



Thursday, January 20, 2011

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Tom Santulli called the meeting to order at 4:25 PM in the STC Conference Room.

ATTENDANCE

Chemung County – Ted Bennett; John Burin; Ernie Hartman; Tom Santulli; G.Thomas Tranter

Schuyler County – Dennis Fagan; Tom Gifford; Danielle Hautaniemi; Tim Hicks; Tim O'Hearn

Steuben County – Mark Alger; Don Creath; Amy Dlugos; Joseph Hauryski; Robert Nichols; Scott Van Etten

Staff – Marcia Weber; Susan Cratsley; Victoria Ehlen; Chelsea Robertson; Daniel Wilhelm

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS – Chair Tom Santulli welcomed everyone to the meeting. There are two new board members, Joseph Hauryski, Chair, Steuben County Legislature; and Dennis Fagan, Chair, Schuyler County Legislature. Everyone introduced him/herself.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – the minutes of the November 18, 2010 meeting were approved on a motion by Ernie Hartman, seconded by Mark Alger, and carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Audit Committee**
Abstract of Claims - On behalf of the Audit Committee, Tom Tranter gave the report. Tom reported that four abstracts for December 2010 and one abstract for 2011 (in packets) were reviewed and approved totaling \$26,940.91. On a motion by Tom Tranter, seconded by Tim O'Hearn, the abstracts were approved.
2. **Budget and Personnel Committee** – Chair Tom Santulli reported the following:
 - a) **Cost Allocation Plan for 2011** – Tom stated that the budget and personnel committee approved the 2011 Cost Allocation Plan (handed out at meeting). Tom gave the Board a brief overview and comparison to the 2010 Plan. On a motion by Mark Alger, seconded by Scott VanEtten, the Cost Allocation Plan for 2011 was approved.

3. **Physical Resources Advisory Committee (PRAC)**– on behalf of the Physical Resources Advisory Committee, Amy Dlugos gave the following report:

Susquehanna Chemung Action Plan and Survey (S-CAP): Amy reported that Chelsea Robertson, STC Planner, updated the Committee on the current status of the Susquehanna-Chemung Action Plan. Chelsea is currently working on writing the Land Use section of the Plan. She surveyed the PRAC Committee with questions concerning Land Use and Planning. The top priorities identified by PRAC for S-CAP are as follows:

- lack of zoning in some municipalities
- significant loss of high quality farmland to other consumptive land uses
- the loss or conversion of the best farmland in Chemung County has already occurred. Furthermore, the remaining farmland is “protected” by steeper slopes or floodplain designation.
- bio-mass in Steuben and Chemung counties
- potential wind farm development in STC’s counties “in a few years”
- forestry and clear cutting as economically viable practices
- promoting better subdivision regulations throughout the region

The priorities identified at the meeting will be addressed in the Land Use section of the Plan.

Membership. Amy reported that the Committee reviewed its membership, reviewed the mission and purpose statements and proposed changes for the upcoming year. At the meeting, members discussed strategies to attract more members. PRAC members also identified missing key groups to target for new membership. She asked that if anyone is interested in becoming a member of the PRAC committee, to contact STC.

Changes to the Meetings: Amy reported that to increase involvement, membership and improve PRAC, a discussion on the meeting format took place. PRAC discussed considering holding meetings with instructional tours, as was done in the past. Also, changing the format to move away from “subject based” meetings, which results in only interested parties showing up to the meeting for that particular subject. Future meetings will have multiple subjects discussed at the same meeting to encourage cross disciplinary discussion.

Also discussed by the Committee was updating the PRAC narrative. This updated description will better focus PRAC as a committee and more clearly define the function of PRAC.

REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. **Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)** - M. Weber reported on the following:
 - a) **Advocacy and Funding Issues** – Marcia stated that she has received multiple communications from the Appalachian Regional Commission with concerns about future funding. The most recent issue is that the Health Appropriations Committee asked about ARC’s unobligated balance of \$25.9 million. \$13.4 million of that is technically committed but not obligated, and the remaining funding is designated for the states and other special funding initiatives. There is a chance that all unobligated funding will have to be returned to the federal

government, but decisions have not yet been made.

Marcia will be meeting with Tom Reed, Member of Congress, later this month and will bring this to his attention and demonstrate to him how important ARC has been to the region. She recommends we alert the region's representatives and make sure they support ARC and EDA.

