

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES – JUNE 26, 2008

The regular meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on June 26, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the Center for Regional Excellence in Salamanca, New York. The following persons were in attendance:

Board Members

Sue Myers, Secretary
Ted Hopkins
Jerry Scott
Brent Reynolds
Robert Keis, Vice Chairman
Joseph Eade
William King
Charles Couture
Crystal Abers
Jim Cooper, Chairman
Bill Daly
Greg Edwards
Shaun Heenan
Allan Hendrickson

Representing

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

Others Attending

George Korchowsky
Todd Snyder
Richard Dixon
Robert Iszard
Sharon Turano
Donald Rychnowski
Tom Barnes
John Buzzard
Richard Zink
Brian Paschen
Daniel Reynolds
Sarah Phearsdorf
Ginger Malak
Eileen Weishan

Representing

NYS Department of State
T Snyder Consulting
Chautauqua County IDA
Empire State Development
Post Journal
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff

Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Introductions were made and a sign-in sheet was circulated.

The Chairman welcomed Southern Tier West's newest Board member - - Allan Hendrickson representing Chautauqua County.

Minutes

Mr. Eade made a motion to accept the May 16th as distributed. Mr. Keis seconded the motion and it carried.

Correspondence

Secretary Myers read the following correspondence:

1. Letter to Donald Rychnowski from Patricia DePasquali, RMC/CMC, Town of West Seneca, congratulating Southern Tier West as this year's winner of the 2008 Guy. D. Paquin Award - - for Southern Tier West's many achievements in promoting records management.

Project Review Report

Mr. Reynolds moved to acknowledge receipt of the Project Review Report. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion and it carried.

Executive Director's Report

Donald Rychnowski reported the following:

News & Notes

1. Route 219 Project

President of the 219 Association and Mr. Rychnowski met with congressional delegates in Washington on June 25th to discuss working toward the designation of the freeway alternative in all current and future federal actions associated with Route 219.

2. ARC Project Presentations

Following the Board meeting, 14 project sponsors will give a 15-minute presentation on their project and answer questions. This is the Board's opportunity to find out more information about the projects that was not included in the pre-application. Board members were encouraged to evaluate the projects and provide comments and/or questions to Ginger Malak following the presentations. All projects will be rated based on the ARC Priority Point Rating System.

Actions Necessary

1. Energy Conservation Program

Authorization was needed to submit and execute an application to DOS/ARC in the amount of \$43,000 for the purpose of developing an energy conservation program to assist municipal electric utilities with promotion and implementation of energy-efficient improvements. Mr. Keis so moved, Mr. Eade seconded the motion and it carried.

2. Southern Tier West Budget

An action was needed to approve the Southern Tier West FY2008/2009 Budget. Mr. Couture so moved, Mr. Edwards seconded the motion and it carried.

Richard Zink noted that Southern Tier West will be asking the counties for the same amount of funding as in past years.

3. Western Region Corporation (WRC)

Authorization was needed for Southern Tier West to enter into an agreement for 2008 in the amount of \$10,000 for annual contractual administrative funds. Mr. King so moved, Mr. Couture seconded the motion and it carried.

4. **Broadband Initiative Contracts**

Authorization was needed to: 1) send out an RFP for construction of the towers associated with the Allegany County Wireless Broadband Project, 2) enter into an agreement with the successful bidder, and 3) enter into an operating agreement with Southern Tier Wireless, the entity who will operate the network once constructed. Mr. Reynolds so moved, Mr. Eade seconded the motion and it carried.

5. **Chautauqua County Business Loan**

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss a loan for an important business in Chautauqua County, described in the Executive Committee report.

New Business

1. **Broadband Development Initiative**

Todd Snyder from T Snyder Consultants presented avenues to get Broadband services into our communities within the southern tier region. A proposed partnership will develop and operate community wireless broadband networks, including network access and information portals. For the first year, the objective is targeting delivery of pay-as-you-go, high-speed internet access and information services to 750-1,000 households and/or small businesses. Projects would be financed by an equipment leasing company specializing in governmental project leases. Initial funding would be up to \$500,000 for the projects first year.

The partnership steps include Southern Tier West contracting with T Snyder Consulting to design and build the communities' wireless broadband networks; on behalf of Southern Tier West, the leasing company will finance the projects, hence the leasing company will own the networks until the leases are paid off. Upon completion of each community wireless broadband network, T Snyder Consultants will contract with Southern Tier West to rent use of the network. T Snyder Consulting will bring high-speed Internet services to the communities and contract with Southern Tier West as a reseller of Time Warner cable service. In areas where these options do not exist, the best alternatives available will be utilized.

Through the network access and information portals, customers will be provided 24/7 free connections to local e-government, K-12 education, and health care websites. This project puts in place a mechanism to improve e-government initiatives, distance learning, and telemedicine applications to each home.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Committee Reports

Economic Development Advisory Committee

A motion was needed to approve the 2008 CEDS document. Mr. Eade so moved, Mr. Couture seconded the motion and it carried.

Executive Committee

Mr. Eade made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a Chautauqua County business loan. Mr. Reynolds seconded the motion and it carried.

Back in regular session, Greg Edwards reported that the Chautauqua County organization would apply to Southern Tier West Economic Development Fund in the amount of \$100,000 for five years at six percent interest, monthly payments starting in August 2008.

Audit Abstract

Mr. Scott made a motion to approve the May 2008 Audit Abstract. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion and it carried.

Next Board Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board will be held on July 17, 2008 at 1:00 p.m., at the Center for Regional Excellence, Salamanca, New York. Southern Tier West staff and Board members will rank ARC projects at this meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. Eade moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Reynolds seconded the motion and it carried.