

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES – MAY 16, 2008

The Annual Meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on May 16, 2008 at the Falcon's Nest in Falconer, New York. The following persons were in attendance:

Board Members

Ted Hopkins
Jerry Scott
Sue Myers
Robert Keis, Chairman
Joseph Eade
William King
Jim Cooper, Vice Chairman
Greg Edwards
William Daly

Representing

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

Others Attending

Robert Iszard
Sharon Turano
Donald Rychnowski
Tom Barnes
John Buzzard
Richard Zink
Brian Paschen
Daniel Reynolds
Sarah Phearsdorf
Ginger Malak

Representing

Empire State Development
Post Journal
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff

Vice Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Introductions were made and a sign-in sheet was circulated.

Annual Meeting Actions

1. Presentation of Annual Report

Copies of the 2007 Annual Report were included in the Board packets.

2. Election of Officers

Mr. Eade, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Committee unanimously nominated the following officers: James Cooper, Chautauqua County, Chairman; Robert Keis, Cattaraugus County, Vice Chairman; and Sue Myers, Allegany County, Secretary. Vice Chairman Cooper called for any other nominations; Mr. Eade moved to close nominations and directed the Vice Chairman to cast a single vote. Mr. Scott seconded the motion and it carried.

Minutes

Mr. Eade made a motion to accept the April 17th minutes with the following correction: Jerry Scott, Allegany County is added to the attendance list. Mr. Reynolds seconded the motion and it carried.

Correspondence

In the absence of Secretary Margeson, Vice Chairman Cooper read the following correspondence:

1. Resolution from the Allegany County Board of Legislators, approving reappointment of Susan Myers of Friendship and Theodore Hopkins of Fillmore as members of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board, with term of office commencing June 1, 2008 and expiring May 31, 2011.

Project Review Report

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

Executive Director's Report

Donald Rychnowski reported the following:

News & Notes

1. 15th Annual Local Government Conference

The 15th Annual Local Government Conference was held at Houghton College on May 7, 2008 with approximately 380 local officials from 10 counties in attendance. There were 54 speakers representing 12 state agencies, 11 businesses, and 16 counties, towns, and villages; and 25 vendors and three state agencies exhibiting. Many good comments were received on this year's Conference.

2. Route 219 Project

NYS DOT announced that effective as of May 15th the bridge of US Route 219 over Cattaraugus Creek in the Towns of Concord and Ashford will be posted for a maximum weight limit of twenty tons. The reduced weight limit posting is expected to be in effect for several weeks while repairs are made.

3. Shared-Services Program

The following communities in the Southern Tier West region were approved for grants from the NYS Shared Services Program administered by NYS DOS: Village of Silver Creek \$96,600; Chautauqua County \$173,880; Town of Cuba \$234,781.19; Town of New Albion \$242,132.73; and the Town of Sherman \$288,206.10.

For the FIRST time in the history of the Shared Services Program, organizations like Southern Tier West are eligible to receive funding. We will work with the counties and communities to develop an application for this program.

4. ARC Energy Initiative

Southern Tier West staff is looking into developing an ARC application for an Energy Initiative Project that will look at a variety of ideas, and include working with counties and communities in the region.

Actions

1. Asset Management

Over the past several months, Southern Tier West has been working on developing an Asset Management Program to be submitted as part of the ARC Area Development Program. This program will work with 3-4 communities to inventory infrastructure assets and create a web-based asset management tool. The grant applications will be \$190,000; \$95,000 of ARC funds. Authorization was needed for the Executive Director to submit this application. Ms. Myers so moved, Mr. Hopkins seconded the motion and it carried.

2. Universal Access Broadband Access Grant Program through the NYS Office for Technology

A Universal Access Broadband Access Grant of \$613,000 was executed with the NYS Office of Technology. The project will provide wireless broadband services to communities in northern Allegany County. A decision needed to be made on how best to bridge finance the necessary funds for the construction of the towers across Allegany County. Based on the provisions of the grant, Southern Tier West must expend funds first and then get reimbursement.

Mr. Daly made a motion that when Southern Tier West is guaranteed, by contract, the money from New York State, the Tracewell return fund can be utilized as a loan, at five percent interest apr, in order to bridge finance the construction of towers for the wireless project in Allegany County with the monies then being reimbursed by New York State. Mr. Scott seconded the motion and it carried.

New Business

1. Comprehensive Economic Development Documents

Tom Barnes presented the draft 2008 CEDS document to Board members. Southern Tier West is required to produce this document once a year under the EDA planning contract. The CEDS document is an economic development strategy. A motion will be needed at the June Board meeting to submit a final draft to EDA for approval.

Tom discussed some of the contents within the document. This CEDs document can be changed or updated at any time throughout the year. Board members please let Tom know if you have any changes.

2. Employment Initiative

Richard Zink reported that Southern Tier West began discussions with the Development Foundation, Bob Shane, John Foels, Tom Livak, Bill Daly, and Todd Trantum, all who have great concern regarding the current workforce and the anticipated workforce over the next 3-7 years. Richard asked for the Board's thoughts and suggestions as to how to move forward, what partnerships could be created and an overall direction to move. How can Southern Tier West be of assistance over the next few years in helping remedy this situation?

Three approaches discussed were: 1) Getting people to move back home, 2) retaining people who are already here, and 3) promoting the region for employment opportunities/advancements. The group's ideas included: partnering with as many organizations as possible and necessary; looking at the practices across the different counties and seeing how they can be duplicated across other counties; and Dream It Do It has been presented as an opinion that could be fostered across our region. Currently there appears to be momentum, but there is no solid project in progress.

Greg Edwards suggested that Southern Tier West coordinate a meeting with ten individuals from each county and include the WIB folks to discuss this subject.

William Daly suggested Southern Tier West talk to organizations about using interns.

Old Business

1. LUCA Process

John Buzzard reported that the Census 2010 LUCA Review Process wrapped up over the last couple weeks. Some statistics of how well our region did: there were 4,966 additions in the Southern Tier West region; 1,589 corrections; and 27,753 additions submitted to the NYS Data Center found through the analysis of major state databases, one of which was the NYS DMV registration list.

Southern Tier West is just finishing the last contract with the NYS Data Center, who is in the process of drawing a new contract to continue promotion of the Census.

Committee Reports

Human Resource Development Committee

Ginger Malak reported that the Committee met on April 30, 2008 and minutes of the meeting were included in the Board packets.

Southern Tier Extension Rail Authority

Tom Barnes reported that the STERA Board will meet on May 19th at 9:00 a.m. at the Southern Tier West Offices. This is the Annual Meeting of the STERA Board at which officers will be elected.

Transportation Committee

Ms. Myers reported that the Committee will meet on May 19th at 1:00 p.m. at the Southern Tier West Offices.

Audit Abstract

Mr. Eade made a motion to approve the April 2008 Audit Abstract. Mr. Scott seconded the motion and it carried.

Next Board Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board will be held on June 26, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., at the Center for Regional Excellence, Salamanca, New York. New York State Department of State will be in attendance to hear ARC project presentations that will run throughout the day.

Adjournment

Mr. Eade moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Scott seconded the motion and it carried.