

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

### **MINUTES – MAY 16, 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on May 16, 2024, at 1:00 PM at the Southern Tier West Offices.

#### **Board Members**

Kier Dirlam, Vice Chairman  
Jerry Scott  
Carrisa Knapp  
Robert Keis, Secretary  
Crystal Abers  
Norm Marsh  
Don McCord, Chairman  
Rebecca Wurster  
PJ Wendel  
Kim Ecklund

#### **Representing**

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

#### **Others Attending**

Justin Zagorski  
Richard Zink  
Kimberly LaMendola  
Sarah Phearsdorf  
Fileve Palmer  
Jon Mayr  
Sarah Swinko

#### **Representing**

ECC Technologies  
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**

Jerry Scott made a motion to accept the March 21, 2024, minutes as distributed. PJ Wendel seconded the motion and it carried.

#### **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

## **Project Review Report**

Crystal Abers made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the Project Review Report, Kier Dirlam seconded the motion and it carried.

## **Executive Director's Report**

### **1. ARC IIJA Projects**

NYS Department of State assured STW that IIJA as well as area development projects are moving through the state process and will soon be sent to ARC in Washington.

### **2. ARC Project Presentations**

The Board has scheduled ARC in-person presentations for Tuesday, July 16th, from 9 am to approximately 1:30 pm. This adjustment accommodates the Allegany County Board meeting at the fair, which was also rescheduled last year.

### **3. EDA Application**

The Village of Westfield is preparing an EDA Public Works application to tackle issues with its water treatment plant system. They had an initial call with Lucas Martin from the EDA in late April and aim to submit the project in June for consideration in the 2024 federal fiscal year funding.

### **4. NYS Broadband Outreach**

NYS is beginning the closeout process as the grant ends in June. STW has partnered with Chautauqua County to share their data collection efforts for broadband access across the county.

### **5. Warren Corridor Construction Project**

Staff recently spoke with Dan Glotz, Warren County Commissioner, and the Northwest Regional Planning Commission about the Warren to Jamestown Corridor. Initially proposed in 2002, the project didn't progress then. Now, Warren County aims to restart discussions and is focused on identifying key individuals for a meeting. A map for reference is attached.

### **6. Board Members for STW and STERA**

A board member is needed from Cattaraugus County to serve on the Southern Tier West Board and the STERA Board. Crystal Abers will work on this.

## **7. READY ARC**

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has announced the selection of 90 local government entities from 12 Appalachian states to participate in READY Local Governments, a program under ARC's capacity-building initiative, READY Appalachia. READY Local Governments aims to help participants leverage federal funding opportunities and create positive change in their communities.

Participants will engage in nine weeks of virtual, cohort-based learning to enhance their skills in project identification and planning, federal grant application development, compliance with federal grant regulations, community engagement, and more.

The City of Dunkirk and the Town of Mina from our region have been selected to participate in this program.

## **8. Mineral Basin Solar Project**

Staff was contacted by the Mineral Basin Solar project team, asking for a budget revision from \$3.7 million over 5 years to \$1.3 million over three years. After consulting Todd Tranum from MAST, we discussed options and resubmitted the budget to the project lead.

## **9. Spring Board Grant Opportunity – STEDO**

The project entails creating a web-based portal that consolidates and indexes entrepreneurial and small business support resources from providers within or serving Allegany-Cattaraugus-Chautauqua Counties and the Seneca Nation of Indians. Southern Tier West in Salamanca will develop, host, and maintain the website, with promotion spanning various channels across the great southwestern New York State counties.

With a project duration of 6 months, staff and contractors have ample time to develop the website and its user functions. However, if completed sooner, we will launch the site and commence collaborative promotion immediately.

## **10. Points of Interest**

A rundown of filed candidates for township races follows: Allegany Town Supervisor – Christopher McPherson (R). Ashford Town Justice – Kay Hebdon (R). Conewango Councilman – No Candidate: vacancy occurred after petition filing. Ellicottville Town Justice – Robert Germain (R). Franklinville Town Justice – No Candidate; Republicans to caucus. Councilman – No Candidate; Republicans to caucus. Freedom Town Justice – Kara Brunner (R). Great Valley Councilman –

Sandra Goode (R). Hinsdale Councilman – No Candidate. Leon Town Justice – No Candidate. Little Valley Town Justice – Christine Wrona (R, WF). Perrysburg Town Justice – Lori Dankert (R). Councilman – No Candidate: vacancy occurred after petitions. Randolph Town Justice – Jeffery Greeley (R). Salamanca Town Justice – Seth Hostuttler (R). South Valley Highway Superintendent – No Candidate.

### **11. 2019 Power Grant**

In the 2019 Power Grant initiative, STW continues to work with ARC to move the grant forward as it is being transferred back to ARC from USDA. Once completed STW will continue to collaborate with DFT Communications to establish broadband and WiFi connectivity within our region.

### **12. 2020 Power Grant**

STW is currently collaborating with Allegany County to install antennas on towers. However, no progress has been made on this project recently. We are exploring the possibility of seeking an extension for this project.

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

Program reports can be found in the Southern Tier West Newsletter – March 2024 and May 2024, included in the Board Packets.

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

#### **1. STEDO**

STEDO is scheduled to meet in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June.

#### **2. STERA**

STERA will meet on June 10, 2024 at 9:30 am

### **Committee Reports**

The **Local Government Conference Committee** – 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Local Government Conference is being held on June 6, 2024 at Houghton University.

The **Finance Committee** met prior to the March 2024 Board Meeting. Financial reports to the Board will be more detailed and broken down into sub-categories.

The **Program Development Committee** is taking steps to identify the unique needs of Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties. It was proposed that each of the county planners and STW convene to discuss county priorities and projects of significance.

### **Public Comment**

Carissa Knapp reported that Allegany County is busy working on grant applications. A new County Planning Director was appointed – Ashley Smith.

Rebecca Wurster reported that Chautauqua County is applying to ConnectALL Deployment Program, which provides state funded grants to address areas of the state that do not have access to reliable, affordable, high-speed internet service,

Kier Dirlam reported that the Town of Willing received the Outstanding Planning Award, Comprehensive Plan Honorable Mention, an award honoring their First Comprehensive Plan that Allegany County Office of Planning plays a key role.

Kim Ecklund reported that the Jamestown Urban Renewal Agency initiated a study to identify brownfield reuse, ecological restoration and enhancement, and waterfront revitalization opportunities that would celebrate the River, reinvigorate the waterfront, and connect the community with its history, ecology, and economic potential.

### **New Business**

Justin Zagorski from ECC Technologies attended the Board Meeting and said hi to everyone.

### **Audit Abstract**

Carissa Knapp moved to accept the April and May Audit Abstracts. PJ Wendel seconded the motion and it carried.

### **Next Board Meeting**

Richard will canvas for a quorum to determine if there will be STW Board Meeting in June.

### **Adjournment**

Jerry Scott made a motion to adjourn, Kier Dirlam seconded the motion and it carried.

sjp