

**SOUTHERN TIER CENTRAL REGIONAL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
2009 REPORT**

SERVICES AND FUNDING TO STEUBEN COUNTY

Funding

An annual county share of \$85,000 to STC provides staff and services bringing into Steuben County over **\$2.2 million** in the last four years, with over **\$328,000** still expected in 2009 (details attached).

Economic Development/Infrastructure

STC develops the regional **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs)**, including the frequently accessed, prioritized list of **Steuben County vital projects**. When Washington, DC asked for “shovel-ready” projects, STC sent them a list of projects already recommended by economic developers and **ready for implementation**.

Prepared the **2009 Steuben County Economic Profile**, a source of data and trends relating to population, employment, unemployment, major employers, income, housing, transportation, and agriculture.

STC joins with national organizations to **advocate** for funding and legislation for rural regions, with special emphasis in 2009 on infrastructure, stimulus, telecommunications, and watershed funds.

Technology/Telecommunications

Provided **data and maps** on behalf of **Steuben County to the NYS Chief Information Officer and Office of Technology** on **existing broadband** within the county for creation of a statewide map. **Conferred with NYS CIO** on region’s needs and plans for technology.

Received \$72,000 in Appalachian Regional Commission funding in 2009 for development of a **broadband network business plan** to support STC’s **upcoming application** with Southern Tier East for funds for a multi-regional **fiber optic** backbone.

Provided **significant technical work** to Steuben County **municipalities and efforts** in the field of Geographic Information Systems (**GIS**), completing work for **Town of Corning, Village of Addison Comprehensive Plan, Brownfield Opportunity Area Study, I86/I99 Study, and Steuben Water Quality Strategy** report.

STC brought in telecom infrastructure in 2000 that continues to **save GST BOCES \$930,000 per year** in computer/networking/Internet charges.

Participated in **Gates Foundation NY Summit** for Increased Online Connectivity.

Developed project to create a **data warehouse** to store and serve GIS data for the region; funding pending.

Provided **IT support** to the following local units of government in Steuben County: **Villages of Hammondsport and Painted Post and Towns of Corning, Prattsburg, and Urbana**. STC dedicates federal funds to its computer

assistance program, enabling municipalities and organizations to contract for computer assistance (information technology) at low cost.

Transportation

Wrote application to Senator Schumer for **\$52 million** in ARRA funds to upgrade 5 miles of **Rt. 15 to I-99** in Steuben County.

STC administers the **Schuyler-Steuben Transportation Committee**. In addition to coordinating with NYSDOT, the committee provides planning and advisory services for the region in the areas of transit, bicycle/pedestrian, GIS mapping, and highway wayfinding signage.

STC continues as a member of the **I-86 Coalition** executive committee.

Environmental and Watershed Planning

Implementation of **\$249,000 grant for the “Southern Tier Central Rural Stormwater Program”** included support for the 3-county Rural Stormwater Coalition and development of information concerning *“Rainwater: A Resource for Homeowners.”* Edited and published *“Building a Rural Driveway”* for all highway departments and code enforcement officers to work with local landowners on a **major cause of erosion** in the region. The **enhanced STC website** includes stormwater management information and links to resources including stormwater management, highway drainage, and permits.

Application submitted for \$328,152 ARRA funds to develop **Susquehanna Action Plan** using an ecosystem-based management approach. In cooperation with Southern Tier East, this will serve as NY’s plan for the Chesapeake Bay.

Conducted **Tenth Annual Chemung River Float**, from Ashland to new White Wagon Site in Chemung. The Float, involving Steuben and Chemung Counties, focuses media attention on area rivers as natural and recreational resources.

Work on **Southeast Steuben River Vision Project** with City of Corning, Towns of Corning and Erwin, and Villages of Painted Post, South Corning, and Riverside to create a “River Vision” for the Chemung River from its beginning in Painted Post to the Steuben County line. Funded by \$26,430 from NYS Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) matched by the communities and STC.

With Upper Susquehanna Coalition, STC is creating an ecologically-connected web of **potential mitigation sites outside highway rights-of-way**. The \$42,000 grant for this **Ecosystem-based Transportation Planning** is from the Federal Highway Administration, matched by NYSDOT.

STC works on the Land Use Leadership Alliance Training Project to train community leaders in land use as it relates to energy development.

With the **County Water Quality Coordinating Committee**, provide support for local water quality issues and efforts. Host the Committee’s website. Took the lead in updating the *Water Quality Strategy for Steuben County*.

Supported implementation of **New York State Tributary Strategy for Chesapeake Bay Restoration**, focusing on cost-effective implementation measures providing local benefits.

Flood Assistance

STC was awarded the 2008 **Environmental Excellence Award** from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for the popular booklet, "**Stream Processes: A Guide to Living in Harmony with Streams.**"

STC staff member is a **Certified Floodplain Manager** and served as **Chair of the NYS Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association**. Developed **floodplain management fact sheets** for municipalities, developers, and the public to understand and implement floodplain development standards. Served as regional resource for floodplain development regulations and maps.

