I have had the privilege of serving as the Chairman of the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board of Directors a few times over the past 7 years. It has given me an opportunity to see just what the organization’s mission is and what their purpose is. The staff is comprised of hardworking, dedicated individuals who care about the job they are doing. Southern Tier Central provides a great service to all of the municipalities in our region. The annual Southern Tier Leadership Conference is an excellent example of what they offer to all local officials. This will be my last year serving on the board as I am not seeking another term on the Steuben County Legislature, but I am thankful for having the opportunity to be a part of such a worthwhile organization.

After over 30 years at STC in which half were spent as director, Marcia Weber retired in June of 2018. Marcia’s passion for the region’s human services committees, the need for improved childcare and the necessary build out of critical broadband infrastructure continues to live on at STC. STC is fortunate enough to have Marcia continuing to live here in Steuben County and remaining active as the Chair of the Southern Tier Network (STN) board of directors.

With the departure of Marcia in June of 2018, I took over in July. After eight years as the Senior Planner at STC, I was excited to step into a new role and continue to work alongside the great staff and wonderful partnerships that already exist at STC. The transition was smooth thanks to Marcia working many hours to make it seamless. With the exception of new business cards, it was business as usual at STC throughout the transition.

In 2018, ARC welcomed it’s new federal co-chair Tim Thomas from Kentucky. Tim hit the ground running by visiting each of the states and learning about the many programs that have been supported by STC. Tim was able to make a short visit to STC’s region in October of 2018. During that visit Tim, along with NYS ARC representatives, took long drives through our country-side.

Tim was briefed on the region’s agricultural economy. He was joined for dinner by Steve Manning, CEO of Southern Tier Network, and given a full presentation on the history of ARC and broadband in the region. The group then made a visit to beautiful Watkins Glen where Tim was able to walk the Schuyler County business park where the new Premium Beverage Facility is under construction. In downtown Watkins we were all briefed on Project Seneca and the new wastewater treatment plant. The visit was short but eye opening for Tim, who previously knew little about the rural Southern Tier of New York. We look forward to when ARC will make another visit so that we can continue to show off our region. Funding for ARC continued to stay consistent and strong in 2018 and the future looks bright for the Appalachian States.
Municipal Planning Assistance

STC provides technical assistance to communities interested in comprehensive planning, writing and updating zoning regulations, application review, grant writing and/or grant administration. STC currently maintains contracts with the Village of Painted Post, Village of Riverside, Town of Caton, Town of Corning, Village of Addison, and Town of Hector.

STC is assisting the Town of Hector with writing draft language for a proposed Zoning Law. The Town decided to look into zoning following the comprehensive planning process, indicating a greater need for regulation. The Town is experiencing growth in agricultural enterprises and expansion of housing types. STC is working with the Zoning Commission to consider the many interests and values of the Town. The first set of four public meetings have been held throughout the Town.

Village of Painted Post contracts with STC for planning consultation and grant writing. STC reviews incoming development applications and provides feedback to the Planning Board during monthly meetings. This year, STC also presented the opportunity to complete the New York Main Street Technical Assistance program for the Village Square. STC assisted with grant writing and the RFP process. The Village of Painted Post then hired a consultant to work with building and business owners to generate design guidelines and a feasibility study for the Village Square. The project will explore the possibility of upper-story housing for the Square as well as the many options for redevelopment.

The Towns of Caton utilized their planning assistance contract to consider economic development opportunities in their village center. Further, The Town reviewed and worked towards approval of a new rustic wedding venue located in a barn within the Town.

The Corning Food Pantry worked closely with STC and the Town of Corning to modify their parking lot due to rapid growth of their services within two years of opening. STC also worked with DEC and the Town to solve some pre-existing floodplain violations on a residential property.

