

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES – OCTOBER 17, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on October 17, 2013 at the Center for Regional Excellence, Salamanca, New York. The following persons were in attendance:

Board Members

Jerry Scott
Sue Myers, Vice Chair
Kier Dirlam
Ted Hopkins
Fred Sinclair
Bob Keis, Chairman
William King
Chuck Couture
Jay Gould
Bill Daly

Representing

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

Others Attending

Chris Chapman
Richard Zink
Nicole Nyznyk
Kim LaMendola
Patrick O’Connell
Tom Barnes
Courtney Waters
Sarah Phearsdorf

Representing

Buffalo News
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.

Minutes

Chuck Couture made a motion to accept the September 19, 2013 minutes as distributed. Ted Hopkins seconded the motion and it carried.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Project Review Report

There we no new project review reports.

Executive Director's Report

1. USDA

Southern Tier West has not received word on the Farm to School grant application that was submitted earlier this year. It is hopeful staff will hear something once the government reopens.

2. Grants Workshop

The Grantsmanship Center will conduct their 2-day *Essential Grant Skills* workshop on March 18-19, 2104 in the Center for Regional Excellence in Salamanca. The information is detailed below:

- 2 consecutive days 8:30 am – 4:30 pm each day
- Cost per person attending: \$445 – The Southern Tier West Development Foundation has agreed to subsidize the cost to a local municipality in the amount of \$100 per entity.
- Perks to host is free tuition on a sliding scale of # of participants:
 - 20 people registered and paid: 1 free tuition for host organization
 - 25 people registered and paid: 2 free tuitions for host organization
 - 30 people registered and paid: 3 free tuitions for host organization
- STW is working to promote this workshop and have people signed up by January 2014.

3. Smoking Cessation Grant

Southern Tier West is looking at a grant opportunity through NYS Department of Health – Bureau of Tobacco Control. The RFA was released late last week and is due the end of November. Previously this dictated a 4 county area, our three counties as well as Wyoming. This round of funding dictates an eight-county western New York region; so Southern Tier West is looking to partner with P2 to submit an application and ultimately subcontract with them. Staff will keep the Board informed as to the role we will have in this project.

4. P2—90/10 Grant

The Practice must include Medicaid Specialists who meet the 30% patient threshold as defined by CMS, in order to receive the NYeC Medicaid Specialists. Specifically targeted Medicaid Specialists are those who meet the Medicaid Specialists qualifications. Eligible Medicaid Specialists include: Physicians (M.D. and D.O.); Dentists; Nurse Practitioners; Certified Nurse Practitioners; Physicians Assistants: If a FQHC or a RHC is led by a Physician Assistant, that PA and all other PAs who practice at the FQHC/RHC are eligible; and Pediatricians.

5. Office Technology

After discussion and research, the STW office will be moving to Office 365, which is a software package which Microsoft charges a monthly fee and continually provides updates. This will move us more and more toward cloud computing and eventually tablet integration over the next few years.

All the websites have been transferred over to the new hosting service and all is back to normal.

6. Stormwater Conference

Southern Tier West is hosting a Stormwater Conference today at Holiday Valley. The sessions include:

- Watershed Education for Municipal Officials
- Reducing Municipal costs by proactively managing stormwater runoff
- What is your municipal role in stormwater management?

There are over 110 registrants/speakers/exhibitors attending the event today.

7. Highway Computer Training

Training of local highway officials will start next week with a basic “This is Your Computer” class, which will focus on the functions of the computer they purchased with the assistance of the Development Foundation. Thus far, 29 computers have been distributed and staff will be handing out 10 more this week.

New Business

1. Local Foods

Kimberly LaMendola reported that Southern Tier West is hosting a “Growing Our Regional Farmers Markets by {net}Working” Summit on November 4, 2013 from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM held at the Olean Campus of Jamestown Community College, Cutco Theater, Magnano Reception Room. Featured guest is Diane Eggert, Executive Director of the Farmers Market Federation of NY and special guest Jim Farr, City of Rochester Public Markets. All activities and meals are included at no cost to participants due to the availability of grant funding. Diane Eggert will guide participants through dialogue, assessment, sharing, network building, collaboration, and planning for the future sustainability and vibrancy of our region’s farmers markets. Registration is available online at www.freshlocal.org and www.southerntierwest.org or by calling Kim LaMendola at 716-945-5301 ext 211. Hopefully in January 2014 there will be a Summit Part II.

2. STW Conferences

Richard Zink reported that Southern Tier West hosts three conferences annually: Local Government Conference, Fall Planning/Zoning Conference, and the Stormwater Conference. Handouts, PowerPoint presentations, booklets, etc. from these conferences will be available for viewing or downloading off the Southern Tier West website. Staff will put a high priority on making these materials available electronically.

3. STERA

Tom Barnes reported on the status of STERA. A couple primary roles of the railroad initiative are to provide the abatement of real estate property taxes on railroad property in NYS to keep railroad operating costs down so as to incentivize maintenance and enhancement of railroad operations; to channel government funding into railroad rehab and improvement projects.

The status of property tax abatement as of June 2013, STERA approved an extension of the real estate property tax abatement period currently in place. The abatement extension provides a total abatement of real estate property taxes through 2028, including county, city, town, village, and school district taxes. The abatement extension/PILOT modification agreement has been executed by both STERA and Norfolk Southern, and is now in effect.

Current STERA projects include bridge and track alignment projects. Upcoming construction projects include a grade rehab project, developing shovel ready sites for new business locations along the two lines; improving rail access for existing businesses through rail siding development and enhancement of the business' own rail shipping capacities and facilities infrastructure; and developing and constructing a Transload Freight Loading Facility at the WNYP rail yard on Constitution Avenue in Olean.

Tom gave additional background information, including Board and Corporate Officers and the history and economics currently driving the overall rail initiative.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports.

Public Comment

Bill Daly recently accepted an award on behalf of the Chautauqua County Planning Department from the New York Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association that recognized the excellence in the planning process for the development of the Chautauqua County Greenway Plan.

Jay Gould reported that the Lakeshore Hospital in Dunkirk closed with 400 jobs lost. Also, National Grid is looking at building a new plant for compressed natural gas.

Kier Dirlam reported that Allegany County adopted a 10-year comprehensive plan for 2013-2023 aimed at stronger business and tourism development by coordinating and implementing enhanced effort in four major categories – lowering property taxes, promoting county image and reputation, collecting and storing digital data, and addressing regional sustainability.

Fred Sinclair reported that through NYSERDA many new proven energy-efficient technologies and processes are ready to deploy in commercial, residential, and multifamily buildings across the state. Through project demonstrations, NYSERDA's ETAC program creates real-world evidence of the value of these commercially-proven technologies and the benefits to those who are ready to be leaders in New York's energy future.

Audit Abstract

Jerry Scott made a motion to approve the September 17 - October 16, 2013 Audit Abstract. Sue Myers seconded the motion and it carried.

Next Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Southern Tier West Board will be held on December 19, 2013 at the Center for Regional Excellence starting at 11:30 a.m. to discuss the future of Southern Tier West, followed by lunch at noon and the Board Meeting at 1:00 p.m. Chuck Couture made a motion to not have a November Board Meeting, Bill Daly seconded the motion and it carried.

Adjournment

Fred Sinclair made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m. Bill King seconded the motion and it carried.