

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

**MINUTES – JANUARY 15, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on January 15, 2023, at 1:00 PM at the Southern Tier West Offices.

**Board Members**

Kier Dirlam, Chairman  
Craig Clark  
Jerry Scott  
Deb Root  
Robert Keis, Secretary  
Crystal Abers  
Chuck Couture  
Don Benson  
Don McCord, Vice Chairman  
Rebecca Wurster

**Representing**

Allegany County  
Allegany County  
Allegany County  
Allegany County  
Cattaraugus County – via zoom  
Cattaraugus County  
Cattaraugus County  
Cattaraugus County  
Chautauqua County  
Chautauqua County

**Others Attending**

Richard Zink  
Stephanie Beneng  
Fileve Palmer  
Sarah Phearsdorf  
Jon Mayr  
Kimberly LaMendola

**Representing**

Staff  
Staff  
Staff  
Staff  
Staff  
Staff

Chairman Dirlam 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 December 15, 2022, minutes. Deb Root seconded the motion and it carried.

**Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**Project Review Report**

There were no new project review reports.

## Executive Director's Report

### 1. FY2023 Appropriations Update

Congressional leaders passed the FY23 omnibus spending bill to keep the government funded through the end of FY23. The omnibus bill contains \$1.6 billion in funding for the US Economic Development Administration, including \$498 million for FY23 appropriations, plus more than \$1 billion in disaster supplemental assistance and new programs.

### 2. Community GIS

To date there are 25 municipalities signed up for the Community GIS Program.

### 3. CEDS

Staff held the first of several community focus meetings this week. The focus groups were Aging, which will also meet 1/10 and Arts, History and Cultural Awareness, which will also meet 1/18. The Agriculture, Farmland, and Local Food Systems working group meets next Tuesday as well as 1/24. The groups are meeting in the Southern Tier West offices.

The next three CEDS focus groups that will meet in late January and February are Built Environment (including housing, transportation & infrastructure), Tourism & Community Destinations, and Human Capital (including secondary ed, higher ed and workforce development).

### 4. IJA Funding

STW has been allotted \$1,185,000 for 2022 and again for 2023. Over the entire 5-year period, that equals approximately \$5,925,000 for IJA designated projects through FFY 2026. Here's how the allocation between LDDs stacks up given the LDD projects to date:

<u>LDD</u>	<u>Target % Share of Allocation</u>	<u>Expected IJA (2022-26) Total \$/LDD</u>	<u>IJA Req. \$ Now in Queue</u>	<u>Remaining \$ thru FFY26</u>	<u>Expected % IJA \$ available thru FFY26</u>
ST8	40%	\$7,900,000	\$3,111,050	\$4,788,950	61%
STC	30%	\$5,925,000	\$2,413,500	\$3,511,500	59%
STW	30%	\$5,925,000	\$0	\$5,925,000	100%
<u>All 3 LDDs</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>\$19,750,000</u>	<u>\$5,524,550</u>	<u>\$14,225,450</u>	<u>72%</u>

A program zoom meeting will be held on February 16, 2023, at 1:00 pm, focusing on this money and a common theme. Some considerations are site readiness and workforce. Three-county project require a 63.33% federal share to a 36,67% local share.

#### **5. Staff Updates**

Southern Tier West hired a Community Sustainability Planner, Sarah Swinko. Sarah will be working on Baseline and the Climate Smart Communities Program.

Tom Barnes is out of the hospital and doing much better.

Advertisement is out to fill two positions under the WNY Regional Food System Initiative, including a Program and Diversity Manager, and a Program and Communications Coordinator.

#### **Southern Tier West Program Reports**

1. **Local Government Program**  
2023 Community Assistance Program Membership Campaign; 2023 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Local Government Conference
2. **Career Academy**  
Youth meet a total of 17 times between October 2022 and June 2023
3. **EDA Good Jobs Challenge**  
Reopen with Pennsylvania partners under ARISE Program

#### **Southern Tier West Affiliation Reports**

1. **NYSAWG**  
NYSAWG held a Board Meeting on January 11, 2023 and is hiring for two positions under the WNY Regional Food System Initiative.
2. **STEDO**  
STEDO informational pamphlets that were made in the past need to be updated.
3. **STERA**  
The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2023.
4. **STW Development Foundation**  
The STWDF met in December 2022 and reviewed their audit.

#### **Southern Tier West Committee Reports**

The Committees have not met.

### **Public Comment**

Chuck Couture stated that there is a concern in the upcoming future that cows will be wearing diapers.

Deb Root stated that the Federal government is putting EPA restrictions on navigable waterways that run into private ponds, creeks, and streams.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **Audit Abstract**

Chuck Couture moved to accept the December/January Audit Abstracts. Jerry Scott seconded the motion and it carried.

### **Next Board Meeting**

The next meeting of the Southern Tier West Board of Directors will be the regular monthly meeting held on March 16, 2023, at 1:00 PM, at the Southern Tier West Offices.

### **Adjournment**

Crystal Abers made a motion to adjourn, Don Benson seconded the motion and it carried.

sjp