

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES – MAY 15, 2009

Southern Tier West's Regional Planning & Development Board's Annual Meeting was held on May 15, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. at Moonwinks Restaurant in Cuba, New York. The following persons were in attendance:

Board Members

Jerry Scott
Ted Hopkins
Susan Myers
Joseph Eade
Robert Keis
Chuck Couture
Crystal Abers
James Cooper, Chairman
Allan Hendrickson

Representing

Allegany County
Allegany County
Allegany County, Secretary
Cattaraugus County
Cattaraugus County
Cattaraugus County
Cattaraugus County
Chautauqua County
Chautauqua County

Others Attending

Donald Rychnowski
John Buzzard
Sarah Phearsdorf
Ginger Malak
Eileen Weishan
Brian Paschen
Richard Zink
Daniel Reynolds

Representing

Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff

Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Introductions were made and a sign-in sheet was circulated.

Annual Meeting Actions

1. Presentation of the Annual Report

Don Rychnowski reported that copies of the 2008 Annual Report were included in the Board packets and would be posted under publications on Southern Tier West's website at www.southerntierwest.org.

2. Election of Officers

Joe Eade, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Committee unanimously nominated to following officers: James Cooper, Chautauqua County, Chairman; Robert Keis, Cattaraugus County, Vice Chairman; and Sue Myers, Allegany County, Secretary. Joe Eade moved that these officers be nominated and duly elected, Ted Hopkins seconded the motion and it carried.

Minutes

Joe Eade made a motion to accept the March minutes as distributed. Jerry Scott seconded the motion and it carried.

Correspondence

Secretary Sue Myers read the following correspondence:

1. Letter from Assemblyman Joseph Giglio to Don Rychnowski, thanking Don for the copy of the Resolution in support of A6783, which was passed by Southern Tier West at its March 19, 2009 Board Meeting.

2. Letter from Wendy Nelson, Interim Executive Director of the GIS Certification Institute, to Donald Rychnowski, stating that John Buzzard was certified by the GIS Certification Institute as a certified geographic information system professional.

Project Review Report

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

Executive Director's Report

Donald Rychnowski reported the following:

News & Notes

1. 16th Annual Local Government Conference

The 16th Local Government Conference was very successful on May 6th at Houghton College with a total of 350 local officials attending, down slightly from last year. Twenty-seven exhibitors filled the campus lounge, and thirty-nine speakers from 29 agencies (including 10 NYS departments) presented 43 programs including sessions on Wind Energy, Crisis Prevention & the Media, Planning & Zoning Case Law, SEQR, Local Law Process, Project Funding, Water/Wastewater and Code Enforcement Updates.

2. 2010 Census

The importance of the 2010 Census cannot be emphasized enough. It is important to the State and the region, as it affect our representation in Congress and the State Legislature. It also has an impact on the eligibility of our three counties for numerous federal and State programs. Southern Tier West staff is working with the NYS Data Center and the US Census Bureau on outreach and education programs for our region. Southern Tier West anticipates receiving a new contract soon from NYS to do very specific actions over the next year. John Buzzard is available to work on outreach with local governments and counties.

Actions Needed

1. Three County Road Asset Management Program

A resolution was needed to submit an application to ARC that will implement a standardized road scoring process in our region. Southern Tier West will be requesting approximately \$70,000 from ARC to be matched with local funds and in-kind. Robert Keis so moved, Sue Myers seconded the motion and it carried.

3. Climate Smart Communities

Authorization was needed to submit an application to ARC in the amount of \$35,000 for promotion of energy efficiency and reduced energy consumption among communities. Jerry Scott so moved, Joe Eade seconded the motion and it carried.

4. 604 B Stimulus Funding

NYS DEC made available \$1.7 million for water quality and municipal water efficiency. Authorization was needed for Southern Tier West to submit applications to ARC for 604 B Stimulus Funding. Joe Eade so moved, Ted Hopkins seconded the motion and it carried.

New Business

1. Natural Gas Development

Art VanTyne, a Consultant from Wellsville, presented a slideshow on "Marcellus Shale". The Marcellus Shale is a black shale formation extending deep underground from Ohio and West Virginia northeast into Pennsylvania and southern New York. Although the Marcellus Shale is exposed at the ground surface in

some location in the northern Finger Lakes area, it is as deep as 900 feet or more below the ground surface along the Pennsylvania border in the Delaware River valley. Drilling activity is expected to focus on areas where the Marcellus Shale is deeper than 200 feet.

Geologists estimate that the entire Marcellus Shale formation contains between 168 trillion to 516 trillion cubic feet of natural gas throughout its entire extent. Interest has increased significantly of late due to recent enhancements to gas well development technology, specifically horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing; the proximity of high natural gas demand markets in New York, New Jersey, and New England; and the construction of the Millennium Pipeline through the Southern Tier.

2. Southern Tier West's Regional Transportation Plan

Brian Paschen, Community Assistance Specialist reported that Southern Tier West will provide an initial draft of the Regional Transportation Plan to the Transportation Committee in early June, for comments from the Committee at the June 16th Transportation Committee Meeting. Brian will then present the final draft of the Regional Transportation Plan for approval at Southern Tier West's June 25th Board of Director's Meeting.

3. Broadband Initiatives

Richard Zink, Assistant Director, reported that Southern Tier West has been working with ECC Technologies on the Fiber Mapping Project. Existing fiber has been mapped throughout our three-county region, and John Buzzard and Daniel Reynolds of staff are generating the digital maps based upon the hardcopy maps provided by ECC Technologies. These maps will be used to market our area to existing and potential businesses. While these maps are considered of a sensitive nature they will be available for viewing in-house as well as in limited detail on the internet.

Regarding the Allegany County Wireless Project, Southern Tier West has submitted the contract to the Office of Technology in Albany, which should be to the Comptroller's Office by May 22nd for final approval.

Under the Fiber Build Project, Southern Tier West is working to get local share for the last part to the EDA grant. Staff met with Dunkirk Telephone and Zito Media the two local telephone partners. There is a good synergy between the two companies and they both look forward to working together on this project. Previously STW submitted an appropriations request to Congressman Massa and Senator Schumer- -we hope to hear a decision soon, in relation to FY 2010 funding. These appropriation requests were for \$4.5 million and may not need matching funds. A group from New Jersey has been very helpful to Southern Tier West in regard to supplying examples of their currently successful broadband projects. Under this project, Southern Tier West will lease the fiber, which will benefit businesses, universities, and hospitals in our area.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Committee Reports

Rail Authority

Don Rychnowski reported that the STERA Board Meeting has been changed from May 18, 2009 to June 15, 2009. New Board members have been appointed from respective counties.

Transportation Committee

Brian Paschen reported that the Committee met on May 5, 2009. The main topic of discussion was Southern Tier West's top regional transportation priorities. The next Committee meeting will be held on June 16th at the Southern Tier West Offices. At this meeting, a draft of the Regional Transportation Plan will be presented to Board Members.

Audit Abstract

Chuck Couture made a motion to approve the February 19 – March 19, 2009 Audit Abstract. Allan Hendrickson 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 will be held on June 25, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. NYS Department of State will be in attendance to hear ARC project presentations that will run throughout the day.

Adjournment

Joe Eade moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Jerry Scott seconded the motion and it carried.

sjp