

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Minutes

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

ATTENDANCE

Chemung County – Ted Bennett; Ernie Hartman; G. Thomas Tranter

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

Steuben County – Mark Alger; Amy Dlugos; Joseph Hauryski

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

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS – Chair Joseph Hauryski welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On a motion duly made (Amy Dlugos/Tom Tranter) and carried, the minutes of the February 17, 2011 meeting were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Marcia Weber reported that she received a letter from Kelsey Jones stating that he is resigning from the board. Tom Tranter asked that STC send a letter thanking Kelsey for his participation and his support of STC. On a motion duly made (Tom Tranter/Mark Alger) and carried, a letter will be sent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Audit Committee**
Abstract of Claims - On behalf of the Audit Committee, Tom Tranter gave the report. Two abstracts were reviewed and approved totaling \$14,337.66. On a motion duly made (Tom Tranter/Ernie Hartman) and carried, the abstracts were approved.
2. **Budget and Personnel Committee**
 - a) 2010 Financials and Audit Schedule – Marcia Weber reported that the audit is expected to be done shortly. Since there will not be a regular board meeting in

April, Rick McNeilly, STC Auditor, will present it at the May meeting. Dan Wilhelm handed out a balance sheet showing the 2010 revenues and expenses. Marcia stated that \$37,446.02 will go into the fund balance, which is being restored after retirements almost depleted it in 2003.

- b) Federal and State Grants - Marcia Weber reported that STC's ARC Local Development District grant is being funded for the first six months of 2011 rather than for the full year because of the uncertainty regarding funding levels. The annual EDA request for application has been received for the fiscal year beginning April 1. STC has been invited to apply for \$60,000. A cash and/or inkind match of \$60,000 will be required.
- c) Contract with Southern Tier Network (STN) - Marcia reported that STC has been asked to submit a proposal to the Southern Tier Network for accounting, administrative, and GIS work as well as the provision of the conference room, phone, and Internet access as needed. Because this will include some of the accountant's and secretary's time, it will reduce the agency overhead rate by \$5 per hour. The Budget and Personnel Committee suggested that STC prepare background information explaining how STC developed the hourly rates. Marcia said that the same process is used for any agency with which STC contracts. On a motion duly made (Tom Tranter/Tom Gifford) and carried (Abstain: Tim O'Hearn and Mark Alger), the board approved entering into the contract with STN.

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

- PRAC attendance at the March meeting was exceptional: 22 members were physically present, and one person called in.
- Gene Stowe reported that in the draft FY 2011-2012 Federal Budget, all funding for RC&D's has been cut. PRAC agreed to send a letter to the STC board in support of restoring RC&D's funding. (see attached)

A motion was duly made (Tim O'Hearn/Ted Bennett) and carried to sign and send the letter.

- Janet Thigpen reported that the FEMA flood mapping project is just getting started, and that any interested party should attend the meetings.
- Chemung County now has a part time agriculture educator. Her activities are being directed by the needs of the farmers (as reported in a survey).
- STC staff reported on the use of the agency's e-mailing system; PRAC members have received emails sent by STC.
- PRAC addressed an Intergovernmental Review application for the Town of Prattsburg. PRAC members supported the project and had no negative comments.

The following reports were also given to PRAC:

Janet Thigpen reported to the committee that the EPA and NYS have released final TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) numbers. The limits were negotiated, and the EPA made some concessions, but the final TMDL's are not achievable with the

current wastewater treatment systems in place throughout the STC region. Massive infrastructure upgrades will be needed to achieve the TMDL's. At this time, there does not seem to be any funding from NYS, EPA, or the federal government for the necessary infrastructure upgrades. These impacts will be especially strong on communities with 'red' or 'black' water problems; the chemical process used to remove iron and other metals from drinking water involves the use of phosphorus (a mineral limited in the new TMDL's).

Mr. Williams from NYSDOT Region 6 made a presentation on the upcoming road construction/maintenance projects in the region. He illustrated many of the improvements that can be expected in the next 18 months. He also reported on the length and condition of detours made necessary by these projects. For the most part, the detours will be very manageable. At the end of Mr. Williams' presentation, the committee discussed the transportation activities being undertaken by the three counties. The committee also discussed the positive interactions between NYSDOT and the ECTC that lead to the roadside trail from Elmira, NY to Lowman, NY.

Tom Sears lead a discussion on the importance of GIS to infrastructure management. The role of GIS in infrastructure goes beyond simple mapping, GIS software can be used to track the age, use, construction materials, and current condition of all infrastructure. Roadways, water, sewer, gas lines, and electric power can all be monitored with a GIS system. PRAC agreed that GIS is an excellent tool for managing infrastructure. PRAC members also noted: if the three counties could work together to plan infrastructure upgrades and maintenance, disruption to residents would be minimized, and the counties could reduce their costs.

4. **Regional Human Services Committee** – Marcia Weber reported that the committee discussed the ARC application process for 2012. She stated that there have been very few human services projects over the past few years, and the ones that have been funded recently have dropped out due to the inability to get the required match.

Marcia suggested that if the human services agencies can't come up with projects, it might be beneficial to raise the limit of the non-human services projects to \$200,000 to make the best use of the ARC funds. Marcia has written emails to the other two NYS LDDs and NYSDOS to see if they would consider this alternative. Marcia will discuss this with the LDDs when she attends the ARC conference next week in Washington.

REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. **Regional Leadership Conference** – Chelsea Robertson reported that the Regional Leadership Conference will be on April 14, 2011 and encouraged everyone to attend. Registrations are coming in, and Mark Alger, Steuben County Administrator, will be the keynote speaker.
2. **Telecommunications: Southern Tier Network** – Marcia Weber reported that at its first meeting in February, the Southern Tier Network (STN) reviewed the by-laws, board responsibilities, and state law requirements. STN will contract with ECC Technologies for professional services. An attorney has been hired. Marcia Weber was elected board chair, and the board is planning to add a few more members. The STN board will meet again next week.

5. **Intergovernmental Reviews (IGRs)** – STC staff presented the following intergovernmental review applications to the board:

Chemung/Steuben Counties

11-06 Construct Runway 24 and TW A Extensions

Project Applicant: Elmira/Corning Regional Airport

Description: this project will provide for the construction phase of the extension of Runway 24, and associated parallel Taxiway A.

Federal Agency: FAA

Cost: Federal: \$8,041,750 State: \$211,625 Applicant: 211,625 Total: \$8,465,000

11-07 Construction of Echo Apron / Taxiway Expansion

Project Applicant: Elmira/Corning Regional Airport

Description: this project involves the expansion of the Echo Apron.

Federal Agency: FAA

Cost: Federal: \$2,417,750 State: \$63,625 Applicant: \$63,625 Total: \$2,545,000

11-08 Design of Parallel Taxiway “A”, “L”, “B”

Project Applicant: Elmira/Corning Regional Airport

Description: this project involves design of a partial parallel taxiway from Taxiway “A” to Runway 6-24 which would be an alignment of a section of existing Taxiway “A”; design of a partial parallel Taxiway “L” from realigned Taxiway “A” to the Runway 10 end; and construction of a new connector taxiway to replace the former Taxiway “B” and to provide access to the Bravo Apron.

Federal Agency: FAA

Cost: Federal: \$337,250 State: \$8,875 Applicant: \$8,875 Total: \$355,000

11-11 Prattsburgh (T), Steuben Co. Water District Improvement Project

Project Applicant: Town of Prattsburgh

Description: Various improvements to the public water supply system serving the hamlet of Prattsburgh. This project will replace water main on School Street, Chapel Street and Mechanic Street, renovate and restore the function of water supply wells located off Cty. Rt 75, install a pressure reducing station to attenuate excessive water pressure, install mixing equipment in the water storage tank, responsibly demolish an abandoned water tank located adjacent to the functioning tank, install an emergency generator, renovate the existing pump house building, install an operations alarm and renovate an existing iron removal filter system.

Federal Agency: USDA Rural Development

Cost: Federal: \$1,437,650 State \$0.00 Applicant \$4,500 Total \$1,442,150

On a motion duly made (Tim O’Hearn/Tom Gifford) and carried, the intergovernmental review applications were approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. New Business

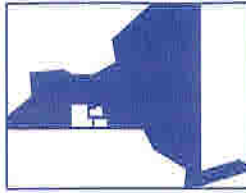
- a) **Board Replacements** - M. Weber reported that the STC Board currently has several vacancies and asked each county to appoint members to the STC Board.

- b) **Committee Review/Assignments** (please review new committee assignments) – Marcia Weber stated that the STC Committee Roster is available on the STC website at www.stcplanning.org and encouraged board members to look it over; if they see anything that needs to be changed, they should please let STC know.
- 2. **Next meeting** – the next STC Board of Directors meeting will be the Annual Dinner on April 28, 2011 at the Radisson. The keynote speaker will be James Flaws, CFO from Corning Inc. Details will be mailed out soon.
- 3. **Other** – there was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT – there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cratsley
Senior Typist

Southern Tier Central Regional Planning & Development Board



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March 17, 2011

The Honorable Thomas Reed
United States House of Representatives
1037 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Fax: (202) 226-6599

Marcia D. Weber
Executive Director

RE: FY2012 Funding for the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program in the Agriculture Appropriations Bill

Dear Congressman Reed:

Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board has worked for years with the Finger Lakes RC&D Council located in Bath, New York. The RC&D program is one of the federal government's success stories with its ability to return \$8.00 for every dollar the federal government invests to support economic development and resource protection in rural areas.

The Finger Lakes RC&D Council has a record of service to the six county region (Chemung, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben & Yates). During the Council's thirty-six year history with the assistance from USDA's RC&D program, the Council has completed projects that have improved our region's water quality, encouraged the sustainability of the family farm, promoted agricultural tourism, utilization of alternative energy (wind & solar) for livestock production, assisted with rural fire protection by installing dry hydrants, emphasized the wise use of our region's native timber, administered New York's venison donation program and controlled erosion from agricultural and forest lands as well as degrading stream banks and road banks. The assistance provided by USDA's RC&D Coordinator, assigned to our Council, has resulted in more than 70 federal state and private grants being written and totaling \$6.5 million. If the Council had not received these grant dollars the majority of the projects listed above wouldn't have been completed. Currently, the Council is administering more than \$3.4 million worth of grants that are benefiting our six county region. **Without federal financial assistance the successful completion of these grants will be in jeopardy.**

I am writing to encourage you continue support this council and councils nationwide by writing the Chairman and Ranking Members of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee and asking that \$51 million be restored to the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Hauryski".

Joseph Hauryski,
Chair