

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES – MARCH 20, 2008

The regular meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on March 20, 2008 at the Center for Regional Excellence, Salamanca, New York. The following persons were in attendance:

Board Members

Brent Reynolds
Ted Hopkins
Sue Myers
Curtis Crandall, Ex Officio
Robert Keis, Chairman
Joseph Eade
Charles Couture
Crystal Abers
Jim Cooper, Vice Chairman
Greg Edwards
William Daly
Shaun Heenan

Representing

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

Others Attending

Robert Napieralski
Dave McCoy
Tom Livak
Sharon Turano
Donald Rychnowski
Tom Barnes
John Buzzard
Eileen Weishan
Richard Zink
Brian Paschen
Daniel Reynolds
Sarah Phearsdorf
Ginger Malak

Representing

TVGA Consultants
TVGA Consultants
Cattaraugus Co Economic Development
Post Journal
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
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.

Chairman Keis introduced the newest member to the Southern Tier West Board of Directors, Shaun Heenan from Chautauqua County, who is replacing Louis Drago.

Minutes

Mr. Eade made a motion to accept the February 21st minutes as distributed. Mr. Reynolds seconded the motion and it carried.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Project Review Report

Ms. Myers moved to acknowledge receipt of the Project Review Report. Mr. Eade seconded the motion and it carried.

Executive Director's Report

Donald Rychnowski reported the following:

News & Notes

1. **Route 219**

Cattaraugus County re-established the County Legislative Committee for Route 219. The purpose of this Committee is to keep the County Legislature up-to-date on activities regarding this important transportation project; and to communicate the county's interest in completing the 219 Corridor to the Pennsylvania border.

2. **Allegany County Wireless Project**

Southern Tier West is partnering with Southern Tier Wireless, Inc., Time Warner, and ACCORD Corporation to bring broadband connectivity to the northern portion of Allegany County in the Towns of Allen, Almond, Birdsall, Burns, Caneadea, Centerville, Clarksville, Grove, Granger, and Rushford. These towns currently do not have access to affordable broadband services; and by providing an innovative broadband solution to this areas that is unable to access conventional telecommunications infrastructure, the average citizen would be able to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by the Internet.

Actions

1. **Allegany County Wireless Project**

Authorization was needed to execute an agreement with the NYS Office of Technology to implement the Allegany County Broadband Project in the amount of \$613,000. Mr. Reynolds so moved, Mr. Daly seconded the motion and it carried.

2. **Time Warner Cable**

Authorization was needed to execute a Memo of Understanding with Time Warner Cable to implement the elements of the Allegany County Wireless Project work plan. Mr. Eade so moved, Mr. Couture seconded the motion and it carried.

3. **Rural Transportation Strategic Planning Process**

As part of a grant from NYS DOT, Southern Tier West agreed to hire a consultant to work with staff in determining the feasibility and direction for various elements regarding the transportation project including corridor development, public transportation, and regional public transportation potential. Ms. Myers requested a dollar amount for this project and that it be subject to final approval by the Executive Committee. Mr. Hopkins so moved, Mr. Cooper seconded the motion and it carried.

New Business

1. STW Transportation Program

Brian Paschen highlighted on the transportation goals for Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties. The goals included supporting the regions economic vitality; increasing transportation system safety; increasing transportation system security; increasing accessibility and mobility options; to protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, and improve quality of life; enhance the regional transportation system's integration and connectivity of all modes of transportation; promote efficient transportation system management and operation; and give priority to transportation system preservation.

The next step in this process is to have the county planning and public works directors meet and discuss their priorities on a regional level; hopefully before the next Southern Tier West Transportation Committee Meeting, which is scheduled for April 15, 2008.

2. 15th Annual Local Government Conference

Brian Paschen reported that the 15th Annual Local Government Conference will be held on May 7th at Houghton College. Board members were encouraged to attend.

