



July 21, 2011 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Joseph Hauryski called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM in the STC Conference Room.

ATTENDANCE:

Chemung County: Ted Bennett; John Burin; G. Thomas Tranter, Jr.

Schuyler County: Dennis Fagan; Thomas Gifford; Danielle Hautaniemi;

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

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

WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS – Chair Joe Hauryski welcomed everyone to the meeting. Danielle Hautaniemi introduced a guest, Sebastian Lippez-De Castro, an intern who is an MPA student at Binghamton University. He has experience in both local government and academia in his native Colombia and is working on Schuyler County Energy Task Force issues.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On a motion duly made (Scott Van Etten/Thomas Gifford) and carried, the minutes of the June 23, 2011 meeting were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Audit Committee**

- a) **Abstract of Claims** – Thomas Tranter reported that one abstract was reviewed and approved totaling \$15,606.59. On a motion duly made (Thomas Tranter/Thomas Gifford) and carried, the abstracts were approved.

2. **Budget and Personnel Committee**

- a) **Proposed Contract with GST BOCES** – Joe Hauryski reported that Southern Tier Network, Inc. (STN) voted to engage Steve Manning from GST BOCES as CEO of the organization. Since GST BOCES has no authority to contract for services with an organization such as STN but can contract with STC, STN proposes adding a CEO position to the services for which they contract with STC. STC can then contract with GST BOCES for Steve's services, which will be applied to the STC/STN program. The rate would be approximately \$75 per hour for two days per week, which would be about \$60,000 per year. All of the costs would be paid by STN to STC and then by STC to BOCES. On a motion duly made (Mark Alger/Thomas Gifford) and carried, the CEO position will be added to STC's contract with STN, and STC will develop a contract with BOCES.

BOARD ACTION

1. **ARC Project Review and Ratings** – T. Tranter on behalf of the Economic Development Policy Committee and Marcia Weber on behalf of the Regional Human Services Committee gave a brief overview of the applications received by STC for fiscal year 2012 Appalachian Regional Commission funding. Each application was reviewed by one of the two committees. Marcia reported that preapplications were submitted; those projects that scored 65 or higher will be asked to submit a full application.

Tom Tranter noted that the Town of Campbell Water District #3 project (1202) will be funded with 2011 funds. The other projects with a score of 65 or higher bring the total amount of funding requested to approximately \$600,000, the amount received in prior years. It was suggested that the Town of Southport (1205) and the Southern Tier Biomass project (1209) revise their applications and resubmit next year. The **TOTAL AMOUNT OF ARC FUNDS REQUESTED is \$1,053,700.** The projects and scores are as follows:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Project Name/Description</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
1201	Unified Telecommunication System Project at Schuyler County ARC - \$150,000 TOTAL - \$373,726 This project will upgrade and enhance the primary core telecommunication system to invoke unified communications within the Schuyler Hospital main campus and all affiliated satellite facilities via installation and implementation of new technology communication equipment. B – 5 C – 5 D – 5 TOTAL = 75	Schuyler Hospital Inc.
1202	Town of Campbell Water District #3 ARC - \$150,000 TOTAL - \$1,319,387.75 Construction of new water main to serve the Town of Campbell Water District #3. B – 4 C – 4 D – 5 TOTAL = 65	Town of Campbell
1203	Seneca Lake/Seneca Canal Waterfront Development Plan ARC - \$15,000 TOTAL - \$30,000 This project is to further refine pre-development of key elements of the <i>Watkins Glen Lakefront Management and Development Strategy</i> . B – 5 C – 4 D – 5 TOTAL = 71	Schuyler County Partnership for Economic Development (SCOPED)

