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FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUES
Federal Revenue
$450,995
State Revenue
$157,318
Local Share/Counties
$72,170
Miscellaneous Income
$215,265
Total REVENUES
$895,747

EXPENSES
Salaries & Wages
$510,871
Program Expenses & Other
$384,876
Total EXPENSES
$895,747

Community GIS

The STW GIS Department has seen increased interest among local municipalities in the utilization of the CGIS program. STW partnered with 9 municipalities to collect and map over 4500 data points and approximately 15 miles of local trails. The STW culvert inventory collection continues to be the most requested service that we provide. This year, STW finished culvert data collection for the Town of Chautauqua, Village of Lakewood, Town of Pomfret, Town of South Valley, Village of Westfield, and Village of Bemus Point. Besides the culvert inventory data collected for these municipalities, the STW GIS Department also partnered with the Village of Falconer to map the village's drop inlet boxes, as well as the Town of East Otto to complete an all-inclusive signage inventory. All of the data collected from these municipalities is processed at the STW office and presented to the municipality in the form of hard copy (paper) maps as well as digital maps that are uploaded to the STW CGIS website. Once uploaded, these maps are easily accessible for use in the field and can be viewed using any mobile device via the STW CGIS Flex Viewer.

In 2015 the GIS Department also worked closely with the Village of Springville on their downtown revitalization project. The STW GIS Department was tasked with mapping all aspects the village's water infrastructure. In total, over 1,400 data points were collected for the village including water valve, fire hydrant, and manhole locations, which will be presented both in print and electronic form to the village as a tool for future planning and development. In addition, the fire hydrant information collected will be presented to the Springville Fire Department for emergency services use.

Finally, in 2015, the GIS Department was pleased to partner with Jones Memorial Hospital to map approximately 15 miles of trail within the Village of Wellsville. These trails not only provide scenic recreational opportunities, they also serve as an integral intermediary that connect 2 separate sections of the WAG trail to one another. The WAG Trail (Wellsville-Addison-Galeton rail-trail) is part of a 230 mile network of trails known as the Triple Divide Trail System. These trails extend from Lake Ontario in Rochester, to the Susquehanna River in Williamsport, PA. The maps created from this project will be utilized in informational kiosks located along the trail system. They will provide valuable information such as current location, individual trail lengths and locations, and the availability of neighboring amenities.

SOUTHERN TIER WEST
Regional Planning & Development Board

2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT

PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT SERVING ALLEGANY, CATTARAUGUS, AND CHAUTAUQUA COUNTIES

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - RICHARD ZINK

In 1969 it was determined that our mission was to help coordinate and enhance planning and development activities in Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties, so as to promote social, physical, and economic development in these counties. Southern Tier West seeks to improve the quality of life for the region's people and assure that the "people of the Southern Tier West region have access to adequate occupational, educational, and recreational opportunities; environment; health care services; housing; public safety; and transportation." Throughout this report you will see how, 46 years later, Southern Tier West is still abiding by this mission.

Southern Tier West continues to work toward strengthening the local governments that affect everyone across our region on a daily basis. We are providing tools such as GIS and records management programs, and technical assistance, through over 50 training classes, to make these governments as efficient and effective as possible. The work we provide through grant assistance touches many different sectors within our region. Our Federal and State partners provide the dollars needed to create and sustain programs in the areas of healthcare, occupational skill development and infrastructure enhancement. We also are working diligently to enhance the quality of life through our local foods and broadband programs.

As we develop our programs, staff is always aware of the importance of the partnerships that outside agencies provide. We are also very appreciative of the support we receive from our board of directors. It is this support allows Southern Tier West to develop and investigate new programs we think will have a positive impact on our region.

22ND ANNUAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

The 22nd Annual Local Government Conference was held on May 6th 2015 at Houghton College in Houghton, NY. With over 40 sessions to choose from ranging from Protecting Municipal Data to a New Track for Assessors, the annual Conference was yet another success! With that said, kicking off the conference with a special opening session message, from Phyllis Gaerte, Director of Community Relations at Houghton College as well as Southern Tier West's Executive Director Richard Zink. Over 400 participants including registrants, exhibitors, and speakers attended the Conference.