Old Business

1. ARC Area Development Program

Ginger Malak gave an overview of the categories and goals for ARC project pre-applications.

2. LUCA Program

John Buzzard reported that under the LUCA Program Southern Tier West is following up with municipalities who participated in the process, by recording their corrections and reporting them to the Census Bureau. It will be approximately six months before the State will hear back from the Census Bureau.

Southern Tier West is waiting to receive additional funds from the NYS Data Center for promotional materials.

3. Board Special Committee Meeting

Chairman Keis reported that the Special Board Committee last met on February 4th and discussed changes and/or a different structure for the Southern Tier West Board Meeting Agenda. The Board was happy with the current structure, and Chairman Keis thanked everyone for their efforts.

Committee Reports

Economic Development Committee

Mr. Barnes noted that the full Southern Tier West Board functions as the Economic Development Advisory Committee for purposes of the annual comprehensive planning process. He discussed the annual comprehensive planning process, and contrasted the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) preparation process from the balance of the annual comprehensive planning process, the latter of which leads to the

preparation of the Regional Development Strategy, the Statistical Abstract, and the Comprehensive Project List. The CEDS is strictly an economic development strategy, whereas the other documents are more comprehensive in their content. The CEDS is completed annually to comply with the EDA planning grant.

As to the 2008 CEDS preparation process, Mr. Barnes noted that he has been collecting economic development strategies from around the region and including content from them in the 2008 CEDS, which is in preparation. He will be soliciting information from county planning and development departments and IDA's regarding economic development projects that definitely will be undertaken in the next 12-18 months. He contrasted the two project lists contained in the CEDS from the more comprehensive and longer-planning-horizon content of the Regional Development Strategy and Comprehensive Project List documents. He encouraged Board members to take an active role in developing the CEDS document. The schedule is that a draft of the 2008 CEDS will be made available to the Board at the May meeting, with revision and approval of the final 2008 CEDS at the June meeting, and submission to EDA by June 30.

Mr. Barnes then asked for Board priorities for EDA investment within the individual Counties and for regional EDA projects.

Mr. Reynolds made a motion that Southern Tier West recognize Allegany County's top two priorities for EDA investment within Allegany County to be the "Wellsville Route 417 East Water & Wastewater System Project" as Allegany's top priority and "Crossroads Business Park Infrastructure Project" as the second priority, respectively. Mr. Hopkins seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Eade made a motion that Southern Tier West recognize Cattaraugus County's top two priorities for EDA investment within Cattaraugus County to be the "Salamanca Water System Storage Project" as Cattaraugus's top priority and "Olean Airport Business Park Infrastructure Project Phase I" as the second priority, respectively. Ms. Abers seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Edwards made a motion that Southern Tier West recognize Chautauqua County's top two priorities for EDA investment within Chautauqua County to be the "North County Industrial Corridor Improvements Project" as Chautauqua's top priority and "Millennium Parkway Project 2008" as the second priority, respectively. Mr. Daly seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Cooper made a resolution that Southern Tier West recognize the top two priorities for EDA investment within the Region to be "Broadband Inventory Study Project" as top priority and "Broadband Installation Project" as the second priority, respectively. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Barnes also provided a list of other top priority regional EDA projects, including the Multimodal Transfer Facility Manufacturing Center Implementation Project, the Business, Arts, and Education Center Implementation Project, the Southern Tier Extension Mainline Railroad Rehabilitation Project 2009, and the STEDO EDA RLF Recapitalization Project.

Mr. Rychnowski noted that the Board can amend these priorities at any time.

Audit Abstract

Ms. Abers made a motion to correct the double entries and adjust the total of the February 2008 Audit Abstract. Mr. Eade seconded the motion to approve the Audit Abstract as corrected.

Next Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board will be the Annual Dinner Meeting held on April 16, 2008 at 3:00 p.m., location yet to be determined.

Adjournment

Mr. Eade moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 p.m. Mr. Reynolds seconded the motion and it carried.