

STEBEN COUNTY AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

9:35 a.m.

*Legislative Committee Room
Steuben County Office Building
Bath, New York*

****MINUTES****

COMMITTEE:	Robin K. Lattimer, Chair Aaron I. Mullen	K. Michael Hanna, Vice Chair Thomas J. Ryan	Hilda T. Lando
STAFF:	Jack K. Wheeler Jen Prossick	Amy Dlugos Craig Patrick	Eric Rose
LEGISLATORS:	Kelly H. Fitzpatrick Frederick G. Potter	Stephen P. Maio Randolph J. Weaver	John V. Malter
OTHERS:	Belinda Hoad, Institute for Human Services Mobility Manager Robert Shirley, Interim Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension Jeff Parker, Director, Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District Derek Zerkowski, Natural Resource Conservation Service Mary Perham		

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Lattimer called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and asked Mr. Mullen to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 6, 2019, MEETING MADE BY MR. RYAN. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Planning

1. **Adopting the Steuben County Transportation Plan 2019 Update** – Mrs. Dlugos introduced Belinda Hoad who is the Institute for Human Services Mobility Manager. The transportation plan is updated every couple of years.

Mr. Mullen asked how did the plan change? Ms. Hoad replied we wrote the plan pretty generalized. We took out some historical references and updated the plan with what is available now. All 5311/5310 projects have to be included in the plan. The plan includes an outline of the projects scheduled for the next four years. Mr. Mullen asked what are the projects? Ms. Hoad replied we are looking at an integrated fare collection system. We are also looking at public transit WiFi which we will also run the fare collection system from. We are also looking to have all of our routes have better connectivity to healthcare providers, which will go hand in hand with some DSRIP projects.

Mrs. Lando commented at the Corning Council meeting, people were complaining about the route changes. Who should they be complaining to? Ms. Hoad stated they can direct complaints to the Corning City Planning Director, Jennifer Miller. There have been no route changes yet, however, we do plan to look at the routes in the long-term. Mrs. Lando stated another complaint is the buses do not stop at the food pantry. Additionally, they are looking at eliminating the route to Corning Hospital. Mrs. Dlugos stated that is the C-Tran route and there have been some changes with Bridge Street. We can check with them.

Mrs. Lando stated one of the biggest issues is the website is not being updated. Ms. Hoad stated that is addressed in part of the plan. We have so many systems and we want to put them under one umbrella and under one website. No other county has a transit system like we do.

Mr. Maio asked how much coordination is there between the providers? Ms. Hoad replied they do coordination. We do have issues getting one system to put all of the routes into the system. Additionally, there is an extreme lag in NYS Department of Transportation funding. Our operators are more than willing to come together.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked will you be expanding the hours of operation? Ms. Hoad replied yes, we are looking to expand hours into the evening and on weekends. Ms. Fitzpatrick commented that is important for employment. Ms. Hoad stated we have a lot of volunteer programs which also supplement transportation needs.

MOTION: ADOPTING THE STEUBEN COUNTY COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT – HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2019 UPDATE AS PRESENTED MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

2. **Authorizing Public Hearing** – Mrs. Dlugos requested authorization to hold a public hearing on land submitted for inclusion in certified agricultural districts during the 2019 annual thirty-day period.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING A PUBLIC HEARING ON LAND SUBMITTED FOR INCLUSION IN CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS DURING THE 2019 ANNUAL THIRTY-DAY PERIOD MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

B. County Manager

1. **Contract Renewal – Hornell Area Humane Society** – Mr. Wheeler requested authorization to renew the contract with the Hornell Area Humane Society for \$8,500. He stated they help support the Spirit Program, and the Trap-Spay-Neuter Program. They are doing a good job.

Mr. Mullen asked do you receive any type of report from them? Mr. Wheeler replied we received a pretty general report, but he can request a more detailed report.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO RENEW THE CONTRACT WITH HORNELL AREA HUMANE SOCIETY FOR \$8,500 ANNUALLY MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. **County-Owned Lands** – Mr. Wheeler stated staff has been reviewing county-owned lands for potential hunting and fishing use. There are ten wooded or vacant land properties that the county owns that we have been examining for hunting and/or fishing. He commented the NYS DEC will be sending a forest management person out to mark trees for logging and felling. Once that is complete, we will put out an RFP for logging. This will be in the Call Hill area. We found one property, other than county-owned parks that would provide good fishing access. We are looking at a kayak/canoe launch and will be talking to Mr. Spagnoletti about that. Mr. Wheeler stated there is a piece of property located on CR 119 in Cameron that has pretty good fishing access. We would look to expand that and perhaps put in a kayak/canoe launch.

Mr. Wheeler stated with regard to properties for hunting, we are recommending that the less you formally do, the better from a liability standpoint. Right now, we do not regulate it. If you made this more formal, you would need staff to manage it. As it currently stands, you are not prohibiting anything, but you are not actively regulating it.