STC staff and the Village of Addison Planning Board worked together on the start of a comprehensive plan update, 9 years after the adoption of their last comprehensive plan (and the subsequent successful New York Main Street application and downtown redevelopment of several retail spaces in the Village). During 2018, STC staff reviewed the available census data for the Village, continued gathering survey responses, summarized the survey responses, and developed a modified priority goals list based on the input from the public. STC also worked on grant applications to assist the Village.

STC concluded the Painted Post-Riverside Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Project. The NYS Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) funded the project through the Cleaner Greener Communities grant program.

At the project’s conclusion, the Village of Painted Post has adopted the 2017 Comprehensive Plan and updated their Zoning Law and Zoning Map. Zoning updates have been approved by the Comprehensive Plan Committee and sent to the Village Board of Trustees for further review and adoption. The Village hopes to adopt the final Map and Law in 2019. The group also began to discuss next steps in implementing their comprehensive plan and achieving the greater vision established for the Village. The Eco-Friendly Design Guidelines completed in cooperation with Pratt Institute also provide a variety of programs the Village may be interested in implementing in the future.

The Village of Riverside has also concluded the project with the completion of Eco-Design Guidelines, adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, and development of a draft Zoning Law. STC staff and the Village worked together to involve the public throughout the process; hopefully the public will remain involved in modifying the Zoning Law and by joining the Village Planning Board, Zoning Board, or any committee.
**Flood Education and Training**

Tabletop model owned by Environmental Emergency Services provides a fun hands-on opportunity for students to learn how changing land use can contribute to downstream flooding—and then try their hand at building dams, levees, or other strategies for solving the flood problems. STC also uses this model to illustrate flood mapping and floodplain management issues for Planning Boards and others.

**Louthain Award for Distinguished Service**

The STC Flood Mitigation Specialist, Janet Thigpen, was recognized by the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) with the Louthain Award for Distinguished Service. This award recognizes individuals who, through their long-term efforts, have clearly influenced the work of ASFPM, a national professional organization. Janet serves on the ASFPM Board of Directors, representing state chapters from New York and other Northeastern states. The announcement noted, “One of her greatest assets is that she has helped bring small town issues to ASFPM and advised the board on a number of policy issues.”

**Flood Smart Communities**

The bad news is that flooding or flash flooding happens somewhere in the STC region almost every year. The good news is that there are proactive measures that communities can take to improve safety and protect property. As part of a Flood Smart Communities project, STC worked with municipalities along the Cohocton River to identify and prioritize actions that will improve local resilience to flooding and other disasters. In particular, STC assistance is helping each community to identify opportunities to leverage local land use authorities to promote safe development patterns and practices.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)

This was a great year for Appalachian Regional Commission grant applications. Many interested organizations reached out to STC, and staff was able to assist the applicants with developing fundable project ideas, identifying funding match, completing, and revising the application. In September of 2018, STC received 11 completed applications for FY2019 ARC funds. The applications varied in their approach to reducing poverty and increasing economic potential for the people of Appalachia.

- **Industrial Maintenance Advancement Project**  
  (Corning Community College): Will modernize, transform, and increase the education and training opportunities that help students and workers obtain and retain employment in the advanced manufacturing industry. ($150,000 ARC; $300,000 project total)

- **Move Elmira Forward**  
  (Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County): An innovative, robust, cost effective program to develop new leaders to work with households in high-risk neighborhoods to assess their situation and help them move from some dimension of poverty to empowered agents of personal and community change. ($55,000 ARC; $118,580 project total)

- **Targeted Workforce Development and Credentialing**  
  (Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben Workforce NY): This project will create job development trainings and/or credentialing for three areas of needed development in the region; customer service and call center training; pre-apprenticeship study to enter the skilled trades, and an evidence-based job skills program for those with criminal records. (Using FY 2018 Funds; $50,000 ARC; $109,834 project total)

- **Child Care Career Development Pipeline**  
  (Proaction of Steuben & Yates, Inc.): Will provide outreach, education, training, and support to informal and small-scale home based child care providers in Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties with the objective of expanding the number of registered and licensed child care slots available to working parents in the region, while improving the skills and earning potential of the child care providers served. ($115,665 ARC; $231,623 project total)

