

## SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

### MINUTES – DECEMBER 19, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on December 19, 2019 at the Center for Regional Excellence in Salamanca, New York.

#### Board Members

Kier Dirlam, Chairman  
Jerry Scott  
Robert Keis, Secretary  
Chuck Couture  
Norm Marsh  
Donna Vickman  
Jay Gould, Vice Chairman  
Don McCord  
Joe Galati

#### Representing

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

#### Others Attending

Richard Zink  
Sarah Phearsdorf  
Kimberly LaMendola  
Halley Kottwitz  
Jon Mayr

#### Representing

Staff  
Staff  
Staff  
Staff  
Staff

Chairman Dirlam called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Introductions were made, and a sign-in sheet was circulated.

#### Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Chuck Couture made a motion to accept the October 17, 2019 minutes as distributed. Joe Galati seconded the motion and it carried.

#### Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

#### Project Review Report

There was one project open for comment.

#### Executive Director's Report

##### 1. Federal Funding Outlook

The text and accompanying explanatory report were released for the omnibus appropriations acts for FY2020. The House and Senate are in consideration.

The Bill provides \$175 million for ARC; \$5 million more than last year. The report indicates specific dollar amounts for some activities and general support for others. The Bill recommends specific funding levels for the following activities: \$10 million to continue a program of broadband deployment in distressed counties in Central Appalachia; \$5 million

for a program of broadband deployment is distressed counties in North Central and northern Appalachia; \$16 million for a program of industrial site and workforce development in southern and South Central Appalachia, focusing on automotive suppliers and the aviation sectors, with funding allocated according to the area development formula; \$16 million for a program of basic infrastructure improvements in distressed counties in Central Appalachia. The Bill also indicates support for the POWER Initiative and the proposal to address abuse crisis in Appalachia.

2. **ARC & EDA Funding 2020**

The EDA Planning Grant was awarded in the amount of \$70,000 with a start date of January 1, 2020. The ARC application has been submitted and we expect approval in February 2020 with a retroactive start date of January 1, 2020.

3. **ARC Power Application**

STW is working on a new project with Allegany County in the amount of \$500,000 to replace antennas with LTE, which goes through foliage much better.

4. **Past ARC Projects**

Allegany County continues to work with ARC to utilize funds for the Crossroads Water Line Project.

Staff is compiling reports on past projects that will be made available to the Board. This will be a valuable exercise to increase knowledge of past projects and lessons learned as we advise projects in the next cycle starting in February.

5. **Angel Fund**

October 9, 2020 deadline is set for this fund. Currently there are twelve commitments and twelve checks provided.

6. **Availability of Funds**

STEDO \$18,000; STEDO Agri Business \$450,000; STEDO Working Capital \$135,000; WRC Downtown Loan \$1,200,000; WRC Working Capital \$8,000; and CCBDC Micro - \$0. \*Loans made in the past month total \$460,000.

**Southern Tier West Program Report**

Richard Zink reported on the following STW Programs:

1. Local Government: Powers & Duties, CAP Membership, Corporate Sponsorship
2. ARC: Project Summaries for projects submitted in FY2019
3. Local Foods: Training & Development Workshops for Farmers Markets
4. Hemp Project: CCE Allegany County
5. NYS DEC Contract
6. NYSEDA
7. GIS Data Collection: Genesee River

## Committee Reports

### 1. Program Development Committee

Chairman Dirlam reported that the next Committee meeting will be on January 16, 2020 at 10:30 AM.

### 2. Policy Committee

Chairman Dirlam reported that the Committee met in November and put the final touches on the charter and finance, which will be brought before the Board at the January Meeting.

### 3. Economic Development/Entrepreneurship Committee

Chairman Dirlam reported that the Committee will meet in January.

### 4. Transportation Committee

There was discussion to re-build the Transportation Committee from scratch.

### 5. Water Source Committee

The Committee has not met.

There was discussion to re-build the Transportation Committee from scratch.

### 6. Local Government Committee

The Committee had a conference-call in the end of November focused on topics for 2020 Annual Local Government Conference. The next meeting will be held in January.

## Public Comment

Jay Gould reported that Chautauqua County had a new Executive – PJ Wendel from Lakewood, Jay himself as the new majority leader, and Pierre Chagnon, as the new legislative leader.

## Old Business

There was no old business.

## Audit Abstract

Jay Gould moved to accept the September, October and November 2019 Audit Abstracts. Chuck Couture seconded the motion and it carried.

## Executive Session

Donna Vickman made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss staff salaries; Robert Keis seconded the motion and it carried. Back in regular session, Chuck Couture made a motion to accept the salaries as recommended by the Executive Director; Jerry Scott 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 16, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at the Center for Regional Excellence.

Adjournment

Jerry Scott made a motion to adjourn, Joe Galati seconded the motion and it carried.

sjp