

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES – MARCH 15, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on March 15, 2018 at the Center for Regional Excellence in Salamanca, New York.

Board Members

Jerry Scott
Kier Dirlam, Vice Chairman
Deb Root
Robert Keis, Chairman
Crystal Abers
Chuck Couture
Donna Vickman
Norm Marsh
Joe Galati
Don McCord

Representing

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

Others Attending

Richard Zink
Sarah Phearsdorf
Halley Kottwitz
Jonathan Mayr
Sam Lewis
Kimberly LaMendola

Representing

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

Chuck Couture made a motion to accept the February 15, 2018 minutes as distributed. Joe Galati seconded the motion and it carried.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Project Review Report

Jerry Scott moved to acknowledge receipt of the Project Review Report, Chuck Couture seconded the motion and it carried.

Executive Director's Report

1. Two-Year Budget Deal and Fifth Continuing Resolution for FY2018 Signed into Law

Congress approved a two-year budget deal, which increases defense and non-defense discretionary spending caps dramatically. The package also extends current fiscal year 2018

spending through March 23rd to allow time for appropriators to draft an omnibus spending package to fund the government through September 30th under new budget caps.

2. Angel Fund

A meeting is scheduled for March 22nd at Holiday Valley, at which time our consultant Steve Mercil of Angel Capital Group will discuss the fund and steps of moving forward.

3. 604(b) Application

NYS DEC asked Southern Tier West for a new work plan for the project year April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019. Over the past year, STW has focused on data collection for highway superintendents and green infrastructure project development and funding. During this next year, Southern Tier West will focus on stream bank erosion as well as other water quality and storm water issues in our creeks and rivers. Staff is working with our watershed consortium to develop an appropriate and achievable work plan.

4. Interns

Staff reached out to local universities looking for interns to assist with our data collection effort during the summer. We heard back from several communities and with the potential approval of the baseline program we feel at least one intern will be beneficial.

5. ARC Grants

Southern Tier West annually solicits grant proposals for regionally significant projects through ARC's Area Development Program. Review priorities are given for projects that will advance the goals and objectives of the Appalachian Regional Commission and at least 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-for-profit organizations and municipalities and provides individualized technical assistance to work with the applicants in the development of grant proposals that meet the region's eligibility requirements and exemplify measurable outcomes that support both ARC's and New York State's development goals. Application deadline is June 1, 2018 and the Board will be reviewing and hearing project presentations on June 21, 2018.

6. Power Grant

Staff is working on a POWER grant through ARC. The focus is on entrepreneurial development across the region. We are specifically asking for money to assist with the Angel Fund, YEA, business plan development, and assistance in the form of a loan for an agri-business.

Southern Tier West Program Report

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

Committee Reports

Richard Zink reported that STERA will meet on March 26th at 9:30 a.m. at the Southern Tier West offices and the Watershed Coalition will meet in April.

Public Comment

Chuck Couture reported that it would be helpful to help create a community service looking at the ability to mitigate issues for farmers when emergencies occur, particularly when the power is out for an extended period. Chuck inquired as to the feasibility of micro loan fund to assist with the purchase of generators.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Audit Abstract

Chuck Couture made a motion to approve the February 2018 Audit Abstract. Jerry Scott seconded the motion and it carried.

Next Board Meeting

The next monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Board of Directors is scheduled for April 19, 2018 at 1:00 PM at the Center for Regional Excellence in Salamanca, New York.

Adjournment

Joe Galati made a motion to adjourn, Kier Dirlam seconded the motion and it carried.

sjp