

Municipal News

A publication of Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board's
Center for Local Government & Community Services

JANUARY 2008



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Planning & Development Board
Center For Regional Excellence
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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

CONGRATULATIONS to all the newly elected and reelected officials. Now the hard part begins – living up to the expectations of those who elected you while following the numerous rules and regulations of local government. We offer our assistance in this task.

This quarterly newsletter was created as a means to get information out to local officials about Southern Tier West, current events, and developing issues. In this issue I have included contacts and resources to help you with your job. Also, call our staff, talk with them, and ask questions. We are more than willing to talk with you, offering guidance and support.

This month Town Supervisors will be receiving an invitation to become a CAP member, supporting the Local Government Division of Southern Tier West. Village membership will arrive in the spring. The Community Assistance Program (CAP) was created to provide local government officials with a local resource for technical and general assistance. Southern Tier West has always taken the stance that CAP “belongs” to the local governments, and therefore encourages constituent input into what services are provided, including suggestions and programming. We welcome you to participate in CAP. Don’t hesitate to call -- we are always willing to talk with you or visit you at your location.

Eileen R. Weishan, Community Assistance Specialist, Local Government Division, Editor



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

TRAINING SCHEDULE

Code Enforcement: The code enforcement classes listed below will be held at Southern Tier West BOCES Offices in Salamanca. You must register online with NYS at:

<http://www.dos.state.ny.us/code/edu/htm>. Most classes are held from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

March 4-6, Intro to Code Enforcement Practices #9A, Regulations and Administration

April 8-10, Intro to Code Enforcement Practices #9B, Fire Safe Design

May 13-15, Inspection Procedures for Existing Structure #9C

June 17-19, General Construction Principles #9D

July 22-24, Residential Code on NYS #9E

Statewide Training:

January 10, NYCOM City Officials Workshop, Albany

January 15-17, Newly Elected Officials Training, Association of Towns, Rochester

January 16, NYCOM Election Workshop, Rochester

January 23, “Introduction to GIS Web Services”, NYS CSCIC, Horseheads

February 13, “Introduction to GIS Web Services”, NY CSCIC, Cheektowaga

February 17-20, Association of Towns Annual Meeting, New York City

February 24-26, NYCOM Legislative Meeting, Albany

February 28, American Farmland Trust - Growing Farms in the 21st Century, Saratoga

April 15-17, Basic Accounting School, OSC



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Contact Information

If you would like more information on any of Southern Tier West's programs, contact:

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Funding

for the Southern Tier West Center for Local Government & Community Services is received in part by a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission as well as through annual membership contributions by local governments and annual corporate sponsorships.

✓ GIS WORKSHOP

This year the NYS Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination is pleased to offer a new GIS workshop, "Introduction to GIS Web Services." <http://www.nysgis.state.ny.us/outreach/training/gistraining/webservices08.html>.

This workshop will introduce attendees to the fundamental concepts of GIS web services and raise awareness of the means of leveraging the Internet to utilize geographic data without having to host the GIS data and/or develop necessary tools. Topics to be incorporated in this workshop include explanation of the web services and the basics of data use via web service platforms. Demonstrations will cover the existing methods of integrating GIS data with web services. The workshop will also cover various web service types and their application. In addition, attendees will learn about current New York State programs and available resources for use in the integration of web service and GIS technologies.

The target audience for this workshop is GIS practitioners and those who would like to understand what web services are and how they can be utilized in the workplace (not a hands-on GIS developers workshop to build web services).

Workshop registration is "first-come, first-serve" so register early. Registration and a complete listing of locations, dates, and times is available at the NYS GIS Clearinghouse (www.nysgis.state.ny.us) web page. The sites most "local" to western New York are: **Wednesday January 23, Elmira-Corning Regional Airport, Wings of Eagle Discovery Ctr, 17 Aviation Drive, Horseheads, NY and Wednesday February 13, Erie County Emergency Services Training & Operations Ctr, 3359 Broadway, Cheektowaga, NY** ✓

✓ PLANNING & ZONING TRAINING

As the second year begins for mandatory Planning & Zoning Board training requirements, we are in the planning stage to provide you with many opportunities to receive your training credits. The following has been scheduled for the first half of 2008: March 19 in the evening; March 20 in the morning; and May 7 all day at the 15th Annual Southern Tier West Local Government Conference at Houghton College. Watch for flyers with program times, locations, and details. ✓

✓ LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

Planning is underway for the 15th annual Southern Tier West Local Government Conference to be held at Houghton College on Wednesday, May 7, 2008. Some of the topics will include Games of Chance, Energy Efficiency, Truck Inspections, Shared Services, Grants and Funding, Code Enforcement, Court Clerk and Justice courses, as well as Planning and Zoning. Speakers come from a variety of agencies, companies, and local governments to give you information on issues local governments are continually dealing with. This conference is a great event to meet your peers, talk with vendors, and talk one on one with state agency representatives! Houghton College provides a great site and great food. Look for your registration in the mail the beginning of March. ✓



LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

As a new or incumbent local official, you will find there are many times when a good resource for reliable information is needed. There are many places to turn for this information from the local level on up to the state and federal level. The list below should give you a good start.

