

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

# MINUTES – AUGUST 17, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on August 17, 2017 at the Center for Regional Excellence in Salamanca, New York.

**Board Members**

Jerry Scott  
Kier Dirlam  
Chuck Jessup  
Robert Keis, Chairman  
Crystal Abers  
Donna Vickman  
Joe Galati  
Willie Rosas

**Representing**

Allegany County  
Allegany County  
Allegany County  
Cattaraugus County  
Cattaraugus County  
Cattaraugus County  
Chautauqua County  
Chautauqua County

**Others Attending**

John Thomas  
Corey Wiktor  
Richard Zink  
Sarah Phearsdorf  
Halley Kottwitz  
Kimberly LaMendola  
Jonathan Mayr

**Representing**

The Villager  
CCIDA  
Staff  
Staff  
Staff  
Staff  
Staff

Chairman Keis called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Introductions were made and a sign-in sheet was circulated.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Jerry Scott made a motion to accept the June 15, 2017 minutes as distributed. Willie Rosas seconded the motion and it carried.

**Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**Project Review Report**

Crystal Abers moved to acknowledge receipt of the Project Review Report, Joe Galati seconded the motion and it carried.

**Executive Director's Report**

**1. Federal Update**

The House passed the national security “minibus” appropriations bill, a package that contained four separate appropriations bills for FY18. One of those was the FY18 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill with ARC’s non-highway funding. The measure provides \$130

million for ARC for FY18. The report accompanying the bill specifies that of this total, \$50 million is for the POWER initiative and \$10 million is to continue a program of broadband deployment in distressed counties in Central Appalachia that have been most negatively impacted by the downturn in the coal industry. That leaves \$70 million for ARC's regular base program, the same level as the past several years.

During general debate on the bill, Cong. Hal Rogers (R-KY) pointed out that the bill "protects ARC from proposed elimination." He noted that ARC's investments have led to the creation of thousands of jobs, improved local water and sewer systems, improved schools, increased access to healthcare, and provided critical assistance to emerging business. No amendments specifically affecting ARC were offered during House consideration of the bill.

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved the FY18 Energy & Water Development Appropriations Bill, which provides funding for ARC's non-highway work. The measure contains \$142 million for ARC. This includes \$70 million for ARC's regular program; \$50 million for the POWER initiative for communities that have been adversely impacted by the closure of coal-powered generating plants and the declining coal industry; \$16 million for a program of industrial site and workforce development in Southern and South Central Appalachia, focused primarily on the automotive supplier sector and aviation sector; and \$6 million for a program of basic infrastructure improvements in distressed counties in Central Appalachia. In discussing the bill, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), the subcommittee chair, pointed out that the bill contained funding for ARC, and Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) made a strong statement about the good work that ARC does.

## **2. EDA Funding**

The bill provides \$176 million for the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), a reduction of \$100 million (or 36%) below the FY2017 level. Within this amount, \$140 million is allocated for Economic Development Assistance programs and \$36 million is designated for salaries and expenses. President Trump's FY2018 budget request recommended the elimination of EDA. The breakdown of programmatic funding levels within EDA's allocation has not yet been made available. NADO legislative staff will be working to increase EDA's overall funding level as the process moves forward and ensure that core program functions for Economic Development Districts (EDDs) are given highest priority.

## **3. EDA Site Visit**

Ed Hummel, Economic Development Representative for NY & Northern NJ, toured the region on Monday July 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday July 11<sup>th</sup>. He spent time in each of the counties looking at projects both past and proposed. Richard Zink and Ed Hummel visited the Wellsville Water line extension project and discussed the BDCC and the Crossroads center project in Allegany County; visited TPS in Portville, the Olean Water treatment plant and the railroad in Cattaraugus County; and in Chautauqua County, Progress Drive (Nestle), the Westfield treatment plant, and the Comedy Center.

#### **4. EDA Project Priorities**

Richard Zink reported that the top EDA project priorities to be included in the 2017 CEDS document were as follows:

##### Allegany County

1. County Crossroads infrastructure buildout
2. BDDC

##### Cattaraugus County

1. Portville Waterline
2. Allegany (Town) Exit 24 Wastewater Infrastructure

##### Chautauqua County

1. Chautauqua Lake Sewer Project
2. Northern Chautauqua County Water District

##### Regional

1. Multi Modal Facility
2. Broadband

#### **5. Chautauqua County CCE**

In 2012, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County received a grant titled: Jobs in Agriculture for Spanish Speaking New Americans. ARC is attempting to reclaim unused/abandoned monies from projects not being completed. There was a large amount of money in jeopardy until staff stepped in and held several conversations with ARC and CCE. In the end, STW assisted with some paperwork and the money was forwarded to CCE to close-out the project successfully.

#### **Southern Tier West Program Report**

Executive Director Richard Zink reported on the following STW programs: Local Government, Broadband, Entrepreneurial Development, NYSERDA – Clean Energy Communities, SARA Records Management, Local Foods, and STEDO.

#### **Committee Reports**

There were no Committee Reports.

#### **Public Comment**

Kier Dirlam reported that there is a new hotel being built across from the Crossroads Center.

#### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

#### **Nominating Committee**

Chairman Keis appointed Joe Galati from Chautauqua County as Chairman, Jerry Scott from Allegany County, and Chuck Couture from Cattaraugus County to the Nominating Committee of Board Officers.

#### **Audit Abstract**

Donna Vickman made a motion to approve the July Audit Abstract with a correction. Jerry Scott seconded the motion and it carried.

**Next Board Meeting**

The next monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Board of Directors will be held on September 21, 2017 at Jamestown Community College, Jamestown Campus.

**Adjournment**

Joe Galati made a motion to adjourn, Jerry Scott seconded the motion and it carried.

sjp