

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

**MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 18, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on September 18, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the Center for Regional Excellence in Salamanca, New York. The following persons were in attendance:

**Board Members**

Sue Myers, Secretary  
Jerry Scott  
Robert Keis, Vice Chairman  
Joseph Eade  
Chuck Couture  
William King  
Jim Cooper, Chairman  
Allan Hendrickson

**Representing**

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

**Others Attending**

Todd Snyder  
Kelly Dawson  
Sharon Turano  
Donald Rychnowski  
John Buzzard  
Brian Paschen  
Sarah Phearsdorf  
Ginger Malak  
Richard Zink  
Tom Barnes

**Representing**

T. Snyder Consulting  
CPA BWB  
Post Journal  
Staff  
Staff  
Staff  
Staff  
Staff  
Staff  
Staff

Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order at 1:00 a.m. Introductions were made and a sign-in sheet was circulated.

**Minutes**

Chuck Couture made a motion to accept the August 21st minutes as distributed. Joe Eade seconded the motion and it carried.

**Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**Project Review Report**

Bill King moved to acknowledge receipt of the Project Review Report. Robert Keis seconded the motion and it carried.

**Executive Director's Report**

Donald Rychnowski reported the following:

## **Actions Necessary**

1. **Fiber Mapping Project**

Authorization was needed to enter into an agreement with the winning bidder to carry out the Fiber Mapping Project. Chuck Couture so moved, Jerry Scott seconded the motion and it carried.

2. **2008 Area Development Program**

Staff requested that the Board move the Cuba Dental Project from 2008 to the number one project priority for 2009 ARC funding, due to the project administrator withdrawing the application from ARC. Jerry Scott so moved, Allen Hendrickson seconded the motion and it carried.

3. **Phase I Asset Management Project**

Authorization was needed to prepare and submit an application to ARC in the amount of \$75,000 for a Phase I Asset Management Project, which is a substitute for the Cuba Dental Project. Jerry Scott so moved, Allen Hendrickson seconded the motion and it carried.

4. **Town of Portland Water Project/2008 ARC Area Development Funds**

Pending final determination from Department of State and ARC, authorization was needed to move the Alfred State College "Green Building Laboratory Project" that was submitted for 2009 funding to be funded in 2008 due to Portland Water Project's eligibility because of limited business impact. Joe Eade so moved, Sue Myers seconded the motion and it carried.

5. **Multi-Modal Contract**

Authorization was needed to enter into an agreement with an engineering company (Urban Engineering) to meet ARC and EDA requirements for the Multi-Modal Project. Chuck Couture so moved, Robert Keis seconded the motion and it carried.

6. **STW Annual Audit**

Kelly Dawson from Buffamante, Whipple, & Buttafaro, PC presented the 2007/2008 Southern Tier West Administrative Audit to the Board. Robert Keis made a resolution to accept the audit, Bill King seconded the motion and it carried.

7. **Government Innovation Award**

Authorization was needed to submit an application in the amount of \$100,000 to Harvard University for a Transportation/Innovation in American Government Award. Sue Myers so moved, Joe Eade seconded the motion and it carried.

## **New Business**

1. **Broadband Development Initiative**

Richard Zink reported that he went to Albany on September 16<sup>th</sup> to make a presentation to the Office of Technology regarding the Allegany County Broadband Project. Richard answered their questions and asked what the prognosis was to get funding for the project. Southern Tier West is also awaiting word from Senator Cathy Young's Office for help with funding for this project. Richard stressed how important it is to get this project moving due

to the funds needing to be expended by March 31<sup>st</sup> in the contract; otherwise in the spring we will have to ask for an extension. He encouraged Allegany County Board members to get their legislators, town supervisors, and school systems to write letters to the Office of Technology stressing how important the need for this project is in Allegany County. Ms. Myers made a motion that the Southern Tier West Board send an official letter to the Office of Technology in this regard. Mr. Scott seconded the motion and it carried.

Donald Rychnowski introduced Todd Snyder from T. Snyder Consulting. Mr. Snyder reported that his firm has a proposal for broadband wireless services in rural areas that do not yet have broadband access. He distributed copies of their Regional Wireless Broadband Development Partnership Agreement and a Proposed Partnership Overview, on which he made a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation explained the partnership objectives, financing, development steps, network operation, and special community benefits.

Mr. Snyder stated that it is important for municipalities to continue to take more direct control and form local teams to ensure their communities have broadband services. The idea of T. Snyder Consulting's proposal is to work together to deploy infrastructure that is already in place and get it to areas that currently do not have service.

The Board agreed to appoint the Executive Committee and Jerry Scott to review this Broadband Development Initiative Proposal on October 15 at 5:00 p.m. at the Southern Tier West Offices, before it is approved.

**2. Jamestown Energy Conservation Program**

Donald Rychnowski reported that Southern Tier West has been working with the City of Jamestown on developing an energy conservation program that will help with upgrades to building envelop, heating, cooling, lighting, and electronic motors. Incentives for this program will come in the form of rebates after work is completed and inspected. Southern Tier West will administer the rebate program and partnership with Chautauqua Opportunities to implement the residential portion of the program.

**3. Southern Tier West Meeting with State Representatives**

State representatives and the three County Chairman will meet with Southern Tier West staff on September 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss regional, state, and Southern Tier West's priorities.

**Old Business**

**1. Route 219 Survey**

Donald Rychnowski informed Board members that a Route 219 survey has been distributed by Continental 1 to 500 businesses along the expressway. He also talked with congressional staff regarding completion of Route 219 and they are optimistic that \$350 million will be in the next transportation bill for this purpose.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Rail Authority**

Tom Barnes reported that the Rail Authority will meet on October 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at the Southern Tier West Offices. Mr. Barnes also stated that WNYPA will be applying for rehab funding under the Passenger and Freight Program for next year; and they are constructing a train barn in the Town of Allegany to park their locomotives in the winter.

### **Board Special Committee**

Donald Rychnowski reported that the Board Special Committee will meet on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Southern Tier West offices.

### **Audit Abstract**

Chuck Couture made a motion to approve the August 2008 Audit Abstract. Joe Eade 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 October 16, 2008 at 1:00 p.m., at the Center for Regional Excellence, Salamanca, New York.

### **Adjournment**

Joe Eade moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m. Robert Keis seconded the motion and it carried.

sjp