



November 21, 2013 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER– Chair Dennis Fagan called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM in the STC Conference room.

ATTENDANCE

Chemung County – Donna Draxler; Ernie Hartman; Thomas Tranter

Schuyler County – Philip Barnes; Dennis Fagan; Thomas Gifford; Timothy O’Hearn; Kristen VanHorn

Steuben County – Mark Alger; Amy Dlugos; Joe Hauryski; James Johnson; Mark Ryckman; George Welch

STC Staff – Marcia Weber; Susan Cratsley; Victoria Ehlen; Janet Thigpen; Dan Wilhelm

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Dennis Fagan introduced Kristen VanHorn, Director, Schuyler County Planning Department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On a motion duly made (Alger/Draxler) and carried, the minutes of the October 17, 2013 meeting were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Audit Committee

- a) **Abstract of Claims** – (in packets) the audit committee reviewed abstracts totaling \$10,975.39. On a motion duly made (Tranter/Johnson) and carried, the abstracts were approved.

- 2. **Budget and Personnel** – Marcia Weber reported that the Budget and Personnel Committee met earlier this month and recommends approval of the proposed STC 2014 Budget (handed out at the meeting) totaling \$971,648. Marcia discussed the recommended budget; fund balance history; and 2014 funding sources.

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Marcia D. Weber - Executive Director

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. **ARC Funding** – New York State will be announcing the projects that will be funded for FY 2013. STC projects to be funded in 2013 are Wings of Eagles Discovery Center; Southern Tier Economic Growth (Marketing for Southern Tier Network); Town of Southport Economic Development Strategy. Regular updates or a written report on the status of previously funded projects was requested by board members. Victoria will distribute an update on the projects and discuss it at the January meeting.
2. **Binghamton University MPA Program Advisory Committee** – Marcia and several board members serve as members of this committee. Marcia believes this will increase the communication between the university and STC and give STC access to graduates as future employees and interns.
3. **NYSARC/DEC Grant** – STC works in conjunction with the New York State Association of Regional Councils (NYSARC) on many grant opportunities. NYSARC recently proposed to serve as the contract agency for a grant for code enforcement training about floodplain management. It was also proposed that STC administer the funds and serve as project manager for NYSARC because STC has an expert flood mitigation specialist on staff. However, DEC chose not to work with NYSARC because it would take too long to develop a new contract between DEC and NYSARC. DEC also determined that they could not add the training funds to an existing contract between STC and DEC.
4. **Telecommunications** – In response to a question, Marcia noted that the three-county fiberoptic backbone is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2013 under budget; more customers than expected at this time have signed on.

REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. **Flood Program Update** - Janet reported that the US Geological Survey has shut down some gauges due to lack of funding, including the Seneca Lake gauge in Watkins Glen. Member of Congress Reed issued a press release about funding for flood warning, but this referred to a Canal Corporation project that is unlikely to benefit our region. Janet helped Chemung County prepare a grant application for 13 new precipitation and stream gauges that would be added to the local network operated by Environmental Emergency Services.

Janet reported that the Federal Emergency Management Agency will be holding meetings on December 9 in Big Flats and December 10 in Bath about the Chemung Watershed flood risk mapping project. They will deliver the data that have been developed to-date without producing new regulatory maps. FEMA has asked that STC maintain and distribute this information, which will include LiDAR topographic data and hydrologic/hydraulic modeling. The current Flood Insurance Rate Maps, which exclude levee-protected areas from the regulated floodplain, will remain in effect.

Janet discussed changes in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which include increased insurance costs and phasing out of subsidized rates for older buildings. She plans to provide training at the STC Regional Leadership Conference about how to retrofit buildings to bring down the cost of flood insurance. A workshop about FEMA's Elevation Certificates (which are used for insurance rating) has been submitted to DOS for code enforcement training

credit. A second module about floodproofing techniques is being developed. She also submitted an abstract to co-present a similar workshop with FEMA contractors at the Association of State Floodplain Managers conference.

Janet has also conducted floodplain management training and assisted with incorporation of flood hazards into municipal comprehensive plans.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **STC Board Meeting Schedule for 2014** – (in packets) the 2014 board meeting schedule was distributed; it was noted that the annual dinner will be on April 24, 2014, which is later than the normal schedule due to spring break.
2. **Next Board Meeting** - The December 2013 meeting is cancelled. The next meeting of the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board will be on January 16, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT - on a motion duly made (Alger/Hartman) and carried, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.