

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES – NOVEMBER 19, 2009

The regular meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on November 19, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the Center for Regional Excellence in Salamanca, New York. The following persons were in attendance:

Board Members

Jerry Scott
Sue Myers
Ted Hopkins
Joseph Eade
Chuck Couture
William King
Crystal Abers
James Cooper, Chairman
Greg Edwards
William Daly

Representing

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

Others Attending

Robert Iszard
Donald Rychnowski
John Buzzard
Sarah Phearsdorf
Eileen Weishan
Brian Paschen
Richard Zink
Rudin Emborsky
Alyssa Dechow
Tom Barnes

Representing

Empire State Development
Staff
Staff
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

Chuck Couture made a motion to accept the September minutes as distributed. Joseph Eade seconded the motion and it carried.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Project Review Report

Sue Myers moved to acknowledge receipt of the Project Review Report. Crystal Abers seconded the motion and it carried.

Executive Director's Report

Donald Rychnowski reported the following:

News & Notes

1. **President Obama Announces Nominee for ARC Federal Co-Chairman**
Earl Gohl has 20 years of experience in Pennsylvania state and local government, ranging from his first job at the State Association of Boroughs, to serving as the Executive Assistant to the Mayor of Harrisburg; an elected member of the Harrisburg City Council; and Deputy Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs. As Deputy Secretary, Mr. Gohl awarded and administered \$100 million annually in housing and community development programs benefiting communities within the Appalachian region. He also managed several initiatives to strengthen the capacity of rural local governments to meet economic challenges. In 1996 Mr. Gohl was appointed to serve as Special Assistant and then Associate Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor. Mr. Gohl holds an M.P.A. from Pennsylvania State University and a B.A. from Rider College.

2. **RIT CIMS Roadmap Project Presentation**
RIT CIMS will be making a special presentation to share new information and implementation plans designed to strengthen the competitiveness of manufacturing businesses in the Southern Tier of New York. The meeting will be held on December 7, 2009 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. downstairs in the BOCES large conference room. RIT CIMS has specifically invited the Southern Tier West Board to attend this presentation. Tom Barnes will be e-mailing an invitation to Board members and ask for a RSVP e-mail response.

3. **Tom Barnes**
Tom Barnes thanked the Board members, Don, and Richard for their support and loyalty during his sick leave.

4. **Conference Call with ARC**
Kyle Wilber and George Korchowsky from NYS DOS conference called into the Board meeting and gave an overview of the 2009 ARC project rankings and ratings. The projects ranked as follows: Seneca Arts Virtual Incubator #1 in the amount of \$74,950; Alternative Fuels Laboratory #2 in the amount of \$149,909; Southern Tier Advanced Manufacturing Institute #3 in the amount of \$150,000; Occupational Therapy Assistant Students Preparing for Work in Traditional and Emerging Employment Areas #4 in the amount of \$60,534; and Municipal Technology Outreach Program at #5 in the amount of \$147,000, total ARC funds \$582,393.

Actions Needed

1. **EDA Planning Grant Application**
Joe Eade made a motion for STW staff to prepare and submit the traditional three-year EDA Planning Grant. Chuck Couture seconded the motion and it carried.

2. **Administrative Contract with Western Region Corporation (WRC)**

Authorization was needed to renew a contract agreement with WRC for services in the amount of \$2,500 for 2009. Bill Daly seconded the motion and it carried.

New Business

1. **Broadband Development Initiatives**

Richard Zink reported under the Fiber Build Project, that Southern Tier West submitted an application to NTI through the ION Group for \$23 million. Approximately 483 pages of surveys and studies were submitted with this application to prove the need for this fiber. Out of six categories, our project ranked 1st in three of those, as ranked by New York State.

Under the Allegany Wireless Project, it is moving along quickly. We received \$613,000 from the State and are currently constructing towers and will hopefully have broadband wireless to the Swain Ski Center this season.

Under Chautauqua County Wireless Project, Southern Tier West sent a proposal to Dunkirk Area Telephone regarding the need for \$40,000 to build fiber to service the Perrysburg/Forestville area.

2. **Community GIS**

Richard Zink reported that Southern Tier West updated their GIS capabilities through new software, different viewers, etc. John Buzzard will give a presentation on this at the December Board Meeting.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Committee Reports

STERA

Richard Zink reported that the STERA Board is scheduled to meet on December 10th at 3:00 p.m. in the City of Olean.

Audit Abstract

Joe Eade made a motion to approve the September/October 2009 Audit Abstract. Bill Daly seconded the motion and it carried.

Next Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board will be a Board Retreat held on December 17, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the Center for Regional Excellence.

Adjournment

Joe Eade moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m. Ted Hopkins seconded the motion and it carried.

sjp