

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

# **MINUTES – JANUARY 18, 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on January 18, 2024, at 1:00 PM at the Southern Tier West Offices.

**Board Members**

Kier Dirlam, Vice Chairman  
Craig Clark  
Jerry Scott  
Carissa Knapp  
Deb Root  
Robert Keis, Secretary  
Chuck Couture  
Crystal Abers  
Norm Marsh  
Donald Benson  
Don McCord, Chairman  
Rebecca Wurster  
PJ Wendel  
Tom Harmon  
Kortney Keyes

**Representing**

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

**Others Attending**

Angie Kennedy  
Richard Zink  
Kimberly LaMendola  
Sarah Phearsdorf  
Stephanie Beneng  
Jon Mayr  
Sarah Swinko

**Representing**

Seneca Nation of Indians via zoom  
Staff  
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**

Chuck Couture made a motion to accept the December 21, 2023, minutes as distributed. Norm Marsh seconded the motion and it carried.

**Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

## **Project Review Report**

Jerry Scott made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the Project Review Report, Don Benson seconded the motion and it carried.

## **Executive Director's Report**

### **1. FY2024 Appropriations Update**

The House and Senate are working on a short-term continuing resolution through early March (1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>) for grouping of agencies in each spending package. We do not know what ARC plans are concerning our annual contract. In the past they have provided two contracts – one for the first six months and one for the second six months.

### **2. IJA (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) Funding**

- Southern Tier West received prior approval to transmit the following projects to ARC, totaling \$2.8 million for the southern tier west region: Gateway to the Western New York Wilds Project, Allegany County; Ripley Interstate Shovel-Ready Development Project, Chautauqua County; and Westfield Amphitheater Project, Chautauqua County.

### **3. CEDS Meetings**

The Agricultural and Natural Environment Committee met on January 17, 2024 with approximately 17 in attendance and continued conversation on the substantive action plans with the CEDS.

### **4. Leadership Cattaraugus**

Sarah Swinko of STW staff is participating in this 11-month program in 2024.

### **5. NYSAWG and Staff Updates**

Stephanie Beneng has put in her resignation. Kimberly LaMendola will take over Stephanie's job duties which include STEDO and the CEDS Planning Process.

- a. Due to staff changes, the Board voted on a motion to terminate the contractual agreement with NYSAWG effective March 20, 2024 as the agreement requires a 60 day notice of termination. Craig Clark made the motion, Robert Keis seconded the motion and it carried.

### **6. IEDC ERC Program**

Executive Director, Richard Zink will be attending a meeting in Portland, Oregon February 9 – 11, 2024 to learn more about an Economic Recovery Corp Fellowship.

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

Program reports can be found in the Southern Tier West Newsletter – January 2024.

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

1. **STEDO**

STEDO has \$14,000 to lend out. Four loans have been closed over the few last months.

2. **STERA**

STERA will meet on March 25, 2024, at the Southern Tier West offices.

3. **Southern Tier West Angel Fund**

The STW Angel Fund met prior to the Board Meeting and is working on a couple projects.

### **Committee Reports**

The Committees have not met.

### **Public Comment**

Kier Dirlam reported that Allegany County is working on an Economic Strategic Plan and a GIS Study.

Kortney Keyes reported that the Seneca Nation is appointing a new Community & Planning Director who will represent the Seneca Nation on the Southern Tier West Board, and Kortney will take Angie Kennedy's position.

### **Audit Abstract**

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

### **Next Board Meeting**

There will not be a February Board Meeting. The next regular monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Board of Directors will be held on March 21, 2024, at 1:00 PM at the Southern Tier West Offices.

### **Adjournment**

Don Benson made a motion to adjourn, Norm Marsh seconded the motion and it carried.

sjp