

**SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

# **MINUTES – JANUARY 16, 2025**

The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on January 16, 2025, at 1:00 PM at the Southern Tier West Offices.

**Board Members**

Kier Dirlam, Vice Chairman  
Deb Root  
Carissa Knapp  
Craig Clark  
Jerry Scott  
Norm Marsh  
Crystal Abers  
Don Benson  
Anthony Nagel  
Don McCord, Chairman  
PJ Wendel  
Donielle Lovell

**Representing**

Allegany County  
Allegany County  
Allegany County  
Allegany County  
Allegany County  
Cattaraugus County  
Cattaraugus County  
Cattaraugus County  
Cattaraugus County  
Chautauqua County  
Chautauqua County  
Seneca Nation of Indians

**Others Attending**

Richard Zink  
Kimberly LaMendola  
Sarah Phearsdorf  
Fileve Palmer  
Jon Mayr

**Representing**

Staff  
Staff  
Staff  
Staff  
Staff

Chairman Don McCord 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**

Deb Root made a motion to accept December 19, 2024, minutes as distributed. Norm Marsh seconded the motion, and it carried.

**Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**Project Review Report**

There were no Project Review Reports.

## **Executive Director's Report**

### **1. Federal Funding Update**

The Federal Funding has a continuing resolution through March 15, 2025.

### **2. Board Members on STW and STERA**

Board members needed: STERA – 1 from Allegany County, 2 from Chautauqua County. STW – 1 from Cattaraugus County. Chairman McCord introduced a new Board member from Cattaraugus County – Anthony Nagel.

### **3. Small Business Development Center**

PJ Wendel gave an update. The SBDC Board decided not to form a committee at this time.

### **4. NYSARC (New York State Association of Regional Councils)**

Richard Zink gave an update on the history of NYSARC and what has been accomplished in the last 12 months.

### **5. STW March Board Meeting**

The Southern Tier West monthly March Board Meeting has been moved to February 20, 2025.

### **6. Staff Updates**

Sarah Swinko has accepted a position with another company. Her last day at Southern Tier West will be January 29, 2025. She will sub-contract ongoing projects at STW until they are closed out.

## **Southern Tier West Program Reports**

### **1. Climate Smart Communities**

Central New York signed a new three- year contract with DEC; once this is certified, they will contract with Southern Tier West – will be finalized in February/March.

## **Southern Tier West Affiliation Reports**

### **1. STEDO**

STEDO meets on January 17, 2025.

### **2. STERA**

STERA meets on March 17, 2025

### **3. STW Development Foundation**

No report.

### **Committee Reports**

The **Finance Committee** met on October 17<sup>th</sup> prior to the Board Meeting. Discussion focused on grants, NYSARC, and review of checks.

### **Public Comment**

PJ Wendel reported that he was at the State of County Address. He also provided an update related to Chautauqua County initiatives for 2025.

Anthony Nagel reported that the Village of Cattaraugus is revitalizing downtown. The public is learning how to coordinate efforts and how things come together. They are working on a comprehensive plan – putting it into steps – the public gets together and gets involved.

Craig Clark reported that Allegany County received a Brownfields Grant and is going out for a RFP. Also, DEC is changing the wetlands regulations.

Deb Root reported that she had a PowerPoint Presentation on DEC changing wetlands regulations, and she would share it with Richard.

Don Benson reported that the DEC wetlands regulations are making it impossible to clean ditches and get permits out.

Donielle Lovell reported the Seneca Nation of Indians attended the State of County Address.

Crystal Abers reported that Cattaraugus County received more grant money for the trail system; received a grant for Brownfields; submitted a grant for small businesses; and sees opportunities in FEMA.

Kier Dirlam reported that Allegany County got an ARC funded project for municipal sewer projects – a kick-off meeting was held January 16, 2025.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Audit Abstract**

Deb Root moved to accept the October/November/December Audit Abstracts. Jerry Scott seconded the motion, and it carried.

### **Next Board Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Southern Tier West Board of Directors will held on February 20, 2025, at 1:00 PM at the Southern Tier West Offices.

**Adjournment**

Norm Marsh made a motion to adjourn, Kier Dirlam seconded the motion, and it carried.

sjp