1. *Most counties have local associations for various local officials. Take advantage of these meetings. You will get to know the Supervisors, Mayors, and Clerks in other Towns. At most meetings, major issues are brought to the attention of the membership or someone has a local problem to discuss. Frequently, speakers are brought in to help with the key issues at hand. Here is a list of the current Associations and Presidents of each:*

COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS & PRESIDENTS

- Allegany County Clerks Association, Rita Hunt, Town of Rushford, 585-593-1780
- Town Highway Superintendents of Allegany County, Fred Demick, Town of Angelica, 585-466-7749
- Cattaraugus County Municipal Clerks Association, Sue Koch, Town of Little Valley, 716-938-6441
- Cattaraugus Co Municipal Officials Assoc, Paula Stockman, Village of South Dayton, 716-938-9151
- Cattaraugus Co Town Supervisors Association, David Dickinson, Town of Franklinville, 716-676-3077
- Catt Co Town Highway Superintendents Assoc, Chris Lexer, Town of Yorkshire, 716-296-5507
- Chautauqua County Conference of Mayors, Anthony Caprino, Village of Lakewood, 716-763-8557
- Chautauqua Co Highway Superintendents Assoc, Art Malecki, Town of French Creek, 716-355-8801
- Municipal Clerks of Chautauqua County, Gloria Anderson, Village of Falconer, 716-665-4400
- Chautauqua County Town Supervisors Association, John Walker, Town of Sheridan, 716-672-4174

STATE ASSOCIATIONS

- New York State Town Clerks Association, Rebecca Haines, Town of Ellery, 716-386-3465
- NYS Association of City and Village Clerks, Brian Ridgeway, Village of Garden City, 516-465-4053
- Association of Towns of the State of New York, 150 State St, Albany, 12207 (518) 465-7933
- New York Conference of Mayors, 119 Washington Ave, Albany 12210 (518) 463-1185

2. *Always take advantage of one of the best sources for support - another local official. Most likely the Supervisor, Clerk, or Highway Superintendent in the neighboring town has been through the same situation or issue that you are tackling right now. Why not talk it over with someone who has been through it before? They may have a unique solution you haven't thought of yet. You may or may not have met them at an association meeting.*

3. *Keep a list of the contact people for the County departments and the State departments. These people are always willing to discuss issues or questions you may have about procedures, rules, and requirements; whether it be fiscal, legal, insurance, personnel, an emergency, or just general discussion. Call them. Save the newsletter insert with contact information.*

4. *Last but not least, Southern Tier West is a great source of information, support, and assistance. If we can't answer your question, we will either do the research or refer you to someone who is more knowledgeable on the subject. Our staff is in daily contact with many state officials and departments.*

Continued on Page 4 . . .

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FUNDING



EPA HONORS NY FOR SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION

New York's program receives award for innovation and performance.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has honored New York's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) for its effectiveness and innovation in achieving sustainable public health protection, New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation President David Sterman and State Health Commissioner Richard F. Daines, M.D., announced today. EFC and the New York State Department of Health (DOH) administer New York's Drinking Water SRF program.

"Providing adequate funding for New York's urgent drinking water projects is one of Governor Spitzer's top environmental priorities," said Mr. Sterman. "To help advance the Governor's goals, we are continuously looking for new ways to optimize Drinking Water SRF Program funding to finance as many projects as possible in communities throughout the State. I'm delighted that EPA recognizes our success in our effective administration of the Program."

Dr. Daines said: "The New York Drinking Water State Revolving Fund is a vital tool in helping communities throughout our State make needed improvements to their drinking water systems. We have worked very hard to effectively fund as many projects as possible and I appreciate EPA's recognition of our efforts by giving us this award."



EPA's 2007 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Award recognizes New York State's use of interest-free short-term financing and its new loan guarantees. With interest-free short-term financing, borrowers are able to access money more quickly, and long-term

projects are budgeted for and more accurately planned. Short-term financing is typically used for planning and design, and is frequently rolled into long-term low-interest SRF financing. New York's Drinking Water SRF Program also offers credit enhancements in the form of guarantees for applicants whose projects score below the funding levels established for the program; and thus, would most likely be unable to receive financial assistance from the State. Guarantees also offer an extended financing term benefit of up to 30-years.

Since 1997, the Drinking Water SRF program has provided more than \$2 billion in low-cost financing and grants and \$135.3 million in direct interest subsidies for 541 drinking water improvement projects throughout New York State. For additional information on NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation and the Drinking Water and Clean Water SRF programs, please visit www.nysefc.org or call (518) 402-6957.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOURCES CONTINUED . . .

