

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES – MARCH 17, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on March 17, 2022, via Zoom and in-person at the Southern Tier West Offices.

Board Members

Kier Dirlam, Chairman
Chuck Jessup
Deb Root
Jerry Scott
Robert Keis, Secretary
Norm Marsh
Crystal Abers
Chuck Couture
Don Benson
Don McCord, Vice Chairman
Rebecca Wurster
PJ Wendel
Tom Harmon
Lucille White

Representing

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

Others Attending

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

Representing

Staff
Staff
Staff (via zoom)
Staff (via zoom)
Staff (via zoom)
Staff (via zoom)

Chairman Dirlam called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Attendance was recorded.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Chuck Couture a motion to accept the January 20, 2022, minutes as distributed. Crystal Abers seconded the motion and it carried.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Project Review Report

There were no new projects since the last Board meeting.

Executive Director's Report

1. Federal Funding

The Senate gave final approval to the omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act that provides funding for all Federal Agencies for FY2022. The House passed the measure on Wednesday. The Bill provides \$195 million for ARC, an increase of \$15 million over the FY 2021 amount. The legislation provides the following on how part of the \$915 million will be spent:

- \$65 million for POWER (compared to \$55 m. in FY21)
- \$13 million for INSPIRE (compared to \$10 m. In FY21)
- \$8 million for Local Development Districts (compared to \$6.2 m. in FY21)
- \$16 million for a program of industrial site and workforce development in Southern and South-Central Appalachia focused on the automotive supplier sector and the aviation sector (same as FY21)
- \$15 million for counties in Northern Appalachia to support economic development manufacturing, and entrepreneurship (same as FY21)
- \$15 million for high-speed broadband deployment in distressed counties in North Central and Northern Appalachia (compared to \$5 m. in FY21)
- \$10 million to continue the program of high-speed broadband deployment in distressed counties in Central Appalachia (same as FY21)

2. Good Jobs Challenge

Southern Tier West applied in February in the amount of \$7.967 million for this project that will build and improve the comprehensive workforce development and job placement systems in three rural western New York and three rural northwestern Pennsylvania counties to develop and connect traditional manufacturers, food processors, and refineries with prospective employees who are trained in the skills required by specific unfilled job titles. This grant is one of 529 that were submitted nationwide – it is expected that EDA will fund approximately 10% of the applications submitted.

Our application focused on a six-county, multi-state region and targeted working with the region's workforce development boards, schools, colleges, and other training institutions. Our application included 29 partner letters, 28 employers (manufacturers) letters, and 7 governmental letters. Staff assembled and wrote the application with assistance from Tadd Trantum, MAST.

3. Seeking Proposals for Pre and Post-Video Production Services for Eco/System: Stories of the Southern Tier's Food System

Southern Tier West issued a request for proposal from qualified, experienced entities for six fully produced documentary-style videos about the Southern Tier's Food System. Each video will be approximately 15-20 minutes in length, thereby combining into a full-length feature. Proposals must be received by 5PM March 28 via e-mail. Respondents will be required to provide a written response describing their approach to complete this project, documentation of the ability to manage the full spectrum of pre- and post-video production work, a history of a successful client/contractor relationship, list of former client references, and links to completed work samples. The Contractor is encouraged to demonstrate creativity, curiosity, and content

suggestions throughout the project. Board approval was needed for STW to release an RFP and review the responses. Deb Root so moved, Chuck Couture seconded the motion and it carried.

Southern Tier West Program Reports

Richard Zink reported on the following STW Programs:

- a. **Local Government Program** – Training Webinars; State Archives & Records Management
- b. **ARC Projects 2023** – Interest parties include Belfast CSD, Business Incubator; CA BOCES, CDL-A Training; Almond/Genesee Valley, EMR & Scuba; OBDC, Hub Business Incubator; V. of Sherman, Infrastructure Water/Wastewater; OGH, Pipeline for Nurses; STHCS, Intro the Healthcare Fields; Portville CSD, Business Incubator; UPMC, expand current radiology and create new respiratory therapist group; St. Joseph’s Episcopal Church, Demo and Construct new facility; Tri county Arts – Expanded Services; V of Sherman, Storm Water; and JCC, Workforce Development Pending
- c. **NYSERDA** – Over the past 2 months multiple municipalities reached milestones in the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program – Towns of Ischua, Wirt, Allegany, Humphrey, and the City of Jamestown
- d. **Baseline Program** – Southern Tier West and Consultant began updates on Source Water Protection Plans – Villages of Fredonia, Portville, and Wellsville. Plans will be updated by the end of this year.

Southern Tier West Affiliation Reports

Richard Zink reported on the following STW Affiliations:

- a. **STEDO** – Currently 29 outstanding loans in the amount of \$2,944,349; currently \$794,012 available for lending, \$145,000 of which is CARES act monies
- b. **STERA** – Next meeting will be in March 2022, moving forward with construction on 1) Front Street/Queen Street bridges in Olean and 2) Olean Rail Yard on Constitution Avenue
- c. **Southern Tier West Development Foundation** – There was no report
- d. **Southern Tier West Angel Fund** – There was no report
- e. **WRC** – There was no report
- f. **NYSAWG** – Highlighted on consultancy with SCALE; RFP for a film maker to produce “Eco/System: Stories of the Southern Tier’s Food System”; re-designing the “agri-business” learning module; technical assistance by request to the region’s farmers markets managers.

Southern Tier West Committee Reports

a. Program Development Committee

The Committee has not met.

b. Policy Committee

The STW Personnel Policy was distributed to Committee members and the entire Board for a motion to approve at the April 2022 Board Meeting.

c. Economic Development/Entrepreneurship Committee

The Committee has not met.

d. Local Government Committee

Richard Zink will present a class on Southern Tier West at the Conference.

e. EDA/ARC Project Committee

The Committee met and discussed revisiting the EDA CEDS process.

Public Comment

Chairman Dirlam inquired if there was a way to get legislation passed to align ARC with Northern Border Commission procedures. An e-mail will be sent to Schumer's Office.

Tom Harmon, new Board member replacing Pierre Chagnon is reading through all the Southern Tier West materials.

Chuck Couture noted that it has been an excellent Maple season.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Audit Abstract

Chuck Couture moved to accept the January/February Audit Abstracts. Don Benson 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 April 21, 2022, at 1:00 PM via Zoom and in-person at the Southern Tier West Offices.

Adjournment

Jerry Scott made a motion to adjourn, Norm Marsh seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

sjp