made (Thomas Tranter/Theodore Bennett) and carried, the abstracts were approved.

#### 2. **Budget and Personnel**

- a) **2012 Budget Revisions** - Additional funding has been awarded to STC for 2012, bringing in an additional \$92,450 (a 19.5% increase) in revenue and eliminating the need to expend \$68,417 from the fund balance. The new grants would allow an increase for the staff. This would be an additional \$17,090 on an annual basis, but the salaries will be for 11 months of the year, beginning on January 30, 2012. On a motion duly made (Thomas Gifford/Thomas Tranter) and carried, the 2012 budget was revised to include the new funding, the new grants were accepted, and salary adjustments were approved.

3. **Physical Resources Advisory Committee** - Amy Dlugos reported on the January PRAC meeting.

Diane Fiorentino reported that Chemung County finished a very extensive and detailed EPA Stormwater Audit of activities in Big Flats, Horseheads, Ashland, Town of Elmira, and City of Elmira. Two EPA employees inspected outfalls throughout the county searching for illicit discharges.

John Gibbs reported on the Emerald Ash Borer, which seems to be spreading throughout Steuben County. Each highway department has been given an "Invasive Species Handbook."

Victoria Ehlen noted that the ARC FY 2013 funding cycle is beginning and asked those interested in applying to contact STC or visit the STC website for more information.

STC partnered with the Town of Big Flats, which received NYS Local Waterfront Revitalization Planning (LWRP) flood grant funding of \$165,000. STC will work with the 42 communities within the NYS designated Waterway to better their Community Rating System (CRS) ratings or to become involved in the CRS (to reduce flood insurance costs). STC will also advocate for better land use/hydrologic policies to limit/mitigate the impacts of flooding.

JC Smith instructed PRAC members on the finer details of EFC funding: mostly low interest loans for projects listed in the Intended Use Plan (IUP) and some principal forgiveness for projects that meet the hardship criteria.

Marcia Metcalf from Elmira College completed the preliminary water well testing of 20 properties in Chemung County and updated the group on the results. Additional studies are needed. This type of baseline testing is extremely valuable.

## REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

### 1. **Appalachian Regional Commission**

- a) Conference in Washington, DC - Marcia Weber reported that the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) Conference in Washington, DC will be on March 18 – 20, providing an excellent opportunity to learn about Appalachian Regional Commission funding as well as the status of other federal funding and legislation. Valuable information is shared by both ARC and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). Board members are invited.

A revised Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) application process will be underway for federal fiscal year 2013, with pre-applications available from the STC office in April, due in July. Sponsors of highly rated pre-applications will be asked to submit full applications.

- b) **Regional Economic Development Council** – Tom Tranter updated the Board on the activities of the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council. The region was awarded approximately \$160 million in grant funding in the first round: \$60 million for economic development; \$49 million for consolidated funding, and \$50 million for flooding. He said that Round 2 applications are due May 9 and will be awarded June 28. Round 3 applications for 2013 are due September 10 and will be awarded December 5. The next meeting of the Council will be on February 7.

2. **Telecommunications Update** - The STC contract with STN is up for renewal. Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board submitted a proposal for 2012 that includes Chief Executive Officer, accounting, administrative and Geographic Information

Systems (GIS), with a slight adjustment to the hourly rate. Upon a motion duly made (Mark Alger/Thomas Gifford) and carried, the STC-STN contract was approved.

Marcia noted that STN's first contract has been drawn up (with Schuyler Hospital), and pole attachment agreements have been signed.

3. **Flood Program Update** – Marcia presented Janet Thigpen's report on flood issues.

**Risk Map Project Update:** FEMA distributed a Discovery Report and three Discovery Maps (available at <https://www.rampp-team.com/ny.htm> --at bottom under Chemung Watershed) summarizing FEMA's information for the mapping project. Janet believes the information is inaccurate and is compiling local comments and corrections for FEMA.

Discovery is a new process for FEMA. The guidance states that the Scope of Work for mapping projects should be developed in coordination with watershed stakeholders, and Janet requested a local review and comment period on the Scope of Work. However, work has already started. Janet asked FEMA for a local meeting to discuss project status but has not yet received an answer. If the answer is negative or further delayed, she will ask that elected officials intervene to stop all work on the project.

**Levees:** All FEMA's guidance about mapping of levees stresses the need for communication with local stakeholders. However, when Janet requested a local meeting with FEMA, the Corps of Engineers, and DEC to discuss certification and accreditation of Chemung Watershed levees, FEMA delayed, though they indicate willingness to hold the meeting at a future unspecified date. On Dec. 15, FEMA released for public comment proposed revisions to the levee mapping procedures. The proposed policy is not about if levees will be certified and accredited so that protected areas can be excluded from the regulated floodplain. It is about how the floodplain boundaries will be drawn in the urban areas protected by these levees if they are not accredited. Janet is preparing review comments (due by January 30) on the proposed mapping procedures.

Member of Congress Reed is organizing a roundtable discussion of this proposed levee mapping policy on January 27 in Elmira. Both FEMA and DEC will attend. FEMA expects this discussion to focus only on the proposed mapping procedures (national policy) and will not address the Chemung Watershed issues associated with determining how the levees can be certified and accredited.

**STC Flood Program:** On January 26, Janet will be presenting as part of an EDA webinar on disaster recovery: Building Disaster Resilient Economies – How the Economic Development Administration Can Assist in Post-Disaster Economic Recovery.

4. **Intergovernmental Review**

**Chemung County**

**11-32 Rural Business Enterprise Grant – Pre-application**

Project Applicant: Southern Tier Economic Growth (STEG)

Description: establish a loan fund to create jobs for businesses located in Chemung County.

Federal Agency: USDA

Cost: Federal: \$99,000    Local: \$15,000    Other: \$700    Total: \$114,700

Victoria Ehlen described the project. On a motion duly made (Robert Nichols/Ernie Hartman) and carried, the intergovernmental review application was approved.

## OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Board Member Update** – the board has several new board members: Donna Draxler and Randy Reid from Chemung County and Kate Bartholomew from Schuyler; new members from Steuben County should be appointed next week.
2. **STC Committees** –Anyone wishing to be put on or taken off any committee should please let STC know. Susan will email the Committee Roster, and it is also on the STC website. Anyone who would like a hard copy should contact STC.
3. **Appointment of 2012 Nominating Committee** - The 2012 nominating committee was appointed as follows:
  - Chemung County – Tom Tranter, Chair
  - Schuyler County – Tim O’Hearn
  - Steuben County - Mark Alger
4. **Old Business** – there was no old business.
5. **New Business** – there was no new business.
6. **Next Board Meeting** –The next board meeting will be February 16, 2012 – Election of Officers.

## ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion duly made (Joe Hauryski/Ernie Hartman) and carried, the meeting adjourned at 5:15

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Cratsley  
Recording Secretary