

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

OCTOBER 15, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on October 15, 2020 at 1:00 PM via Zoom.

Board Members

Kier Dirlam, Chairman
Jerry Scott
Craig Clark
Deb Root
Charles Jessup
Robert Keis, Secretary
Chuck Couture
Donna Vickman
Crystal Abers
Don McCord
P.J. Wendel
Joe Galati

Representing

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

Others Attending

Richard Zink
Sarah Phearsdorf
Fileve Palmer
Kimberly LaMendola
Tom Barnes
Jon Mayr
Jason Eastman

Representing

Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff

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

Chairman Dirlam introduced and welcomed Southern Tier West's newest staff member Jason Eastman, Regional Economic Development Coordinator, who will be working the EDA Cares Act Grant.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Chuck Couture moved to approve the September 19, 2020 minutes as distributed. Deb Root seconded the motion and it carried.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Project Review Report

Crystal Abers moved to acknowledge receipt of the Project Review Report, Joe Galati seconded the motion and it carried.

Executive Director's Report

1. Federal Funding

A stopgap spending bill was signed into law that will keep the government funded at FY2020 spending levels through December 11, 2020. The spending measure includes a one-year extension of the FAST Act – the existing surface transportation authorization bill; a reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program through September 2021; and enhanced FEMA disaster relief activities. Congress has two months during which they will either pass the 12 appropriations bills that must be enacted to fully fund the government for the remainder of FY2021, or they will pass an additional continuing resolution.

2. Federal Applications

Traditionally, Southern Tier West is provided annually with invitation letters for ARC and EDA contracts. Staff is requesting that the Board authorize an application to ARC in the amount of \$300,000 and an application to EDA in the amount of \$70,000. This funding provides annual administrative monies for Southern Tier West. The applications are calendar-based with a start date of January 1, 2021.

Robert Keis made the motion to authorize the applications, Crystal Abers seconded the motion and it carried.

3. EDA Cares Act Program

Staff is in the process of converting its Statebook account to cover the three counties within our region. STW is working to deploy the Manufacturers Productivity Improvement Program; looking to invest \$90,000 into the program within the next several months.

4. ARC Power Grant 2020

Southern Tier West has been awarded a power grant in the amount of \$426,304 to deploy a Citizen's Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) across Allegany County. This program is matched with in-kind provided by Allegany County. Board approval was needed for staff to release an RFP to allow for the installation of antennas once purchased. Chuck Couture so moved, Craig Clark seconded the motion and it carried.

5. STW Development Foundation

The STW Development Foundation is working with the Western New York Foundation to coordinate a 9-county plan to improve regional food systems. A “Western New York Food Response” is being created to begin in the summer of 2021. An innovative group of regional practitioners and experts will collaborate closely to set a cross-county, cross sector vision for food access and security.

The goal of this effort is to tackle entrenched challenges in new ways to emerge from COVID-19 with a regional food system that is more effective, efficient, and resilient. Farmers, producers, and processors will be more independent and less reliant on large, centralized hubs; families will have easier access to healthy and affordable groceries; and new food-related jobs that contribute to the economic development of the region will be created.

Southern Tier West Program Report

Richard Zink reported on the following STW Program:

1. Local Government: Planning & Zoning Training Webinars Schedule
2. Baseline: Source Water Protection Plans for our Communities
3. GIS: Data collection along Chautauqua Lake, Belmont, Scio
4. STEDO Presentation

Committee Reports

1. Program Development Committee

Richard Zink reported that the Committee has not met.

2. Policy Committee

Richard Zink reported that the Committee met prior to the Board meeting.

Revised STW By-Laws were distributed to Board members for review. A motion was made by Chuck Jessup to refer the updated By-Laws to the county legislatures. Chuck Couture seconded the motion and it carried.

The Procurement Policy is currently in draft format. Board members were asked to review the policy and submit any comments before the December Board Meeting. The Policy will be approved at the December Board Meeting.

3. Economic Development/Entrepreneurship Committee

The Committee has been meeting on Monday's every 6 weeks or so at 10:30 AM.

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. There will a be a meeting scheduled for November.

Public Comment

Chairman Dirlam reported that the New York Planning Federation awarded Allegany County Planning Office for having the best Comprehensive Plan.

Jerry Scott stated that Richard Zink did a nice job on the internet grant for Allegany County.

Robert Keis reported that the Pat McGee Trail was never abandoned by the railroad – they are continuing with the process and are asking for any comments.

Donna Vickman reported that the hazard mitigation plan in Farmersville still needs input from the community.

Crystal Abers reported that there were two Broadband projects in progress in Cattaraugus County – one in the Town of Otto and one in the Town of Farmersville.

Chuck Couture stated that due to a lack of slaughterhouses in our region, all animals are going to Pennsylvania.

Don McCord has retired from Chautauqua County Planning and Development.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Audit Abstract

Chuck Jessup made a motion to accept the August-September 2020 Audit Abstracts. Donna Vickman 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 December 17, 2020 at 1:00 PM. It will be determined whether to meet in-person or via zoom.

Adjournment

Joe Galati made a motion to adjourn, Chuck Couture seconded the motion and it carried.

sjp