

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES – OCTOBER 17, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on October 17, 2024, at 1:00 PM at the Southern Tier West Offices.

Board Members

Kier Dirlam, Vice Chairman
Deb Root
Carissa Knapp
Jerry Scott
Robert Keis, Secretary
Crystal Abers
Don Benson
Don McCord, Chairman
PJ Wendel
Kim Ecklund
Donielle Lovell

Representing

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

Others Attending

Richard Zink
Kimberly LaMendola
Sarah Phearsdorf
Sarah Swinko

Representing

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 the September 19, 2024, minutes as distributed. PJ Wendel seconded the motion, and it carried.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Project Review Report

Kier Dirlam made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the project review report, Crystal Abers seconded the motion, and it carried.

Executive Director's Report

1. Election of Officers

Tom Harmon was Chairman of the nominating Committee. In the absence of Tom Harmon, Crystal Abers reported the following officers were nominated: Chairman – Don McCord; Vice Chairman – Kier Dirlam; Secretary – Crystal Abers; and Treasurer – Deb Root. Bob Kies moved to approve the officers as nominated, PJ Wendel seconded the motion and it carried.

2. FY2024 Appropriations Update

President Biden signed a continuing resolution after Congress passes a last-minute bill to avoid a federal shutdown. The bill provided over \$18 billion to communities struggling after natura disasters.

3. LDD/EDA 2024 Applications

A motion was needed to submit STW's yearly applications to ARC in the amount of \$300,000 and EDA in the amount of \$70,000. Kier Dirlam so moved, Bob Keis seconded the motion and it carried.

4. EDA Applications

The Village of Westfield is applying to address issues with a water treatment plant system.

The Olean Business Development Corporation is applying for a revolving loan fund that would coexist and complement STEDO.

Chautauqua County is applying for Public Works for the Ripley Industrial Site.

5. Board Members on STW and STERA Boards

STW is seeking a representative from Cattaraugus County to serve on the STW Board and representatives from Chautauqua, Steuben, and Cattaraugus Counties to serve on the STERA Board.

6. STW Budget July 2024 through June 2025

A motion was needed to approve the STW 2024/2025 Budget as presented. Deb Root so moved, PJ Wendel seconded the motion and it carried.

7. IJA Funds

<u>LDD</u>	<u>Project Applicant</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Application Status</u>
STW	Allegany County	Comprehensive Sewer Study Project	Allegany	\$ 560,000	Funded
STW	Allegany County	Gateway Project	Allegany	\$ 740,000	Funded
	County Total			\$ 1,300,000	
STW	Chautauqua County	Ripley Interstate Shovel-ready Development	Chautauqua	\$ 1,000,000	Funded
STW	Village of Westfield	Westfield Portage Inn Amphitheater	Chautauqua	\$ 131,514	Funded
	County Total			\$ 1,131,514	
STW	Cattaraugus County		Cattaraugus	\$ -	
	County Total			\$ -	
STW	Seneca Nation	Highbanks Campground	Seneca Nation	\$ 1,300,000	
	Nation Total			\$ 1,300,000	
STW	Southern Tier West	Municipal Water/Sewer System Scanning	STW LDD	\$ 49,000	
STW	Southern Tier West	Conserving farmland assets study.	STW LDD	\$ 50,000	in hand
	STW total			\$ 99,000	
				\$ 3,830,514	<u>Total STW</u>
Total Allocated through 2024				\$ 3,532,500.00	
Remainder of dollars allocated through 2024				\$ (298,014.00)	
2025 dollars allocated				\$ 1,177,500.00	
2025 dollars available				\$ 879,486.00	
2026 Dollars allocated				\$ 1,177,500.00	
Total Remaining				\$ 2,056,986.00	

Southern Tier West Program Reports

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

Southern Tier West Affiliation Reports

1. STEDO

The STEDO Board will meet on November 8, 2024.

2. STERA

The STERA Board will meet on October 21, 2024. \$1.9 million was awarded to STERA for rehabilitation on the rail from Allegany to Falconer.

3. STW Development Foundation

Met on October 17th prior to the Board Meeting.

Committee Reports

The **Finance Committee** met on October 17th prior to the Board Meeting.

Public Comment

Crystal Abers reported that Cattaraugus County was having a job fair on October 17th and the WILMA Craft Festival on October 19th and 20th.

Don Benson congratulated Crystal Abers for all her work and continuing support of the Onoville Marina.

Kier Dirlam reported that the Allegany Artisans Tour was October 19th and 20th. There are over 700 participants signed up for the Ridge Walk & Run that benefits the local Jones Memorial Hospital.

Carissa Knapp reported that the Allegany County Economic Development Director, Ashley Smith, was hired in late May and is holding an economic development summit later tonight.

Donielle Lovell reported that the Seneca Nation received \$5 million to cap orphan gas wells on the Seneca Nation Territory.

New Business

There was no new business.

Audit Abstract

Deb Root moved to accept the August/September Audit Abstracts. Crystal Abers seconded the motion, and it carried.

Next Board Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Southern Tier West Board of Directors will held on December 19, 2024, at 1:00 PM at the Southern Tier West Offices.

Adjournment

Jerry Scott made a motion to adjourn, PJ Wendel seconded the motion, and it carried.

sjp