

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES – DECEMBER 16, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on December 16, 2021 via Zoom.

Board Members

Kier Dirlam, Chairman
Chuck Jessup
Jerry Scott
Deb Root
Robert Keis, Secretary
Crystal Abers
Don McCord
Rebecca Wurster
Paul Wendel
Pierre Chagnon

Representing

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

Others Attending

Richard Zink
Sarah Phearsdorf
Tom Barnes
Jason Eastman
Jon Mayr
Kimberly LaMendola

Representing

Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff

Chairman Dirlam called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. Attendance was recorded.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Jerry Scott made a motion to accept the October 21, 2021, minutes as distributed. Secretary Keis seconded the motion and it carried.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Project Review Report

There were no new projects since the last Board meeting.

Executive Director's Report

1. **Federal Funding**

The House passed the bipartisan infrastructure package, sending it to the White House. The legislation contains several provisions affecting ARC, including the following:

- \$1 billion over five years (\$200 million per year, starting in FY22) for ARC generally. This is in addition to ARC's regular appropriation. There are no congressional directions on how the money will be allocated. (The pending House and Senate FY22 regular appropriation bills both provide \$210 million for ARC, along with congressional directions.);
- Reauthorizes ARC for five years and changes the agency's sunset date to October 1, 2026.
 - Adds three counties to ARC (Catawba and Cleveland in NC and Union in SC).
 - Creates a new regional energy hub initiative, authorized at \$5 million per year, that can support, through research and grants, an ethane storage facility.
 - Reworks ARC's existing broadband authorization to require ARC before making a broadband grant to request information from the FCC, NTIA, EDA, and USDA concerning the level and extent of broadband service in the area to be served and the degree of broadband service that may be provided by those other federal agencies; specifies that at least 65 percent of the funds used under this authority go for construction and deployment of infrastructure.
 - Requires that ARC provide notice to specific congressional committees three business days before the approval of grants greater than \$50,000.
 - Alters ARC's definition of North Central Appalachia by including within that definition the West Virginia counties of Brooke, Hancock, Marshall, and Ohio;
- Provides \$1.25 billion over five years in dedicated funding for the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) at the Federal Highway Administration.
 - Prescribes that the formula for the distribution of those funds will be based on the 2021 Cost-to-Complete Estimate, adjusted by the 2013 Completion Report, as modified by the 2020 Future Outlook report.
 - Provides a floor of \$10 million per year for each state, except that no state can receive more than is necessary to complete their portion of the ADHS.
 - Imposes a ceiling that ensures that no state will receive more than 30 percent of the funding.
 - Specifies that the federal share for construction of the ADHS shall be up to 100 percent.
- Creates a new Rural Surface Transportation Grant program and reserves 25 percent of the available funding each year for projects that will further completion of the ADHS;
- Provides that up to 15 percent of funds apportioned to states under certain provisions of the State Transportation Block Grant program may be transferred to the ADHS;
- Creates a new Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program at the Department of Commerce and specifies that ARC funds may count as the non-federal match for grants under that program; and
- Creates a new Digital Equity Grant program at the Department of Commerce and specifies that in establishing that program the Assistant Secretary shall consult with, among others, the ARC Federal Co-Chair.
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2. Continuing Resolution Goes to President's Desk for Signature

On December 2, 2021, Congress passed a continuing resolution to fund the government through February 18, 2022. The continuing resolution will go to President Biden's desk for

signature, and when enacted, will avert a government shutdown as the current continuing resolution expires at 12 AM tonight.

3. LDD/EDA 2022 Applications

The EDA Planning Grant has been submitted. The LDD Administrative Grant will be submitted by the end of the week.

4. Good Jobs Challenge

Southern Tier West was approached by Todd Trantum, MAST, to be the lead agency on an application to EDA for their Good Jobs Challenge. There are three components to this program, which will focus on the manufacturing sector.

Staff has been meeting and discussing the program and requirements of a solid application. We are of the mindset this application due mid-January 2022 would be for approximately \$6-8 million to be spent over the next three years. We are looking at a 6-county partnership including Potter, Warren and McKean counties from Pennsylvania.

Southern Tier West Program Reports

Richard Zink reported on the following STW Programs:

- a. **Local Government Program** – Training Webinars; Working with Compass Municipality Management on websites; CAP Membership
- b. **NYS Archives** – Staff is working on grant activities
- c. **NYSERDA** – new updated version of Clean Energy Communities Leadership Round PON; Code Enforcement Training; 44 high impact actions items approved by NYSERDA from our 3-county region

Southern Tier West Affiliation Reports

Richard Zink reported on the following STW Affiliations:

- a. **STEDO** – Currently 27 outstanding loans; currently \$712,595 available for lending, \$145,000 of which is CARES act monies, since January has closed five loans totaling \$547,000
- b. **WRC** – There was no report
- c. **STERA** – Next meeting will be in March 2022; moving forward with construction on 1) Front Street/Queen Street bridges in Olean and 2) Olean Rail Yard on Constitution Avenue
- d. **Southern Tier West Development Foundation** – There was no report
- e. **Southern Tier West Angel Fund** – There was no report
- f. **NYSAWG** – Are at the 1/3 mark of the 18-month project; WNY Storytelling Project; Farmers Market Survey Project; Food and Agriculture Policy Network for Cattaraugus County

Southern Tier West Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Audit Abstract

Chuck Jessup moved to accept the November/December Audit Abstracts. Deb Root seconded the motion and it carried.

Next Board Meeting

The next monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Board of Directors will be held on January 20, 2022, at 1:00 PM via Zoom.

Executive Session

Jerry Scott made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss staff salaries. Don McCord seconded the motion and it carried.

Back in regular session, Robert Keis made a motion to accept staff salaries as discussed and recommended by the Executive Director, Deb Root seconded the motion and it carried.

Adjournment

Jerry Scott made a motion to adjourn, Rebecca Wurster seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

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