ARC has released an Economic Overview of Appalachia for 2010. This consists of new studies about the Appalachian region, using new data. Among other findings, it states that it is not just NYS but the entire Appalachian region that is suffering from a decline in the "prime age" workforce, workers between the ages of 25 and 55. During this recession, the Appalachian region fared far worse than the nation and was battered by job losses and structural economic changes.

Marcia reported that in addition to the Economic Overview, ARC has also released the Consolidated Federal Funds Report for 2010 that states that per capita federal spending lags in Appalachia, and the gap is widening. It shows that most of the country gets more federal money than Appalachia does. Marcia stated that the Economic Overview of Appalachia contains many charts and graphs regarding the economic challenges facing Appalachia. She offered to email the two reports to the board .

- b) **Conference in Washington, DC March 20-22, 2011 – Board Members Invited to Attend** –M. Weber reported that the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) Conference in Washington, DC will be on March 20 - 22. The topic for this year's conference is "Making Appalachia Stronger in Challenging Times." This is an excellent opportunity to learn about funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission as well as the status of federal funding and legislation in general. Valuable information is shared by both ARC and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). Anyone interested in attending should please let Marcia know. Expenses are covered by STC.

2. **Telecommunications Update** - M. Weber reported that STC has not yet been authorized to release the funding source for the 3 county telecommunications project, but STC is preparing to issue a news release shortly. The Local Development Corporation (LDC) that will own, build, and operate the project is an official entity, since the incorporation papers have been received from NYS. The name of the LDC is Southern Tier Network (STN) The consultant, ECC Technologies, has been working with the counties to make sure the fiber route includes areas the counties need to cover. ECC has been in contact with the businesses that expressed interest in working with the new project. The consultant has also talked with the service providers, Verizon, Verizon Wireless, and others , that are interested in the project. These providers are working on the Ontario County fiber project, and they are interested in working with the Southern Tier Network also.

3. **Intergovernmental Reviews**

New York State

1101 New York State Clean Vessel Act

Project Applicant: New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation

Description: Continued implementation of the provisions and requirements of the NYS Clean Vessel Act of 1992 in the State's coastal zone, as authorized in SAFETEA-LU and any subsequent authorization.

Federal Agency: US Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of Interior

Cost: Federal: \$572,522.26 State: \$190,840.72 Total: \$763,363.01

1102 Performance Partnership Grant Program

Project Applicant: NYSDEC

Description: The NYSDEC has chosen to combine two categorical grants, Clean Water Act Sections 106, 319, and 319 incremental into multi-programatic Performance Partnership Grant (PPG). DEC participates with the USEPA in implementing a statewide water pollution control program as mandated by federal and state laws. The PPG will be used to administer programs for prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution to both surface and ground waters. This includes programs for the development and implementation of strategies to protect both surface waters and groundwaters of the state. The PPG is the base state water quality operation program

Federal Agency: USEPA

Cost: Federal: \$13,064,000.00 State: \$8,915,103.00 Total: \$21,979,104.00

1103 Clean Water Act 604(b)

Project Applicant: USEPA

Description: Funds will be used to carry out water quality management planning, review and maintenance of water classifications and standards, assessment of water quality problems and development of implementation plans. Program activities will focus on: (1) community-based environmental programs; (2) providing assistance to the regulated community regarding the requirements of the Phase II Stormwater Regulations; (3) development of new water quality standards and guidance values; (4) completion of the Statewide surface water reclassification effort; and (5) forty percent (40%) of these funds will be passed through to regional Public Comprehensive Planning organizations and Interstate Organizations for water quality planning activities.

Federal Agency: EPA

Cost: Federal: \$2,000,000.00 Total: \$2,000,000.00

On a motion by Tom Tranter, seconded by Mark Alger, these intergovernmental review applications were approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Nominating Committee for 2011** – The nominating committee was appointed as follows:

Chemung County – Tom Tranter
Schuyler County – Tim O'Hearn, Chair
Steuben County - Mark Alger
2. **STC Committee Assignments** (in packets) – Marcia discussed the STC committee assignments. Anyone wishing to be put on or taken off any committee should please let STC know.
3. **Next Board Meeting** – the next meeting will be February 17, 2011. This is a reorganizational meeting with election of officers.
4. **Other** – there was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT – the meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cratsley
Senior Typist