Assisted with implementation of the Community Rating System of the National **Flood Insurance** Program. Participation by two Steuben County municipalities **saves property owners \$9,517/year in flood insurance premiums.**

The enhanced STC website, www.stcplanning.org, provides access to a wealth of information about local flood hazards, flood safety, and mitigation techniques.

Provided technical support for EES **Flood Warning** Service and locally-owned gauge network. Warned of funding shortfalls for federally-operated **stream gauges**; promoted permanent funding for priority gauges. Provided information and real-time weather links to update Susquehanna River Basin Flood Forecasting and Warning System website (soon to be online).

Energy

STC will serve as a clearinghouse for county and other groups seeking education about **Marcellus Shale** natural gas exploration. Options available to and responsibilities of local governments in preparing for the impact of drilling and operation will be a focus of the information gathering. See www.stcplanning.org, click on "Program Areas," then "Environmental Planning" for information.

Community Services

Provided planning assistance (master planning, zoning updates, and development review) to **Towns of Campbell, Caton, Corning, and Erwin** and **Villages of Addison, Painted Post, and Riverside**. This includes **Addison's first Comprehensive Plan**, focusing on downtown revitalization opportunities.

While participating in **I86/I99 Economic Blueprint Corridor Study funded by ARC**, STC planners helped shape realistic recommendations for parcels in Town of Campbell.

STC works on the Land Use Leadership Alliance Training Project to train community leaders in land use as it relates to energy development.

Completed a **pre-nomination study for the Brownfield Opportunity Area** Program, with funding from Department of State, Town of Erwin, and Villages of Painted Post and Riverside. Included extensive site research and economic analysis. STC applied for additional research funding for the communities' work.

STC-guided sign regulations were approved by the Painted Post Planning Board and are now waiting for Village Board approval.

STC teams with Cornell, Pipeline4Progress, and EDA on a **capacity building project** for the Southern Tier.

Census 2010

STC coordinates regional Census work in partnership with U.S. Census Bureau. Leads efforts to increase the count to **preserve region's Congressional representation and funding.**

Local Government Leadership Training

13th Annual Regional Leadership Conference (April 9, 2009)

Total attendance 450 officials, 28 workshops offered.

182 Steuben County local government officials attended, **74% of Steuben County municipalities represented**, Participants reported conference very useful for their positions in local government.

STC Assistance to Committees/Organizations Affecting Steuben County

- REDEC Board of Directors
- Guthrie Board of Trustees and Guthrie Health Clinic Advisory Group
- Corning Hospital Board of Directors
- Southeast Steuben County Library Board of Trustees
- STC Steuben County Human Services Committee
- Schuyler-Steuben Transportation Committee
- Bicycle Advisory Committee/ Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Middletown Historical Society of Steuben County (Addison Area)
- Erwin, Painted Post, Riverside Brownfield Opportunity Area Steering Committee
- Steuben County Water Quality Coordinating Committee, Vice Chair
- Environmental Emergency Services (EES) Board of Directors, Secretary
- Rural Stormwater Coalition
- Meads Creek Watershed Citizens' Committee
- Painted Post Forward (Foundry Site promotion; other community development projects)
- Founding Board Member of Friends of the Chemung River Watershed
- Co-Chair, Chemung Basin River Trail Partnership

**Grants Brought into the County by STC
Through Applications and Other Technical Assistance**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Year</u>
<u>Steuben County</u>			
Telecom Open Access Plan (regional; awarded)	72,000	ARC	2009
Ecosystem-Based Transp. Planning (regional;awarded)	42,000	FHA/NYDOT	2009
Education Opportunity Network II (regional;awarded)	50,000	ARC	2009
SE Steuben River Vision Project (awarded)	26,430	NYSLWRP	2009
Susquehanna Action Plan (regional; pending)	328,152	ARRA/NY	2009
TOTAL 2009 Pending	328,152		
TOTAL 2009 Awarded	190,430		
Town of Erwin Industrial Water Supply	1,000,000	EDA	2008
STC Rural Stormwater Program (regional; 2008-2010)	249,000	NYSWQIP	2008
S2AY Rural Health Network School Dental II (regional)	89,800	ARC	2008
Education Opportunity Network I (regional)	149,732	ARC	2006
Integrated Care and Assistance Network Expansion	48,638	ARC	2008
C-PP School District Parents as Teachers Demo. Proj.	89,850	ARC	2007
B&H Railroad Tourism & Economic Development Study	20,000	ARC	2007
I-86/199 Economic Blueprint, SE Steuben	40,000	ARC	2007
B&H Railroad Infrastructure Upgrading	150,000	ARC	2007
Village of Addison Wastewater Treatment	150,000	ARC	2007
Strategic Marketing Initiative (Hornell)	25,000	ARC	2006
TOTAL 2006-2008 Awarded	2,012,020		
TOTAL 2006-2008 plus 2009 Awarded	2,202,450		