<u>Number</u>	<u>Project Name/Description</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
1204	<p>Business Park Shovel Ready Status ARC - \$110,000 TOTAL - \$222,000.00 Using the final recommendations of the 2010-11 Site Selection Evaluation and Concept Site Master Plan which ranked the five (5) sites along the I-86 corridor in Chemung County, STEG/CCIDA proposes to develop the preferred site. B - 4 C - 4 D - 5 TOTAL = 65</p>	Southern Tier Economic Growth (STEG) and Chemung County Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA)
1205	<p>Southport Chapel Park Community Center ARC - \$150,000 TOTAL - \$3,500,000 The Town of Southport is seeking funding to assist in the construction of a Community-Senior-Recreation Center to complete the multi use recreational park. B - 3 C - 3 D - 4 TOTAL = 50</p>	Town of Southport
1206	<p>Village Square Wastewater Planning Project ARC - \$6,100 TOTAL - \$12,200 The project will examine the practicality of developing a wastewater collection and treatment system to serve the core business district, recommend the most appropriate long term solution, address environmental review issues and develop a project financing plan. B - 5 C - 4 D - 5 TOTAL = 71</p>	Village of Hammondsport
1207	<p>B&H Railroad Bridge Timber Deck Replacement ARC - \$150,000 TOTAL - \$300,000 Replacement of railroad bridge timber decks along with associated structural and masonry bridge repairs on four (4) railroad bridges on the B&H Rail corp. main line track. B - 4 C - 4 D - 5 TOTAL = 65</p>	Steuben County Industrial Development Agency
1208	<p>Digital W/S Infrastructure and Mapping Accessibility Project: Phase I ARC - \$22,600 TOTAL - \$45,350 This project will digitize water and sewer infrastructure maps for the STC Region. In addition, this project will collect existing data on infrastructure and zoning and make all accessible for download through STC's regional data warehouse and viewable through STC's GIS viewer. B - 5 C - 4 D - 5 TOTAL = 71</p>	Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board (STCRPDB)

<u>Number</u>	<u>Project Name/Description</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
1209	<p>Southern Tier Biomass ARC - \$150,000 TOTAL - \$1,700,000 The project would include: consulting and contracting with farmers/landowners to enhance Biomass crop production, processing raw Biomass Feedstock for use as an alternative fuel source, and promoting the sale of processed Biomass fuel to institutional end users. ----NOT RATED-----</p>	Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District
1210	<p>Route 21 Sewer Extension ARC - \$150,000 TOTAL - \$561,688.50 The City of Hornell intends to extend sewer services to connect businesses (including a shopping plaza) in the western part of the city. B – 5 C – 5 D – 5 TOTAL = 75</p>	City of Hornell

On a motion duly made (Scott Van Etten/Dennis Fagan) and carried, the board approved the ARC projects and scores and recommended that full applications be submitted to STC to be sent to the NYS Secretary of State as STC's priority projects.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. **Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Update** – Marcia reported the House passed the Energy and Water funding bill for fiscal year 2012. The House bill provides \$68.4 million for ARC in FY 2012, just slightly more than ARC's current funding. This completes the final action in the House on ARC's FY 2012 funding level.

The Senate has not made any progress toward moving FY2012 appropriations bills.

2. **White House Rural Council** –in June, the White House created a White House Rural Council to coordinate programs across government that will promote economic prosperity and quality of life in rural communities across the country. All cabinet departments, several White House offices, and a number of independent agencies are participating in the Council. The ARC Federal Co-Chair, Earl Gohl, was invited to be a part of the Council. ARC will be participating in several of the working groups that will be formed to make sure that the needs of Appalachia are considered. These efforts will complement, but not supplant, the existing work of the Appalachian Regional Development Initiative. The four groups are: 1) Opportunity, which is financial, physical, technological, and human capital; 2) Innovation, which will include the expansion of renewable energy and other markets for agriculture; 3) Quality of life, including access to quality health care, education and housing; and 4) Conservation, including expansion of outdoor opportunities. ARC is represented on all these groups.

As part of the Rural Council's activities, the White House is encouraging cabinet Secretaries to hold meetings with rural stakeholders during August, and some sessions may be held in Appalachia.

Related to the Rural Council is the work of the White House Business Council, which is involved in coordinating outreach efforts with local business leaders across the country. A few sessions will be held in Appalachia, with the first one in Charleston, WV.

3. **NYS Association of Regional Councils Meeting** – The NYS Association of Regional Councils discussed the Governor’s proposal to develop Regional Economic Development Councils. An Economic Development Strategy for the region will be developed by November 14, 2011, and the councils will compete for \$1 billion in economic incentives. A statewide panel will determine by the end of 2011 how to allocate the \$1 billion. Work is in progress, and Marcia will report any new information as it becomes available.

REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. **Risk Map Project Update** – J. Thigpen thanked the three counties for their funding and participation during this process. Janet reported that following a series of Discovery meetings in May, FEMA planned to develop a Discovery Report (of non-regulatory information) and a Scope of Work for the project by June 15, 2011. Janet sent FEMA a letter requesting the following: 1) an expanded timeline to enable additional local involvement; 2) an opportunity for local review and feedback on the Scope of Work before it is finalized; and 3) the opportunity for local review and feedback on the draft Discovery Report and maps. She has not received a reply.

Janet noted that FEMA sent letters to some of the communities with levees outlining three options for the mapping project. (Letters were also inadvertently sent to several municipalities outside the watershed being mapped, for which FEMA plans to issue apologies.) The three options that FEMA outlined are: 1) do nothing and let protected areas be mapped as floodplain; 2) apply for a Provisionally Accredited Levee (PAL), which allows two years to get certification documentation together; or 3) provide all of the certification information now. These letters went to municipalities, with no reference to the roles of DEC or the Corp of Engineers. Janet requested a meeting for FEMA, DEC, and the Corp of Engineers to jointly discuss these issues with local officials. FEMA asked that she submit this request as a formal letter to the three agencies with local stakeholder signatures. This was done, but no replies had been received yet.

Janet had a request from the Corning Area Chamber of Commerce to write a letter about levee issues with the same requests that were in the resolution. Janet hopes that this will help businesses and others weigh in on this issue.

Janet stated that she received a request from Member of Congress Reed’s staff for comments on the proposed Flood Insurance Reform Act. She sent him some detailed comments and suggestions.

Janet is talking to other people in other parts of the state and feels many of our issues and concerns are shared by others. Broome County adopted a resolution about levee issues.

2. **Water-Related Programs Update**

- a. **Susquehanna-Chemung Action Plan** - J. Thigpen reported that the Susquehanna-Chemung Action Plan is an ecosystem-based watershed management plan for Susquehanna and Chemung watersheds in New York. The idea is to document the needs as a tool for obtaining funding. STC is working on this project in conjunction with STE. There are 11 draft goals. Supporting information relating to each goal is on the website (www.susquehanna-chemung.org). At this point STC has draft recommendations for about half of the topics and the others are in the works. As each section is prepared, it is being taken to relevant groups for review and feedback. Dave Bubniak, STC GIS Coordinator, has developed a customized data atlas, which is a great online mapping tool. As an example, if you look for fishing access sites, you not only see the locations, but you can query it and get

information from DEC about the kinds of fish at that site. More data and features are being added, so it continues to get better.

- b. 604(b) Baseline Program – Janet reported that STC has not received the contract yet for the project which began April 1. The main priority for DEC is to support the Water Quality Coordinating Committees. The Regional office supports a strong flood assistance program. STC is also providing stormwater management training and assistance. To support DEC's new requirements for stormwater green infrastructure, STC plans to conduct training for municipalities and follow this with workshops with individual municipalities to review local codes and identify any discrepancies with current standards. STC will continue to provide GIS support of the region. This year STC received 85% of the funding requested, next year that will drop to 55%.
 - c. Rural Stormwater Program – Janet reported that the three-year Rural Stormwater Project is almost finished. STC was able to do education using the stormwater-floodplain model purchased by EES, conduct training, develop educational materials, and help to get the Rural Stormwater Coalition started with participation from the three counties. STC is wrapping up the draining system mapping to help interested municipalities develop GIS database of culverts.
 - d. Stream Corridor Project – Janet said that STC submitted an application to the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant Program to develop a stream corridor plan for our part of the watershed. This would include GIS analysis of current land cover in stream corridor and floodplain areas. The proposal also includes a strong emphasis on working with municipalities to enforce existing floodplain regulations, enact higher floodplain management standards, and develop educational resources.
3. **Other** – Victoria Ehlen, STC Economic Development Coordinator, said that the STC CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) is complete in hard copy and on CD and is available from STC. If there are any questions, contact Victoria.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Cancellation of August Meeting** – on a motion duly made (Scott Van Etten/Robert Nichols) and carried, the August meeting will be cancelled.
2. **Next Board Meeting** – the next board meeting will be September 15, 2011.
3. **Other** – there was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 on a motion by Dennis Fagan, seconded by Mark Alger, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cratsley
Recording Secretary