FALL PLANNING & ZONING CONFERENCE

The 2014 Fall Planning & Zoning Conference had six exhibitors and 3 speakers, 2 from the Department of state and a representative from NYSERDA. The Conference was held at Chautauqua Inn and Suites on Nov 5th and a smaller session on Nov 4th at Southern Tier West Office, with over 140 participants.

2014/15 LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORPORATE SUPPORTER

E&M Engineers & Surveyors, PC

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

This year represented the first phase of several evolving changes to STW's administration of the ARC Area Development Program, changes that build a longer timeline into the program's annual cycle and give us a longer timeframe to work with potential applicants in the development of eligible projects and strong grant applications. STW's role as the LDD for Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties includes acting as the regional hub for planning and coordination of resources and to foster collaborative community participation and civic leadership.

For the FY2015 ARC application cycle, STW received preliminary applications from nine regional constituents totaling more than $1.03 million in grant requests for projects totaling over $21.4 million. While not all applications moved forward for final review, the diversity of the proposed projects is a snapshot of the needs within our Appalachian communities in all of the critical development areas identified by Appalachian Regional Commission and NYS Department of State.

EDA GRANTS FUNDED IN OUR REGION

Town of Wellsville: Route 417 Water System Extension Project
Funding: $465,0 00
With a total project cost of $930,000, the project involves the construction of public water infrastructure to serve businesses along the NY State Route 417 corridor east of the Village of Wellsville.

Village of Westfield: Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project
Funding: $2,116,400
With a total project cost of $4,232,800 the wastewater facility, which was nearing the end of its useful life, serves not only the businesses and residents of Westfield, but also the three large grape processing plants located in Westfield.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

The 2014 CEDS focuses on linking regional competitiveness to investment in a knowledge-based economy. The CEDS uses established data-driven analytical techniques to evaluate the region and establish effective strategies for economic development.

The CEDS also continues Southern Tier West's other strategic foci, including broadband deployment, financial assistance, infrastructure development, and transportation-based economic development.

Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority

During calendar year 2014, STERA began or continued four rehabilitation projects that had been funded in a prior year, which are primarily bridge repair and track upgrade projects. In 2014, STERA also was able to commence an additional project that was funded during 2014. This project involves storm damage repair and mitigation construction work, funded by FEMA and WNYP and/or NYS DHSES. This project involves repairs to 47 locations, located variously in Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, and Steuben Counties on the Southern Tier Extension, that were damaged in a storm occurring May 13 – 22, 2014. FEMA had declared a disaster in these four counties relating to this storm. Construction work will continue into 2015. This project should be completed in 2015.

STERA also received a funding award for a sixth project in late 2014 and expects to commence and complete this project in 2015. This project, funded by NYS DOT and WNYP, involves the installation of 10,000 rail ties between Olean and Killbuck, the repair of 11 rail switches, the installation of 12,000 tons of ballast, surfacing and alignment of track and turnouts, the rehabilitation of three at-grade crossings, and the rehabilitation of 11 turnouts.

Western Region Corporation

In 2014, WRC received a New York State Empire State Development grant funding award in the amount of $2,012,780 to create a second loan fund, the Downtown Revitalization Program (DRP) loan fund. The DRP fund is intended to facilitate the redevelopment and improvement of downtown commercial center buildings and the development of new downtown commercial center buildings.
Southern Tier West provided the grantsmanship to obtain both of the grant awards to capitalize these two loan funds.

Records Management Program

Through a shared-services grant, Southern Tier West received $49,996 funding from NYS Archives that helped six municipalities (the Towns of East Otto, Friendship, Poland, Pomfret, Ripley, and Rushford) convert over 83,133 pages of minutes, vital statistics, and payroll records to digital images. All the images are saved on web-based Laserfische software housed at Southern Tier West with 24/7 access to identified municipal officials. Their data is password protected, maintained, and backed up by Southern Tier West at no charge to the municipalities. Each municipality received thier own scanner and two Laserfische software licenses, enabling them to continue effective and efficient records retention.

