

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES – OCTOBER 16, 2008

The regular meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on October 16, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the Center for Regional Excellence in Salamanca, New York. The following persons were in attendance:

Board Members

Sue Myers, Secretary
Jerry Scott
Ted Hopkins
Robert Keis, Vice Chairman
Joseph Eade
Chuck Couture
William King
Crystal Abers
Jim Cooper, Chairman
Allan Hendrickson
Greg Edwards

Representing

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

Others Attending

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

Representing

Empire State Development
Post Journal
Buffalo News
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff

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

Minutes

Mr. Eade made a motion to accept the September 18th minutes as distributed. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion and it carried.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Project Review Report

There was no new Project Review Reports.

Executive Director's Report

Donald Rychnowski reported the following:

New & Notes

1. ARC Reauthorization

Appalachian Regional Commission reauthorization was approved by Congress and signed by the Senate for an additional five years. The provisions of legislation, including the addition of 10 counties and the change in the match rate for projects in at-risk counties, are renewed through 2012. This authorizes an economic and energy development initiative for the region with no earmarks.

2. EDA Funding

Congress increased the Economic Development Administration's budget to include an additional \$400 million for disaster relief.

3. FY2009 Area Development Projects

Southern Tier West is in the process of inviting final applications from the first seven projects as prioritized by the Board. The seven projects in priority include: Asset Management Program-Year 2, Environmental Education Initiative, Green Building Laboratory, wastewater Treatment Facilities, Road to Success, Occupational Therapy Assistant, and Telecommunications Counseling Project. It is anticipated that we will be able to fund the first five. Final applications are due December 1, 2008.

4. Phase I Asset Management Project

Southern Tier West learned that the Phase I Asset Management Project was approved and signed by the Federal Co-Chairman at ARC. This project was substituted in place of the Cuba Dental Project, which was moved to the FY2009 funding cycle.

5. Census 2010 Program

John Buzzard explained what Southern Tier West was doing to help promote the 2010 Census Program.

Actions Needed

1. Southern Tier West Personnel Policy

Chairman Cooper appointed Robert Keis, Sue Myers, and Jerry Scott to review Southern Tier West's Personnel Policy and make any necessary updates.

2. EDA Planning Grant

Authorization was needed to submit an application to the Economic Development Administration for renewal of the annual Economic Development District Planning Grant. Robert Keis so moved, Joseph Eade seconded the motion and it carried.

5. ARC Reauthorization

Authorization was needed to submit an application to ARC and NYS DOS for administrative funds through the LDD Program. Joseph Eade so moved, Robert Keis seconded the motion and it carried.

New Business

1. Transportation Goals

Tom Barnes reported that Southern Tier West has prepared a final copy of a Rural Transportation Strategy that will be submitted to NYS DOT on March 9, 2009. The purpose of the Strategy is to create a vision for the region's transportation system and develop the goals and objectives appropriate in pursuing and achieving the vision. Community Assistance Specialist Brian Paschen worked with the three-county DPW's and Planning Boards, Seneca Nation of Indians, and municipalities in this process. The Transportation Steering Committee needs to weigh in on contents of the plan.

Southern Tier West is using eight SAFETEA-LU planning factors for this Rural Transportation Strategy's primary goals, which are supported by various objectives and strategies.

Don Rychnowski reported that staff has submitted portions of the Strategy to Board members, and their recommendations will make up a good portion of the report. One big step for Board Members is to look at the regional priorities and e-mail Brian with any feedback on the report before the Southern Tier West Transportation Committee Meeting on Tuesday, October 21st.

2. E-Government Initiative

Richard Zink reported that the purpose of the E-Government Initiative is to get as many municipalities in our region as possible to have and maintain their own websites. Out of 170 municipalities, approximately 115 have showed interest; some with just a front page through our CAP membership, and a number of others who want to go to the next level. Staff met with some of the municipalities to get their ideas and discuss things that could be done, such as on-line payment and on-line forms.

Southern Tier West purchased new software to assist the municipalities in this process, and will help them as much as possible to get their websites enhanced. The goal is to eventually have the municipality use on-line auctions such as e-bay to do business.

Old Business

1. Broadband Development Initiatives

Chairman Cooper reported that Todd Snyder of T. Snyder Consulting presented the Board with a Regional Wireless Broadband Development Partnership Agreement. The Southern Tier West Executive Committee agreed that the Executive Director would execute the Agreement after the following stipulations were met: there has to be a customer service agreement, an equipment location, review of the partnership agreement, and review by Southern Tier West's attorney. Jerry Scott so moved, Robert Keis seconded the motion and it carried.

2. **Internet Access**

Richard Zink reported that an article in the Buffalo News entitled "Lack of high-speed Internet puts rural areas at a disadvantage" was included in the board packets. In relation to this article, Southern Tier West is investigating ways to fund the Allegany County Broadband Project if the State does not come through with funding.

3. **ACME Loan**

William King inquired as to the status of the ACME Loan situation. Richard Zink replied that he would include a report of the Loan's status on the monthly Audit Abstracts.

Committee Reports

Rail Authority

Tom Barnes reported that the Rail Authority will meet on October 14th. The Rail Authority applied for \$805,498 to the State Bond Act Funds with \$85,000 match from WNYPA.

The application deadline for grade crossing funding is the end of November 2008.

The next Rail Authority meeting is yet to be determined for December 2008.

Transportation Committee

Sue Myers reported that the Committee will meet on Tuesday, October 21 at 1:30 p.m. at the Southern Tier West Offices.

Audit Abstract

Joe Eade made a motion to approve the September 2008 Audit Abstract. Jerry Scott seconded the motion and it carried.

Next Board Meeting

Don Rychnowski requested to suspend the November Board Meeting; making the next regular meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board to be held on December 18, 2008 at 1:00 p.m., at the Center for Regional Excellence, Salamanca, New York. Allen Hendrickson so moved, Jerry Scott seconded the motion and it carried.

Adjournment

Chuck Couture moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Joseph Eade seconded the motion and it carried.

sjp