

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES – MARCH 16, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on March 16, 2017 at the Center for Regional Excellence in Salamanca, New York.

Board Members

Debra Root
Jerry Scott
Robert Keis, Chairman
Chuck Couture
Norm Marsh
Crystal Abers
Vince Horrigan
Jay Gould

Representing

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

Others Attending

Jill Koski
Don McCord
John Thomas
Richard Zink
Sarah Phearsdorf
Halley Kottwitz
Jonathan Mayr
Kimberly LaMendola
Susan Avery

Representing

Congressman Reed's Office
Chautauqua County
The Villager
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff

Chairman Keis 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

Jerry Scott made a motion to accept the January 19, 2017 minutes as distributed. Vince Horrigan 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, Vince Horrigan seconded the motion and it carried.

Executive Director's Report

1. Federal Update

House and Senate Republican leaders are moving forward with a stopgap spending measure to extend current federal funding levels through April 28th. This is a month later than originally proposed, reflecting a request from the Senate for additional time. Congress has abandoned plans to complete work on fiscal year (FY) 2017 appropriations bill this fall to give the new Congress and incoming Trump administration the final say over FY2017 spending decisions. The latest continuing resolution for FY2017 expired December 9.

2. Appalachian Regional Commission

2017 LDD Administration Grant Program: With FY17 funds appropriated through April 28th, ARC decided to provide 50% of the LDD Administration grants for 2017 (which will fund the first 2 quarter payments for the year with funding through June 30). The remaining funds will be provided through a contract amendment once Congress approves appropriation legislation and the bill is signed by the President. If level funding for ARC is maintained in the final budget bill, the remaining half of funding will be provided to the LDDs for the final 2 payments of the year. If there is any type of cut, the Commission must determine the extent of the cut that will be borne through the LDD program.

3. Southern Tier West Development Foundation

The City of Jamestown is working very hard to bring excursion trains to Jamestown from the Buffalo-Niagara Region, as well as points east and south of Jamestown. The City of Jamestown's Strategic Investment Plan for the \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) has included as a priority project; an infrastructure project for approximately \$700K for a rail siding to be constructed next to and just west of the current Gateway Station (Comedy Park—NCC). This will allow excursion trains to park, enabling passengers to disembark and provide parking for the train set with a covered walkway leading to the train station.

Stone Consulting will make additional track improvements and perform an economic feasibility analysis. The City of Jamestown has appropriated up to \$30K for the cost of a \$60K implementation study. They are seeking project partners to help defray the remaining \$30K cost, and state that they have some enthusiastic potential partners.

In discussion with the Cattaraugus County IDA, they approved \$2,500 toward this effort. Richard Zink asked the Board to consider \$5,000 from the STW Development Foundation be provided for the feasibility study. Chuck Couture so moved, Vince Horrigan seconded the motion and it carried.

4. ARC Project Solicitation

Southern Tier West annually solicits grant proposals for regionally significant area development projects that will advance the goals and objectives of the Appalachian Regional Commission and one of New York State's implementing strategies for the investment of ARC's federal funding within the region. Southern Tier West seeks a diverse range of project proposals from area non-profit organizations and municipalities. Southern Tier West provides individualized technical assistance and works with applicants in the development of grant proposals that will meet the program's

eligibility requirements and exemplify measurable outcomes that support both ARC's and New York State's development goals. Each year, ARC provides funding for several hundred investments throughout the Appalachian Region in areas such as business development, education and job training, telecommunications, infrastructure, community development, housing, and transportation. These projects create thousands of new jobs; improve local water and sewer systems; increase school readiness; expand access to health care; assist local communities with strategic planning; and provide technical and managerial assistance to emerging businesses.

- o Pre-application deadline is May 31, 2017 for FY2018 funding proposals
- o Plan early; applications require project proposals that exhibit sound planning and documentation
- o Grant requests up to \$150,000 are considered
- o Eligible applicants are incorporated non-profit organizations and municipalities
- o Applicants must work with Southern Tier West in the preparation of proposals

5. Grant Workshop

Southern Tier West will sponsor Capacity Building Camp; a diverse two-day training series presented by Nonprofit Works, a Saratoga Springs, NY organization specializing in high-impact training and consulting. The training series will take place on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 and Thursday April 6, 2017 at the BOCES conference center located in the Center for Regional Excellence in Salamanca. Registrants can choose from flexible learning options: the full 2-day series for \$195 per person or the one-day for \$105 per person.

The Capacity Building Camp is a boot-camp style approach to learning critical knowledge and skills that can translate to success in meeting goals for your organization, business, or municipality.

6. Chautauqua County Health Network (CCHN)

The CCHN asked Southern Tier West to assist with the evaluation of a mobile food market and other local food issues in Chautauqua County. A motion was needed to enter into a contract with CCHN for \$5,000 for services related to local food efforts. Vice Horrigan so moved, Chuck Couture seconded the motion and it carried.

Southern Tier West Program Report

Executive Director Richard Zink reported on the following STW programs: Local Government, Broadband, Entrepreneurial Development, NYSERDA – Clean Energy Communities, and STEDO.

Committee Reports

1. Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority

STERA will meet on March 27, 2017 at the Southern Tier West Offices.

Public Comment

Chuck Couture announced that Franklinville's Maple Festival will take place on April 29 and 30, 2017.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Audit Abstract

Chuck Couture made a motion to approve the January/February 2017 Audit Abstract, Jerry Scott seconded the motion and it carried.

Next Board Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Board of Directors will be held on April 20, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at the STW Offices in Salamanca, NY.

Adjournment

Crystal Abers made a motion to adjourn, Jerry Scott seconded the motion and it carried.

sjp