



March 15, 2012 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Joseph Hauryski called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM in the STC Conference Room.

ATTENDANCE:

Chemung County: Theodore Bennett; Ernie Hartman; Thomas Tranter

Schuyler County: Kate Bartholomew; Dennis Fagan; Danielle Hautaniemi; Thomas Gifford; Timothy O’Hearn

Steuben County: Mark Alger; Amy Dlugos; Joseph Hauryski; James Johnson; Robert Nichols; Scott VanEtten; George Welch, Jr.

STC Staff: Marcia Weber; Victoria Ehlen; Chelsea Robertson; Dan Wilhelm

WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS – Chair Joe Hauryski welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – On a motion duly made (Mark Alger/Scott VanEtten) and carried, the minutes of the February 16, 2012 meeting were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Audit Committee**

- a) **Abstract of Claims** – Thomas Tranter reported that the Audit Committee reviewed one abstract totaling \$4,542.38. On a motion duly made (Thomas Tranter/Ernie Hartman) and carried, the abstract were approved.

2. **Budget and Personnel** – Joe Hauryski reported that STC had received the final Appalachian Regional Commission Audit Report from the Office of the Inspector General for January 2009 through September 2011. The report “found STC programs to be well accounted for and the programs completed or proceeding as expected.” There was one finding that the auditor had discussed with Marcia Weber, saying it is common among small agencies: “The same individual is involved in the process of collecting, depositing, posting, and reconciling of cash receipts (mostly checks).” A footnote said, “However, as described elsewhere, Steuben County performs, for their own purposes, a separate reconciliation of the bank account.” The audit also noted but did not find fault with “one unusual practice . . . the reliance on Steuben County, one of STC’s 3 constituent counties, for its banking services. . . .” On a motion duly made (Mark Alger/Scott VanEtten) and carried, the board accepted the report.

The Budget and Personnel Committee recommended changes to the STC Personnel Policies as follows:

1. Currently, the policies are written as follows: "Once a retiree reaches the age of 65 and becomes eligible for Medicare, the retiree is responsible for 100% of the insurance premiums." The Budget and Personnel Committee recommends changing that to "Once a retiree reaches the age of 65, the current policy of Steuben County on this subject will be followed."
2. The policies currently say: "Part-time employees shall work hours not to exceed 25 hours per week of employment." Benefits for these employees are pro-rated. The policy recommended by the committee is: "Part-time employees who work 17.5 or fewer hours per week are not eligible for benefits. Part-time employees who work more than 17.5 hours per week are immediately eligible for the following benefits: participation in the retirement program and group medical insurance. Part-time employees who work more than 17.5 hours per week and who have completed one month of service accrue vacation, sick leave, and holidays." Benefits will be accumulated on a pro rated basis.
3. Because of the change in the way benefits are required to be paid, the wording concerning the health insurance buyout will be changed to indicate that the payment (rather than the check) will be issued as part of (not separately from) the employee's annual salary.
4. The wording regarding reimbursement for meals not covered by per diem on a trip will now say "An employee is reimbursed up to GSA rates. . . ," not "for GSA rates."

On a motion duly made (Dennis Fagan/Mark Alger) and carried, the board approved the changes.

3. **Physical Resources Advisory Committee (PRAC)** - Amy Dlugos reported on a recent PRAC meeting. The Department of Health receives well testing reports, including wells in Caton and Lindley, NY that are within the 4,000 foot well testing radius in Pennsylvania. Only four of 19 have tested positive for methane. NYS recommends well testing three months in advance before drilling, then again during drilling, then three, six, and 12 months after drilling.

Meth labs are a huge risk for first responders. Chemung County's new procedure will connect hospitals and fire departments. Hospitals will call 9-1-1 if they are treating a burn/explosion victim, which might provide fire departments a warning about burning meth labs.

Meghan Thoreau presented the STC Marcellus Planning Municipal Guide, focusing on the physical impacts of natural gas drilling activities.

The Chemung County Hazard Mitigation Plan is five years old and needs updating, which is being done with assistance from a FEMA planner. The new plan will be concise and useful.

Chemung County Emergency Management is working with many agencies on the FEMA FIRM map update issue. The counties, municipalities, and FEMA recently met with Member of Congress Tom Reed. It is hoped that FEMA and the project contractors will provide evidence for their maps or revise their proposed risk areas.