Mr. Ryan stated he attended the State Fish and Wildlife Board meeting last week, and they indicated they are more than willing to work with us. There is money available to improve fishing access, and if it is designated as a

good site, they will stock it. He indicated that they are interested in looking at Steuben County as a test site to improve more fishing areas.

Mrs. Lando commented there is also a link on the Conference & Visitors' Bureau website for hunting and fishing. Mr. Wheeler commented with the streams and rivers, this will support some of the things that the Conference & Visitors' Bureau is looking at. We want to promote and use the natural resources that we have. He stated following our current practice, forest management will go to Public Works for approval.

Mr. Nichols asked do we have right-of-way access to all of our properties? Mr. Wheeler replied yes.

IV. OUTSIDE AGENCIES

A. Soil & Water Conservation District

1. **Introduction** – Mr. Parker introduced Derek Zerkowski, Soil Conservationist, from the Natural Resource Conservation Services station in Bath. We work together with the Federal Government and there are only two people in their office.

2. **Activity Update**

a. *District Streambank* – Mr. Parker informed the committee they currently have 22 projects on the list to be completed this year, totaling \$265,295.23. There are 11 landowner and 11 municipality projects. There is a 25 percent match to be paid by the landowner/municipality. We will use the \$75,000 funding that you allocated first, and then we will figure out the remaining, but he may need to come back to request additional funding.

b. *Southern Tier Ag Industry Enhancement Program (STAIEP)* – Mr. Parker stated they have completed \$4.5 million of work within the last two years. They have completed 20 projects. One project remains to be implemented this year due to weather conditions in 2018, and they are working on mini-closeout of 28 farms.

c. *CAFO Waste Storage & Transfer System* – Mr. Parker stated with the new legislation, farmers are not allowed to spread manure on frozen property. Farmers are allowed to store manure for six months. We will be working with four CAFO farms on the implementation of manure storages over the next two years. The total State share is \$1,340,030.00 and the landowners will be contributing \$2,475,830.00. There are four additional CAFO farms that are interested in applying for funding in round three. The maximum State share is \$385,000 at a cost share rate of 75/25. Each of these applicants must install a synthetic liner as a requirement of the grant.

d. *Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)* – Mr. Parker stated he will be teaching a four-hour erosion control course for municipal officers and county highway employees. This is at no cost and the training will be held on May 2, 2019. Additionally, we will be conducting an emergency stream intervention training, which will be a two-day four-hour course and then going out into the field and doing some field measurements and installing a project. This year they will be doing a project behind the Greenwood Highway Shop. Funding will pay for the materials for that project.

e. *Chesapeake Bay* – Mr. Parker informed the committee that the NYS DEC has to write a plan to the EPA and Chesapeake Bay showing how we are going to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus going into the Bay. They do a plan every five years. The Upper Susquehanna Coalition will be hosting a public event on Friday, April 12, 2019 from 1pm – 3pm where the NYS DEC will provide an overview as well as a time for questions and answers. This training will be held at the Civil Defense Center. Mr. Parker commented the Upper Susquehanna Coalition is comprised of 11 Soil & Water Districts and we bring in Federal funding to do projects to prove that we are reducing pollutants going into the watershed.

B. Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS)

1. **Activity Update** – Mr. Zerkowski stated he is here today to provide an overview of their program. Two main programs were re-authorized under the 2018 Farm Bill; EQIP and CSP. The EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) is highly utilized. This is a reactive program to help farmers develop a conservation plan. The second program CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) is a proactive program. Once a farmer has already had a program, this provides funds for what a farmer is already doing and provides an incentive for new programs. Mr. Zerkowski stated they currently have 74 active contracts in various program areas. Mr. Malter asked what is your total appropriation? Mr. Zerkowski replied last year we received \$6.5 million and just under \$2 million was spent on contracts in Steuben County.

V. **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. *Appointing the Pomona Grange Representative* - Ms. Lattimer stated we received letter from the Soil & Water Conservation District recommending the appointment of James McGlynn to their Board of Directors.

MOTION: RECOMMENDING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE POMONA GRANGE REPRESENTATIVE, JAMES MCGLYNN, TO THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

B. *Resolution Opposing the Governor's Proposed Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act* – Mr. Nichols stated this would be detrimental to farms as it would require overtime, unemployment insurance, and an increase in minimum wage. If this passes, you will see farms going to robots in order to do the work. Ms. Lattimer commented they did not look at the economic impact of this on employers (farmers).

MOTION: OPPOSING THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED FARMWORKERS FAIR LABOR PRACTICES ACT MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. RYAN. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

C. *Cornell Cooperative Extension* – Mrs. Lando introduced Robert Shirley who is the interim director. Mr. Shirley stated a search committee has been formed and we are looking at a timeline of approximately four to six months. He commented the regional agricultural teams are coming along and the producers are very happy with the program and thank you for your support.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

****NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, May 1, 2019
Legislative Committee Room
9:30 a.m.**

**Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature's Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, April 24, 2019.**