

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES – APRIL 19, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on April 19, 2018 at the Center for Regional Excellence in Salamanca, New York.

Board Members

Jerry Scott
Kier Dirlam, Vice Chairman
Chuck Jessup
Robert Keis, Chairman
Chuck Couture
Donna Vickman
Joe Galati
Don McCord
Joe Galati
Willie Rosas

Representing

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

Others Attending

Richard Zink
Sarah Phearsdorf
Halley Kottwitz
Jonathan Mayr
Sam Lewis
Kimberly LaMendola

Representing

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 of the Previous Meeting

Chuck Couture made a motion to accept the March 15, 2018 minutes as distributed. Joe Galati seconded the motion and it carried.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Project Review Report

Kier Dirlam moved to acknowledge receipt of the Project Review Report, Jerry Scott seconded the motion and it carried.

Executive Director's Report

1. Federal Funding: \$1.2 Trillion FY2018 Omnibus Spending Package Signed into Law

Congress approved a major spending package worth \$1.2 trillion for fiscal year (FY) 2018. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 - funds government programs through the remainder of

the fiscal year ending on September 30, 2018. Under the spending package, discretionary spending is increased by over \$100 billion for both defense and non-defense programs. A budget deal approved last month raised budget caps imposed by the 2011 Budget Control Act.

A breakdown of federal investments impacting the Appalachian Regional Commission is as follows:

- \$155 million for the Appalachian Regional Commission, \$3 million above the FY2017 level
- \$10 million for high-speed broadband deployment in distressed counties in the Central Appalachian region most negatively impacted by the downturn in the coal economy, level funding from last year
- \$16 million for a program of industrial site and workforce development in Southern and South-Central Appalachia focused primarily on the automotive supply sector and the aviation sector (up to \$13.5 million is specified for activities in Southern Appalachia), level funding from last year
- \$6 million for a program of basic infrastructure improvements in distressed counties in Central Appalachia, level funding from last year
- \$50 million for the POWER initiative, a multi-agency effort designed to assist communities and workers impacted by changes in the coal power industry, level funding from last year

2. Angel Fund

A meeting was held on March 22nd at Holiday Valley, at which time our consultant Steve Mercil of Angel Capital Group will discuss the fund and steps of moving forward. Southern Tier West will facilitate this process which will be formalized this year by September/October.

3. 604(b) Application

NYS DEC asked Southern Tier West for a new work plan for the project year April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019. To date, we have not heard back on the program we presented.

4. Interns

Staff reached out to local universities looking for interns to assist with our data collection effort during the summer. We heard back from several communities and with the potential approval of the baseline program we feel at least one intern will be beneficial.

5. ARC Grants

Southern Tier West annually solicits grant proposals for regionally significant projects through ARC's Area Development Program. Application deadline is June 1, 2018 and the Board will be reviewing and hearing project presentations on June 21, 2018.

6. Power Grant

Staff is working on a POWER grant through ARC. The focus is on entrepreneurial development across the region. We are specifically asking for money to assist with the Angel Fund, YEA, business plan development, and assistance in the form of a loan for an agri-business.

7. Town of Farmersville

Southern Tier West will pay \$150 through the Development Foundation and \$300 from the Town of Farmersville to send out postcards to all residents regarding the wind development program. Donna Vickman made a motion for the STWDF to donate \$150 for this program, Charles Jessup seconded the motion and it carried.

Southern Tier West Program Report

Executive Director Richard Zink reported on the following STW programs: Local Government, Entrepreneurial Development: Youth Entrepreneurial Academy, GIS: Data Collection, and Agri-Loan Fund.

Committee Reports

Sam Lewis reported that the Transportation Committee met. The Committee has decided to start meeting on a quarterly basis.

Sam Lewis reported that the Watershed Committee is working on coordinating a Storm Water Conference for Fall 2018.

Public Comment

Chairman Keis reported that he was very happy to see broadband cable coming to the more rural areas in the Southern Tier – a good sign of more Internet access.

Old Business

Don McCord requested an update on the Census Count Project.

Audit Abstract

Chuck Couture made a motion to approve the March 2018 Audit Abstract. Jay Gould seconded the motion and it carried.

Richard Zink reported that he will present the Board with a budget to be reviewed for approval at the July Board Meeting.

Next Board Meeting

The next monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Board of Directors is scheduled for June 21, 2018 at 9:00 AM at the Center for Regional Excellence in Salamanca, New York, followed by ARC Project presentations starting at 10:00 AM.

Adjournment

Chuck Couture made a motion to adjourn, Jay Gould seconded the motion and it carried.

sjp