- **FLX Works**  
  (Schuyler County Partnership for Economic Development, SCOPED): ARC funding will be to purchase the equipment required to develop a fully operational commercial kitchen space, incubating restaurants, catering companies, and innovative small food manufacturers. ($30,000 ARC; $60,000 project total)

- **Hammondsport Business District Wastewater Project**  
  (Village of Hammondsport): Will construct 2,750 feet of collection sewer, 1 pump station, 1,570 feet of transmission main pipe, and a treatment system to serve 42 connections consisting of stores, offices, restaurants and other commercial entities in and around the Village’s downtown business district. ($150,000 ARC; $1,675,000 project total)

- **Makerspace**  
  (IncubatorWorks): Will provide a makerspace for community members to develop ideas and create prototypes with the potential for commercialization. (Using FY 2016 Funds; $148,476 ARC; $314,647 project total)

- **Jasper Water Treatment Plant Improvement 2018 Project**  
  (Town of Jasper): Improvements to the existing influent screen, sludge removal, valving and piping additions, installation of v-notch weirs on clarifiers, improved flow control chamber, and several other upgrades to the system. ($150,000 ARC; $632,174 project total)

- **Southport Economic Revitalization Initiative**  
  (Town of Southport): Will evaluate amenities, opportunities, and gaps relating to industries, retail, and housing currently in the Town of Southport. ($16,000 ARC; $40,000 project total)

- **Steuben County NY Housing Demand Study**  
  (Steuben County Planning Department): Will identify gaps in the supply of market-rate rental housing and single-family homes and strategies to meet unmet housing needs, thus boosting economic development initiative to develop vibrant communities that attract and retain workforce talent. ($12,500 ARC; $25,000 project total)

- **Village of Bath’s Comprehensive Economic Development Plan**  
  (Village of Bath): A consultant will thoroughly analyze the community’s business and neighborhood structure, identify market and workforce characteristics, and establish a strategic direction through evaluation framework and economic resilience to revitalize the community. ($12,000 ARC; $30,000 project total)
**Planning in Water’s Way**

The I-86 Innovation Corridor follows the river valleys from Erwin to Elmira, an area with both considerable economic development potential and significant flood risk. Embracing the objective of a robust economy that is able to bounce back quickly after a flood, STC is undertaking the “Planning in Water’s Way” project. Initial work focused on compiling data related to flood vulnerability, with the objective of quantifying the benefits of alternative actions. This will promote economic resilience by providing information that supports sound operating and development decisions.

**Southern Tier Network**

Southern Tier Network has fully completed a 500+ mile, open access, dark fiber middle mile ring that stretched over 5 counties!

With full buildout of the Southern Tier Network complete, STN has spent 2018 assessing their goals and defining their future of the Network. STN continues to enjoy the leadership of Marcia Weber, former STC director. STC’s new director, Chelsea Robertson, joined the board in 2018 as well; continuing the strong relationship between STN and STC.

STC has worked to bridge the gap between the region’s municipalities and STN. Working with STN to fully express the needs of the municipalities for broadband. STC has also worked in 2018 to seek funding and municipal support to see further build out in our rural regions. There is much more work to be done, but STC will be a great partner to both STN and the 77 municipalities within the region.

**Economic Development Administration (EDA)**

STC’s support for the region’s economic development (funded by EDA) included promoting EDA grant funds for large economic development projects, preparing the annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) update, and conducting data analysis for communities and organizations. The CEDS update is a brief analysis of the regional economy; with a priority project list and the most up-to-date data available. STC staff can utilize EDA funding to develop preliminary demographic and market analyses for local governments and community organizations.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Geographic Information Systems

STC Geographic Information System (GIS) staff has been working with the City of Corning Department of Public Works to convert data about the water and sewer systems from AutoCAD to GIS format. Staff assisted with the purchase of GIS software and installation. GIS files of the utilities were moved to the cloud and online applications were created to utilize the information. STC continues to provide assistance and training on how to build and maintain web applications as well as how to keep the data up to date.

