

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES – MARCH 16, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on March 16, 2023, at 1:00 PM at the Southern Tier West Offices.

Board Members

Kier Dirlam, Chairman
Jerry Scott
Deb Root
Crystal Abers
Chuck Couture
Norm Marsh
Don McCord, Vice Chairman
Rebecca Wurster

Representing

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

Others Attending

Richard Zink
Fileve Palmer
Kimberly LaMendola
Sarah Phearsdorf
Jon Mayr
Sarah Swinko
Stephanie Beneng

Representing

Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff – via zoom

Chairman Dirlam 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

Chuck Couture made a motion to accept the January 15, 2023, minutes. Jerry Scott seconded the motion and it carried.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Project Review Report

Jerry Scott made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the Project Review Report, Deb Root seconded the motion and it carried.

Executive Director's Report

1. FY2024 Appropriations Update

The Appalachian Regional Commission is in the President's budget for \$253 million, which is an increase of \$35 million.

2. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Funding

The timeline for this funding is to have a complete ARC Application approved on a rolling basis. Allegany County reported their projects may include a county-wide Sewer Study (assessment of, current status, and needs); completion of County Road at the Crossroads Center (Access Road); Housing Study, Phase 2 Brownfields, and Tank/Water Line at Crossroads.

Cattaraugus County reported their projects may include Partnering with Broadband, Housing Study for Cattaraugus County (employees living close to employment, identifying opportunities where more housing can be built), and Infrastructure (in general).

Chautauqua County's projects may include a study on Pre-Development, Development, Road Access, Water, Sewer, and Infrastructure – Downtown Revitalization (master planning for the corridors) in Westfield, Falconer, and Dunkirk.

3. Staff Updates

Southern Tier West hired a Community Sustainability Planner, Sarah Swinko. Sarah is working on Baseline and the Climate Smart Communities Program.

Two positions have been filled under the NY Sustainable Agricultural Working Group: Deanna Garwol, Program & Communications Coordinator and Rachel Grandits, Program & Diversity Manager.

Southern Tier West Program Reports

1. Local Government Program

2023 28th Annual Local Government Conference; Records Management Grant; Monthly Weebly, Laserfische and Compass Training Webinars

2. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Focus Group Meetings – Tourism & Local Commerce & Natural Environment; Built Environment & Youth & Family; and Transportation

3. Career Academy

CCCA will meet 2 times this week in the 3 Academies; Workforce Development Extravaganza; STW will submit an ARC Application to expand CCCA

4. **NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities**

Interest in Olean, Jamestown, Allegany, Portville, Sherman, and Westfield.

5. **NYS DEC Baseline**

Staff is working with Portville and Bob Runge from Encorus Group to complete the Village of Portville's DWSP2 Plan by August 2023.

6. **Community GIS**

GIS Training; 45 municipalities with active GIS license; teaching municipalities the software; great response to the program

7. **NYSERDA**

Aided the Town of Harmony in submitting a grant application for \$5,000 award; continue to engage in outreach to new municipalities; Town of Alfred and City of Olean submitted their first High Impact Action Items

Southern Tier West Affiliation Reports

1. **NYSAWG**

Two new positions filled: Rachel Grandits, Program & Diversity Manager and Deanna Garwol, Program and Communications Coordinator; Food Future WNY work; Foodways Documentary; Public Screening on May 2nd at the Reg Lenna Civic Center; NYS's Social Determinants of Health.

2. **STEDO**

During January and February, received inquiries from new and returning borrowers. Currently \$700,000 is available for lending.

3. **STERA**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2023.

Southern Tier West Committee Reports

The Committees have not met.

Public Comment

Chuck Couture reported that Maple Weekend is approaching, and it's been a great season for maple syrup.

Kier Dirlam reported that there is a Digital Equity listening session at the Buffalo Bills Stadium on March 22nd.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Audit Abstract

Chuck Couture moved to accept the February/March Audit Abstracts. Norm Marsh seconded the motion and it carried.

Next Board Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Southern Tier West Board of Directors will be held on April 20, 2023, at 1:00 PM, at the Southern Tier West Offices.

Adjournment

Chuck Couture made a motion to adjourn, Crystal Abers seconded the motion and it carried.

sjp