Local Foods

This past year STW had the benefit of additional personnel resources with a second year of an AmeriCorps member assignment for our local food projects. This allowed us to provide the region's farmers markets and other direct sales operators with highly individualized assistance and to have a regular in-person presence throughout the region. We have also been able to observe first-hand the various trends occurring at the region's weekly farmers markets, produce auction houses, roadside farm stands, and in retail outlets and then be able to quickly respond to our local food partners with potential opportunities, suggestions for new strategies, or to link partners with each other to maximize customer development and increased profitability. STW was able to assist many of the farmers markets in gaining the ability to accept and process many of the income assistance benefits for purchases at the market and published a handy consumer leaflet listing the various benefits accepted at the region's 19 farmers markets.

There was significant momentum with the ongoing development of the STW Regional Farmers Market Network, a partnership of stakeholders that facilitate and support the growth and sustainability of a network of diverse farmers markets in Southwest New York State. Frequent and well-attended meetings took place from late fall 2014 to late spring 2015 with representatives from the region's nearly 20 farmers markets working together to define a collaborative approach to promote the local farmer market economy and to collaborate and share market management training and business development tools. Southern Tier West and the Network developed and presented trainings related to food safety at farmers markets, improving communications between meat animal producers and their processors, hosted webinars to certify local food producers to accept income-assistance payments at farmers markets, and held the region's first ever farmers market networking evening where potential farmers market vendors could meet representatives from each of the region's markets to learn about each of the markets and apply to become a vendor.

In September 2014, STW was awarded a $24,750 planning grant from the USDA Local Foods Promotion Program to conduct a consultant-led assessment of the opportunities and barriers that exist between meat animal producers and regional meat processing facilities. A team from Philadelphia, PA based Kitchen Table Consultants conducted comprehensive farm and meat processing facility visits and performed original research and analysis to inform the final report and recommended action steps. The comprehensive report is slated for release in October 2015 and will provide a thorough overview of the relationship between the region's meat producers and processors and identify strategies to improve efficiencies between them and increase profitability along the local meat supply chain so that the strong consumer demand for local meat products can be more fully met. Additionally, in June 2015 STW submitted a $100,000 grant request to the USDA Farmers Market SNAP Support Grant Program to support STW personnel and the related program supplies for a two-year targeted campaign to build institutional linkages among SNAP clients, income assistance agencies, and local farmers markets that results in increased purchases of fresh food products. Grant status will be known by October 1, 2015. We are awaiting the final review and approval from ARC program staff on our FY2015 application for the STW Regional Farmers Market Network development project and local food documentary.

Watershed Planning & Stormwater Management

In October 2014, Southern Tier West held its 2nd Annual Stormwater Conference (93 attendees) where topics such as construction stormwater permitting, DEC permitting for streams and wetlands, the use of rain gardens and buffer strips to manage stormwater and stormwater funding options were discussed. In addition to these topics, there was a session titled, "Site Plan Review for Code Enforcement Officers" which offered 2 hours of continued education credits for code enforcement officers.

In the spring of 2015 Southern Tier West held its 2nd Annual Stormwater Best Practices Demonstration Day at its Little Valley demonstration site. Topics that were discussed and demonstrated at this event included mock inspections of BMP's, GI infiltration practices, a silt fencing demonstration and discussion, and a revisiting of last year's installations to evaluate what had functioned properly/improperly over the last year.

Health Care Initiative

Throughout the year, STW helped several providers navigate the complex standards associated with Meaningful Use. This initiative is funded through a partnership with the P2 Collaborative of Western NY.

STW also partnered with the University of Buffalo's Primary Care Research Institute to bring the mammography (pink) bus to the Salamanca area. Salamanca and the surrounding communities have been identified by UB-PCRI as an 'area of need' for mammography services. To date there have been three screenings with more than 75 patients served.

Through the Health Care Program, STW provided aid to several primary care groups in their goal to achieve recognition as Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMH). Six local practice sites were recognized by the NCQA as Patient Centered Medical Homes.