GIS staff continues to provide technical assistance to Chemung County, including one-on-one training on creating web applications and technical assistance to individual departments to assist with issues. STC Staff continued its role as President of the Chemung County GIS Consortium.

Regional Leadership Conference

The Annual Regional Leadership Conference was held at Corning Community College on April 5th, 2018. The one day conference provided 32 hours of training for attendees including Planning and Zoning Boards, Highway Departments, Code Enforcement Officials, Mayors, Supervisors, Municipal Clerks, Justices and Court Clerks. This year, the Conference saw approximately 400 attendees and hosted 25 vendors. Session topics included telecommunications, forest management, response to active shooter events, tourism impacts, grant opportunities, and many more.

Computer Assistance

In addition to supporting computer services and functions for STC and Southern Tier Network, STC provided local governments with an affordable range of IT services to support government operations and increase the effectiveness of their operational activities. These services are partially subsidized by the Appalachian Regional Commission. When the job is done well, employees won't even have noticed this work. If you haven't had an email interruption or server meltdown, IT is probably the reason.

Common tasks for STC computer assistance included:
- Guided and navigated the always-changing labyrinth of modern technology.
- Stepped in to save the day when technology networks and internet connections falter.
- Helped workers troubleshoot technology problems.
- Installed and upgraded computers, telephone and other hardware systems
- Managed computer environments by installing, monitoring, and upgrading tools (servers, routers and firewalls) that are designed to protect sensitive information and thwart hackers.
- Helped each organization identify short and long-term technology needs and goals.
- Coordinated technology-related matters with personnel and management, planned upgrades of existing software or hardware, and negotiated with vendors for the service of current products or the purchase of new ones.

Ongoing Training

STC’s evening training courses for Local Government officials continued for the 4th year. STC hosted 9 classes during the year, serving approximately 60 unique individuals and many different local governments and organizations. For the first time, STC staff held an evening training in the Hornell Area. These classes are well regarded by the attendees, and have received praise from both speakers and local government leaders. Inter-municipal discussion and informal collaboration is encouraged at these events, which span a range of topics from the basics of planning and zoning, to grant writing, specifics about local government funding, and solar power programs for local governments.
With its roots growing from the early 1970’s, STC’s County and Regional Human Services Committees are an integral part of ARC’s efforts in the Appalachian region to support better health, social service opportunities, education, housing options, and services for the aging as well as the youth in our region. Frequent topics addressed during meetings held in 2018 included growing concerns over the opioid epidemic, human trafficking, workforce issues, housing needs, as well as the upcoming Census 2020 projections. As the organizations represented at these meetings influence and are dependent upon census data for various funding sources, the County Human Services Committees have become active participants in ensuring the success of the Census 2020 population count by playing roles in local Complete Count Committees throughout our region.

STC has been working with the County Human Services committees to educate members on forming complete count committees and to help get the word out to the public on the importance of participation in the 2020 Census.

In addition, the County Committees of Chemung, Steuben, and Schuyler are informational resources to STC for targeting grants and advocating for the region’s needs. The Regional Human Services Committee, with membership from all three counties, reviews, ranks and makes recommendations for funding regarding human service-related applications submitted to ARC.

United States Census 2020

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

County Share Leverages $1.54 Million for STC Region

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<td>Local Share to STC</td>
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<td>Federal, State, Other Grants to STC</td>
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*County  Federal  State  Other*
Activities described in this report were funded in part by the following Federal and State agencies: Appalachian Regional Commission, U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, New York State Department of State, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through Section 604 (b) of the Clean Water Act (administered by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation), the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, as well as contracts with local municipalities and organizations. STC is also grateful for matching funds from Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties.