

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MAY 21, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on May 21, 2020 at 1:00 PM via Zoom.

Board Members

Kier Dirlam, Chairman
Deborah Root
Jerry Scott
Charles Jessup
Robert Keis, Secretary
Chuck Couture
Donna Vickman
Crystal Abers
Jay Gould, Vice Chairman
Don McCord
Joe Galati
P.J. Wendel
Lucille White

Representing

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

Others Attending

Richard Zink
Sarah Phearsdorf
Halley Kottwitz
Jon Mayr
Fileve Palmer
Kimberly LaMendola
Tom Barnes

Representing

Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff

Chairman Dirlam called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Attendance was taken and recorded.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Jerry Scott moved to approve the April 16, 2020 minutes as distributed. Donna Vickman seconded the motion and it carried.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Project Review Report

Seven projects were sent out since April. Deb Root moved to acknowledge receipt of the Project Review Report, Crystal Abers seconded the motion and it carried.

Executive Director's Report

1. Federal Funding Outlook

Southern Tier West received an invitation for up to \$400,000 of non-competitive funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), which is intended to help mitigate the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. STW can apply for grants that focus on:

- a. Development of an economic resiliency plan tied to the applicant's approved Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to address economic impacts of the Coronavirus Pandemic.
- b. Provision of technical assistance as necessary to local governments, businesses, and other stakeholder organizations;
- c. Funding of appropriate technology and staff support for pandemic-response activities

STW is focusing on the following: convene stakeholders and assist with additional assistance in terms of Federal award opportunities; development of an economic recovery and resilience plan tied to the applicant's approved Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy; assuring the synergy of county plans in response to COVID-19; gathering data and specific indicators and relay data in a map format; and local government training support through video-conferencing and webinars.

Board approval was needed for STW to submit a 24-month grant in the amount of \$400,000 to EDA. Jay Gould so moved, Joe Galati seconded the motion and it carried.

2. Overall Funding Outlook

Southern Tier West entered into the calendar year with ARC, EDA, STERA, and STEDO for administrative funding.

- The NYS DEC for approximately \$105,000 will be finalized
- There will be a slight decline in revenue due to cancellation of the Local Government Conference and other training
- NYSERDA funding is delayed until September
- STW faces an issue with matching dollars for LDD and ARC grants with the loss of in-kind and revenue from the Local Government Conference

Looking at next year, STW needs to be cognizant of the financial strain on our counties and the funding they provide us. We receive \$20,110 from Allegany County, \$24,970 from Cattaraugus County, and \$26,553 from Chautauqua County on an annual basis. Fortunately, STW has Board members who control the budget requests for our agency, and we look to them for guidance of any extra paperwork or presentations that may need to be made to sustain our funding.

3. CEDS Planning Process

The CEDS Planning Process will continue as normal with the final version being submitted to the Board for review at the September Board Meeting. Staff will contact Board members during the upcoming weeks as to their role as CEDS Committee. The 2020 CEDS will be revised substantially from prior years.

A website that has been put together in partnership with Capital District Regional Planning and the University of Albany is <https://www.capitalregionindicators.org/>. STW is looking at options to bring this to our region, potentially in partnership with Southern Tier Central.

4. ARC Power Application

STW continues to work with ARC to receive the final contact through USDA for this project. Antennas have been deployed in Machias, which resulted in approximately 25% better foliage penetration rate and an increase in served customers in that area. STW is working also with DFT Communications and Southern Tier Wireless to determine repeater site locations across our three counties. These sites need to pass USDA environmental review. It is expected that 10-15 repeater sites will be deployed within the next 18 months.

5. ARC Power 2020 Application

STW is working with Allegany County to submit an application that will replace the old 3.65 ghz antennas with new LTE 2.5 ghz antennas. The application was submitted in April.

6. Angel Fund

To date, ten commitment checks have been provided. The original goal and paper requirements were modified so the first organizational meeting could be held. This meeting is scheduled for May 2020 and there will be representation from all three counties; \$250,000 is available to fund projects. Many thanks to Craig Clerk who has carried out this effort to make it a reality.

7. Availability of Funds

STEDO \$245,545; STEDO Agri Business \$452,352; STEDO Working Capital \$35,000; WRC Downtown Loan \$1,080,000.

STEDO has been offered the opportunity to apply for an additional \$600,000 from EDA to enhance the revolving loan fund in this time of economic need. STEDO has also modified the plan with EDA to lend small working capital loans (\$5,000) for two years to accommodate local demand.

8. NYSAWG

STW submitted a grant for \$37,000 to the Western New York Foundation, which would support three collaborative responses:

- a. Food assistance to income marginalized households through the County's weekly Veggie Wheels Program; an increased amount of local farm-fresh food will be distributed weekly during July at no cost to households in subsidized congregate living units;
- b. Food assistance to households under County mandated 14-day quarantine due to confirmed illness or direct exposure to coronavirus; meal kits containing fresh food items, staple items, and recipes adequate to prepare 3-4 meals/snacks will be assembled at the Olean Food Pantry and delivered; and
- c. Meet the sustained need for fresh food by launching two community garden plots in low-income neighborhoods in the City of Olean.

9. STW Budget

Richard Zink outlined STW's proposed budget for 2021, which will be approved and the June Board Meeting.

Southern Tier West Program Report

Richard Zink reported on the following STW Programs:

1. ARC: Seminars, conference calls, and outreach for projects submitted in FY2020
2. Local Government: Planning & Zoning Training Webinars
3. NYSERDA: Final Awards will be awarded in September
4. GIS Data Efforts
5. Hemp Project: Continuation of Mapping

Committee Reports

1. Program Development Committee

Chairman Dirlam reported that the Committee has not met.

2. Policy Committee

Chairman Dirlam reported that the Committee met and discussed the STW By-Laws.

3. Economic Development/Entrepreneurship Committee

Chairman Dirlam reported that the Committee is meeting in the beginning of each month to discuss how regions are preparing for Phase One and Phase Two of Reopening and data collection due to the new EDA funding.

4. Transportation Committee

The Committee has not met.

5. **Water Source Committee**

The Committee has not met.

6. **Local Government Committee**

The Committee has not met.

Public Comment

Kier Dirlam reported that construction will re-open in the western New York region and Allegany County is moving along well keeping up with the COVID-19.

Donna Vickman stated that she was concerned about students who will be behind due to lack of internet in their area.

Crystal Abers reported that Cattaraugus County has completed 600 business surveys in working through economic development issues.

P.J. Wendel thanked Allegany County and Cattaraugus County for their support in leadership of our three-county region as being re-evaluated as a sub-region moving forward and getting our voices heard in Albany.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Audit Abstract

Chuck Jessup made a motion to accept the April-May 2020 Audit Abstracts. Chuck Couture 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 June 18, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. via "Zoom".

Adjournment

Jay Gould made a motion to adjourn, Joe Galati seconded the motion and it carried.

sjp