4. **Regional Human Services Committee** – At its annual meeting, the committee discussed the FY2013 Appalachian Regional Commission application process and shared information about activities in each county.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. **Meeting with Department of State** – Dierdre (Dede) Scozzafava, the NYS Deputy Secretary of State for Local Government Services, is the NYS Alternate to the Appalachian Regional Commission and is becoming involved in ARC activities. She is serving on the States' Management Committee working on policy and on the Capital Policy Initiative to work on opportunities to increase venture capital in Appalachia. The ARC projects for FY2012 had to be presented to both Dede and to the Secretary of State, and both are reviewing the projects, increasing the review time at the state level. The three Local Development Districts (including STC) have repeatedly asked for quicker reviews.
2. **Cleaner/Greener Initiative with NYSERDA** – The groups working on this initiative—STC, Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board, and Tompkins County—will hold their first meeting with the project consultant, ICF International, and representatives from NYSERDA on March 26.
3. **Southern Tier Network Presentation to Regional Economic Development Council** – will take place on April 18. An overview of the project and potential expansion to Tioga and Broome Counties (if NYS funds were made available) will be given by Marcia Weber and Joe Starks (ECC Technologies).

REGIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. **Susquehanna-Chemung Action Plan** – Chelsea Robertson reported that the Susquehanna-Chemung Action Plan was completed in February. She recommends the SC Data Atlas and will develop a manual for municipalities to use the data atlas. The most vital recommendation of this plan is that municipal level training is vital to implement existing laws and regulations.
2. **Flood Program Update** – Janet reported that FEMA is revising their mapping procedures for representing flood hazards in areas protected by un-accredited levees. Member of Congress Reed held a roundtable discussion about this, and local comments were submitted during the public review period. The proposed revisions focus on how the mapping would be done, but they do not address the underlying issue of whether levee-protected areas will be included in the floodplain. It is not clear if FEMA will conduct a meeting with the Corps of Engineers and DEC about engineering certification of the integrity of our levees, which was formally requested by communities and counties last summer.

In December, FEMA distributed a Discovery Report and Maps of information they had assembled to support the Chemung Watershed mapping project. Janet indicated that she was compiling comments and corrections. Of particular concern is the proposed scope of work. FEMA developed the scope of work without first completing a watershed-wide assessment of mapping needs. They also did not incorporate many of the recommendations and requests made by communities. FEMA apparently considers this scope of work to be final and has been conducting field survey work since fall. Janet

indicated that she would be sending a request that work on this project be put on hold until a reasonable scope of work can be developed with local buy in. If necessary, she will draft a resolution for the counties and others to consider.

3. **Intergovernmental Reviews**

Steuben County

12-04 Corning-Painted Post Airport – Construct Transient Airport Parking Apron

Project Applicant: Town of Erwin IDA

Description: construct transient airport parking apron

Federal Agency: FAA

Cost: Federal: \$405,630 State: \$22,535 Local: \$22,535 Total: \$450,700

On a motion duly made (Scott VanEtten/Mark Alger) and carried, this project was recommended for approval with the following comment:

It is recommended that the project incorporate elements that protect against damage from future floods and mitigate drainage impacts beyond the minimum requirements for floodplain and stormwater permits.

12-05 Hamlet of Woodhull Wastewater Collection and Treatment Plant

Project Applicant: Town of Woodhull

Description: Woodhull wastewater collection and treatment project

Federal Agency: USDA Rural Development

Cost: Federal: \$4,346,522 Total: \$4,346,522

The Hamlet of Woodhull Wastewater collection and Treatment Plant was approved on a motion duly made (Robert Nichols/Mark Alger) and carried with the following comment: that NYS DOT and Steuben County DPW be informed during the remainder of this project.

Chemung County

12-06 2012 – 2016 Capital Improvement Plan

Project Applicant: Elmira/Corning Regional Airport

Description: Airport Master Plan Update, Phase II

Federal Agency: FAA

Cost: Federal: \$405,000 State: \$22,500 Local: \$22,500 Total: \$450,000

On a motion duly made (Dennis Fagan/Ernie Hartman) and carried, this project was recommended for approval with the following comment:

It is recommended that the Master Plan be prepared in consultation with the Town of Big Flats Code Enforcement Officer and Chemung County Soil and Water Conservation District in order to develop a site layout that minimizes the vulnerability to flooding and avoids adverse impacts on the stream system. If possible, it should also identify opportunities for enhancing floodplain and stream corridor functions in order to alleviate downstream flooding problems.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **New Business** – no new business.

2. **Next Board Meeting** –The next board meeting will be the Annual Dinner on Thursday, April 19, 2012 at the Radisson. Marcia encouraged board members to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion duly made (VanEtten/Alger) and carried, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Weber