

MINUTES – MARCH 19, 2009

The regular meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on March 19, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the Center for Regional Excellence in Salamanca, New York. The following persons were in attendance:

Board Members

Jerry Scott
Ted Hopkins
Curtis Crandall, Ex Officio
Joseph Eade
Chuck Couture
Crystal Abers
James Cooper, Chairman
Allan Hendrickson
Greg Edwards
Bill Daly
Shaun Heenan

Representing

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

Others Attending

Robert Iszard
Dave McCoy
Kathy Kellogg
Donald Rychnowski
John Buzzard
Sarah Phearsdorf
Ginger Malak
Eileen Weishan
Brian Paschen
Richard Zink
Daniel Reynolds

Representing

Empire State Development
TVGA Engineering
Buffalo News
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff

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

Minutes

Joe Eade made a motion to accept the February 19th minutes as distributed. Chuck Couture seconded the motion and it carried.

Correspondence

In the absence of Secretary Myers, Sarah Phearsdorf read the following correspondence:

1. Thank You Card from James Cooper to the Board and staff for their support during his loss.

Project Review Report

Joe Eade moved to acknowledge receipt of the Project Review Report. Ted Hopkins seconded the motion and it carried.

Executive Director's Report

Chairman Cooper announced that Don Rychnowski received a "John D. Whisman VISION Award" from the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) in Washington in appreciation for his contribution of regional planning and development for over 28 years.

Donald Rychnowski reported the following:

News & Notes

1. Economic Stimulus

Formulas have been developed for transportation funding, although most of the monies will be used for ready-to-go and MPO projects. The State will also distribute a relatively small amount of funds in the broadband arena that will focus on health and job creation; and regional projects will be given priority.

A downlink/webinar is in the planning stages to present town and villages in our region with the same information received by the counties and cities during the Governor's stimulus roundtables.

2. EDA Project Priorities

The Board agreed to adopt project priorities for their perspective counties at the April Board Meeting.

Actions Needed

1. Road Scoring

Authorization was needed to submit an application to ARC for a Road Scoring Project that would create a GIS-based system for in-house analysis and record keeping, which would enhance the county's ability to manage and maintain their transportation systems, as well as look at the system from a regional perspective. Joe Eade so moved, Jerry Scott seconded the motion and it carried.

2. Broadband Initiatives

A resolution was needed to name Southern Tier West as the lead agency for the Fiber Build Project, which Southern Tier West has been working on with counterparts in north central Pennsylvania, DFT Communications, and the Economic Development Administration. Bill Daly so moved, Allen Hendrickson seconded the motion and it carried.

3. Resolution in Support of Assembly Bill No. A06783

A motion was needed to pass Resolution A06783 - - stating that Southern Tier West supports increasing the fees collected for the Cultural Education Fund (CEF) and the Local Government Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF), which would generate \$15-18 million annually in additional revenues for the Cultural education Account and \$5-6 million for the LGRMIF. Chuck Couture so moved, Allen Hendrickson seconded the motion and it carried.

New Business

1. NYS Archives Grant for Municipal Websites

Sarah Phearsdorf reported that Southern Tier West received a grant from NYS Archives to create and enhance municipal websites. Eight municipalities participated in the grant, including the Villages of Celoron and Brocton, and the Town of Villenova from Chautauqua County; Villages of Randolph, East Randolph, Cattaraugus and Gowanda, and the Towns of Randolph and New Albion from Cattaraugus County; and the Village of Belmont from Allegany County. A couple goals of the grant is for municipalities to be able to have their forms completed on-line and for them to maintain their own sites with Expression Web software.

2. GIS Program

John Buzzard gave an overview of project status in Southern Tier West's GIS Department.

Under the Asset Management Program, Southern Tier West is upgrading their GIS capacity and equipment to enable implementation of new programs. This project is similar to Community GIS, in that the goal is to update inventory of municipal water, wastewater, and infrastructure for municipalities within our region, which will enable them to better manage their budgets and assets. Two phases of the project include incorporating new software and data collection.

Under the Regional Transportation Program, Southern Tier West is in the final steps of preparing the Annual Report, which includes gathering the county's transportation priorities to be transformed into GIS layers. This information will be helpful and available for other in-house projects.

Under the Broadband Fiber Mapping Project, Southern Tier West is incorporating data into their GIS system, which will help identify marketable sites for tower locations. Southern Tier West is also in the process of digitizing a regional zoning layer for municipalities in the region, which will allow them to update their zoning maps on their websites and market fiber locations.

Southern Tier West is working with DEC and municipalities under the DEC Baseline Program to create storm water training and outreach.

Under the Census 2010 Program, Southern Tier West updated maps, which has moved boundaries. We recommend the counties review these changes and ensure they are acceptable.

Finally, Southern Tier West is working to promote regional GIS within the region, which includes Southern Tier West and the counties sharing data to fill any gaps.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Committee Reports

Rail Authority

Don Rychnowski reported that the Rail Authority met March 16th at 9:30 a.m. at the Center for Regional Excellence. Three new members have been appointed to the Authority Board: Mike Brisky representing Cattaraugus County; Mr. Wilcox representing Chautauqua County; and James Cooper representing Southern Tier West.

The Rail Authority is working to finalize projects that would utilize stimulus bill funding for various rehab projects within the 145 miles of line in New York State.

Audit Abstract

Joe Eade made a motion to approve the February 2009 Audit Abstract. Chuck Couture seconded the motion and it carried.

Next Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board will be a Board Retreat held on April 16, 2009 starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Center for Regional Excellence, Salamanca, New York.

Adjournment

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

sjp