

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES – FEBRUARY 18, 2010

The regular meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on February 18, 2010 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
Joseph Eade
Crystal Abers
Chuck Couture
James Cooper, Chairman
Greg Edwards
William Daly
Shaun Heenan

Representing

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

Others Attending

Robert Iszard
Joe McLarney
Dave McCoy
John Buzzard
Ginger Malak
Sarah Phearsdorf
Eileen Weishan
Brian Paschen
Richard Zink
Rudin Emborsky
Alyssa Dechow
Tom Barnes

Representing

Empire State Development
Cattaraugus County Legislator
TVGA Engineers
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

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

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Project Review Report

Executive Director, Richard Zink reviewed the process of the Intergovernmental Review Report for the Board. Jerry Scott moved to acknowledge receipt of the Project Review Report, Crystal Abers seconded the motion and it carried.

Executive Director's Report

FUNDING

1. Federal

Within the President's Budget for FY2011 ARC was held at level funding, with a slight decrease of \$190,000 to area development project monies, and funding for the EDA Planning Grants was held at level funding.

2. Appalachian Regional Commission

The initiative applications submitted in June and August for Road Scoring and Energy outreach are still being reviewed by NYSDOS. Richard met with the Deputy Secretary of State the first week of February and was assured that these projects would move forward.

STW signed the contract agreement with the Appalachian Regional Commission for the 2010 Administrative Grant.

3. Economic Development Administration

Southern Tier West submitted the required paperwork to EDA for the 2010 planning grant; however, have not received a formal request for funding necessary for the grant to be approved.

4. Transportation

Staff continues to reach out to NYSDOT in an effort to develop programs that will expand off the Regional Transportation Strategy.

NEWS

1. CAP Membership

Included in the Board packets were the new CAP membership forms that were sent to municipalities across the region. For the past few years, STW incorporated a tiered-based membership. Staff decided to try a new membership that provides different options for municipalities in hopes of drawing more attention to these specifically listed services on the form.

2. Letters of Support for City of Salamanca

Southern Tier West received a request from the City of Salamanca for letters of support for four projects they are seeking federal funding. STW can only incorporate projects into their CEDS, or provide letters of support for projects that can be tied to specific studies or projects that they have been involved in. The Board discussed this issue and decided that Southern Tier West would write the letters of support for the City of Salamanca, and make guidelines for future occasions.

ACTIONS

1. Western Region Corporation

Richard requested the Board consider loaning \$50,000 of Tracewell funds to WRC for creation of a fund that will provide assistance to small business that need working capital to support their production that will satisfy export transactions and export receivables financing. The loan will be to the Western Region Corporation at 2.5% with interest only payments for 5 years and a balloon payment of the balance due at that time. The project will assist small businesses and create new jobs across the region. Bill Daly so moved that Southern Tier West support the loan of \$50,000 to WRC as part of the funding mechanism of matching funds for the important import/export projects within the five counties served by WRC, Joe Eade seconded the motion and it carried.

Also, a motion was needed for Southern Tier West to co-sponsor with Western Region Corporation for grant applications to the Appalachian Regional Commission for \$150,000 and to the Economic Development Administration for up to \$2,000,000 for this fund. Joe Eade so moved, Chuck Couture seconded the motion and it carried.

2. Allegany County Wireless Project

STW is looking to the next phase of the region's wireless initiative that started in Allegany County. In discussions with EDA, monies are available through their Community Trade Adjustment Assistance program for a project that would bring wireless to western Cattaraugus County and the eastern portions of Chautauqua County. Authorization was needed for Southern Tier West to submit an application in the amount of \$950,000 to EDA to fund this project. The application will use the NYS dollars received from the Office of Technology as match, and Southern Tier West will work with local providers to put together the application. Sue Myers so moved, Bill Daly seconded the motion and it carried.

3. Green Incubator Facility

Accord has completed a feasibility study determining the need for a green incubator facility within the region. Approval was needed for Southern Tier West to submit an application for a technical assistance grant from the Economic Development Administration in the amount of \$50,000 to study the proper location, size, amenities, pre-engineering, etc. of such a facility. Ted Hopkins so moved, Jerry Scott seconded the motion and it carried.

New Business

1. STW's Role with EDA

Tom Barnes presented to the Board an overview of Southern Tier West's role with EDA and how EDA's grant process works. Hand-outs were distributed.

2. Reconstruction of the STW Transportation Committee

Committee Chairman, Sue Myers reported that the Transportation Committee feels they would work better and more efficient if the Committee was reconstructed. Brian Paschen distributed copies and discussed STW's proposed Transportation Program structure. Board members were asked to pass on any ideas and/or guidance in this process.

The next Transportation Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 16th at 1:30 p.m. at the Center for Regional Excellence in Salamanca, New York.

3. **Marcellus Shale**

Marcellus shale natural gas well drilling and the water issues associated with it were the hot topics of conversation during a discussion on environmental issues Thursday hosted by state Rep. Timothy Mahoney, D-South Union, at the State Theatre Center for the Arts. Legislator McClarney attended this meeting and asked if Southern Tier West would support and coordinate cooperation among their Regional Planning Board counterparts in regard to moving this project forward.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee reports.

Audit Abstract

Greg Edwards made a motion to approve the January/February 2010 Audit Abstract. Shaun Heenan seconded the motion and it carried.

Next Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board will be held on Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at the Center for Regional Excellence.

Adjournment

Joe Eade moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m., Ted Hopkins seconded the motion and it carried.

sjp