



October 18, 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; Ernie Hartman; Thomas Tranter

Schuyler County: Kate Bartholomew; Dennis Fagan; Thomas Gifford; Danielle Hautaniemi; Timothy O’Hearn

Steuben County : Amy Dlugos; Joe Hauryski; James Johnson; Scott Van Etten; George Welch

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On a motion duly made (Scott Van Etten/Ernie Hartman) and carried, the minutes of the September 20, 2012 meeting were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Audit Committee**

- a) **Abstract of Claims** – Thomas Tranter reported that the Audit Committee reviewed abstracts totaling \$21,252.21. On a motion duly made (Thomas Tranter/James Johnson) and carried, the abstracts were approved.

2. **Budget and Personnel** – the Budget and Personnel Committee met prior to tonight’s meeting and reviewed the following:

- a) **Personnel Update** –Victoria Ehlen, STC Economic Development Coordinator, will be taking family medical leave in January.

Due to the increase in accounting work at STC, particularly because of the contract with STN, additional staff is needed. David Jordan, a former STC accountant, will be working at STC three days per week to help Dan Wilhelm with STC accounting. He will be under contract with STC through the temporary service, Addeco.

- b) **Grant Application with New York State Association of Regional Councils (NYSARC)** – Marcia Weber reported that the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is reorganizing their Economic Development Growth Extension (EDGE) Program to follow the Regional Economic Development Council regions and has put out a request for proposals to educate the public on energy consumption. NYSARC developed a proposal in partnership with the regional planning boards and other organizations in the area. In the past, Cooperative Extension provided this service for NYSERDA, and they will also be applying for the grant, which is due by October 22. If NYSARC is funded, STC would hire staff for this work. A motion was duly made (Dennis Fagan/Thomas Gifford, Danielle Hautaniemi abstaining) and carried to submit the application.

- c) **Update on Lease** – the current STC lease expires at the end of this year, and negotiations continue on the new lease.

REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. **Flood Program Update** – Janet Thigpen reported on the following:

RISK MAP PROJECT UPDATE – This project encompasses the Cohocton and Chemung Watersheds, potentially affecting most of Chemung County, a broad area of Steuben County from Cohocton to Corning, and the Towns of Tyrone and Orange in Schuyler County.

Janet continues to work with FEMA on the Discovery Report along with mapping issues and levee certification. The Chemung Watershed Risk Map Project is on hold at this time because of the ongoing Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedures (LAMP) process. This is the new process that FEMA is developing for delineating floodplains in areas that are protected by levees if those levees have not been accredited as providing 10 year protection. She commented on the Discovery Report but has not heard anything back from FEMA. She is still working on a rough analysis of the cost of not certifying the levees and will be distributing a short write-up after she adds that piece.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) REFORM - in July, the NFIP was extended for five (5) years with significant changes. Congress is asking FEMA to develop a 10 year plan to pay back the \$17 billion debt to the federal treasury that resulted from Hurricane Katrina and also to establish a reserve fund. Congress did not change or reform the program enough to provide good revenue sources for that to happen. Janet explained the elevation of homes in relation to flood levels and how it pertains to the insurance rates. She wrote a letter from NYS FSMA to the NY Congressional delegation asking them to revisit the issue of insurance affordability.

Janet is working on the following: Stormwater Symposium, which will be held in Corning next week; co-chairing a Flood Working Group for the Upper Susquehanna Conservation Alliance; a Flood Resistant Southern Tier Project, which will focus initially on developing a regional flood education strategy; assisting with Community Rating System documentation, a program that enables

small reductions in flood insurances costs; and documentation to get credit for county hazard mitigation plans and for the EES Flood Warning Service.

In response to a question about the status of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load), Janet said nothing new has been reported. New York State developed a watershed limitation plan to meet the TMDL limits and submitted Phase II, but it is not known whether EPA will accept that. The board discussed this at length.

2. **Cleaner Greener Project** - Marcia reported that STC has been very involved with the Cleaner Greener project in the last month, preparing for and hosting stakeholder groups (transportation and economic development) to review the draft action strategy plan. Sessions on other topics were held in Tompkins and Broome Counties. STC also held a public meeting that elicited helpful comments. Board members were asked to make suggestions/comments on the plan at www.cleanergreenersouthernier.org until October 21.
3. **APA Conference** – Chelsea Robertson planned and attended an APA Conference recently held in Corning. There were 125 people in attendance. Popular sessions were walking tours of Market Street, which included upstairs apartments. The conference’s keynote speaker was Tom Tranter.
4. **Planning Assistance** – Chelsea reported that she provides planning assistance to 6 municipalities: Towns of Caton, Corning and Veteran; Villages of Addison, Painted Post, and Riverside. She attends planning board meetings and provides assistance with grant writing and comprehensive planning.

She has just finished the Town of Corning Master Plan and is working on the Town of Veteran Comprehensive Plan, which will take approximately 3 years to complete.

Chelsea and Victoria Ehlen staff the Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) project with the Town of Erwin and Villages of Painted Post and Riverside and are developing the implementation phase of the project.

Board members commented on the importance of these services to the region.

5. **Intergovernmental Review**

New York State

12.27 – Development of Wetland Assessment Protocols in NY

Project Applicant: NY Natural Heritage Program

Description: to develop and refine protocols to assess wetland conditions in New York.

Federal Agency: EPA

Cost: Federal: \$499,847 Applicant: 129,061 Other: \$80,000 Total: \$708,908

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

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **New Business** –Tim O’Hearn expressed concern that the Fire Academy in Montour Falls might close and relocate to Albany. It would cost \$17 – 20 million to bring it up to current standards and to expand to accommodate more training and specialized needs. Because of the economic value of the facility to the region, it could be worth searching for funding. If anyone has any suggestions, please contact him.
2. **Next Board Meeting** –The next meeting of the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board will be on November 15, 2012. The 2013 STC Budget will be brought to this meeting for approval.
3. **Other** – there was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion duly made (Thomas Tranter/Jamie Johnson) and carried, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cratsley