We provide training programs throughout the year in a conference format such as the Local Government Conference in May and the Planning & Zoning Conference in November. We also coordinate in-service credit classes for Code Enforcement Officers and Water/Wastewater Operators bringing the state training staff to you. Individual seminars are scheduled covering topics such as powers & duties, municipal accounting, infrastructure funding, grant writing, and asset management. Broadband, 2010 Census, Wind Energy, Stormwater, and GIS mapping, are issues we deal with daily. Call us at 716-945-5301, we can assist you in many ways.

Southern Tier West Homepage

Southern Tier West's homepage is

www.southerntierwest.org.

The page describes Southern Tier West's organization, programs, activities, and events and will contain data and links to other useful and interesting sites. We encourage you to visit our homepage and make suggestions for improving the page so that we can make it more useful to you in the future.

✓ FUNDING PUBLIC WATER & SEWER PROJECTS

Do you need help funding a drinking water or sewer project? Do you wish you could obtain grant dollars or low interest loans or interest-free loans rather than bonding? Do you think that grant applications are more cumbersome than it's worth? If your answer is YES and you have decided not to apply for State or Federal funds, then you need to read this article NOW.

The New York State Water and Sewer Infrastructure Co-funding Initiative is a formal, coordinated approach to maximizing public funding opportunities for public water and sewer projects. Co-funding provides a central source of information and assistance in applying to all water and sewer funding programs for which a project may be eligible. The Co-funding Initiative was developed in response to Governor Pataki's Quality Communities Task Force recommendations for ways to assist communities with promoting economic development and environmental protection.

Communities have several sources of government funding available to them and projects may be eligible to receive funding from more than one of these programs. Learning about these programs and applying for funding can be a challenging task. The Co-funding Initiative has taken steps to make the process easier and more effective through enhanced State and Federal government partnerships. The Co-funding Initiative:

- *Streamlines the funding process*
- *Centralizes multi-agency program information. Provides one central source for information and application assistance for all finding programs*
- *Helps you identify and obtain available funding. Demand for available public funding is very high!*
- *Optimizes the amount of funding a project receives*
- *Makes the application process easier and more efficient*

Several State and Federal government agencies have formed a partnership to better coordinate water and sewer funding activities for the purpose of

improving service to communities seeking project financing. In addition to their programs, the partnership can introduce you to other funding sources not mentioned here. The Co-Funding agencies and their programs include:

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Area Development Program: Administered by NYS Department of State through the three Southern Tier Regional Planning and Development Boards. This federal program provides funding to the 14 Southern Tier counties in the Appalachia region of New York State. ARC financial assistance to projects in all Appalachian counties is only a small catalytic part of a larger package of state and federal investments for particular infrastructure efforts and is almost always co-funded with such funds. *Applications are due in June of each year.*

Rural Utilities Programs, Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program: Administered by US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development provides loans, grants and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas and cities and towns with a population of 10,000 or less. Public bodies, non-profit organizations and recognized Indian tribes may qualify for assistance. *Applications are accepted throughout the year.*

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Small Cities Program: Administered by the NYS Office for Small Cities, the US Housing and Urban Development CDBG Small Cities Program provides grants to eligible cities, towns and villages with a population under 50,000 persons and counties under 200,000 for projects principally benefiting low and moderate income persons by revitalizing neighborhoods, expanding affordable housing and economic opportunities, and/or improving community facilities. *Applications are due in April of each year.*

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✓ FUNDING PUBLIC WATER & SEWER CONTINUED . . .

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

(CWSRF): Administered by NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), CWSRF provides reduced rate financing to recipients for municipally owned water quality protection projects. *Applications are due in October for Winter Pool Financing and March for Summer Pool Financing.*

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

(DWSRF): Administered by NYS Department of Health and EFC, the DWSRF provides reduced rate financing and grants for municipally and privately owned public water systems to undertake needed drinking water infrastructure projects. *Applications are due in October for Winter Pool Financing and March for Summer Pool Financing.*

How does the Co-Funding Initiative work? All it takes is one call to the Co-Funding Coordinator or visit to the Co-Funding website to utilize the Eligibility Self-Assessment Tool and complete the Co-Funding Questionnaire.

Water & Sewer Co-funding Coordinator

NYS Environmental Facilities Corp.

625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12207-2997

Phone: 518-402-7438 or 800-882-9721

E-mail: coordinator@nycofunding.org

Website: <http://www.nycofunding.org>

Feel free to contact any individual funding agency for information. Better yet - contact Ginger Malak at the Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board (716-945-5301) and she will be happy to assist you in your pursuit of infrastructure funding. There are many agencies ready to help you obtain funding, so call now. 