



**December 4, 2015**

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Dulles State Office Building

**Public Viewing:**

Friday, December 4, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm • Saturday, December 5, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm • Sunday, December 6, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

# Tug Hill Times

*Tug Hill Times* is published semimonthly by the Tug Hill Commission for its board members, staff and associates, and the local representatives of the region's communities.

## Rain Garden Installed at Black River Municipal Building

Using funds secured through a U.S. Forest Service Green Infrastructure grant, the Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District finished installing their first rain garden this week at the village of Black River municipal building. With assistance from the village's DPW staff, roof water from the village offices is now diverted from the downspouts to the rain garden. A variety of native plants were planted that will not only tolerate the varying water levels in the garden, but will also provide visual appeal and habitat. By capturing rainwater from impervious surfaces such as roofs, driveways, parking lots or sidewalks and diverting it into a rain garden, the rainwater can slowly soak into the ground. The rain garden can filter contaminants and keep quantities of water from going down the sewer system.



The project is the first of many that will be funded using the grant that was submitted by the Conservation District on behalf of the Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition. Additional rain gardens and numerous trees will be planted in 2016. Tug Hill Commission and DEC Great Lakes staff assisted in preparing the grant application.

The Conservation District has also just released a YouTube video highlighting the many services they provide. It can be viewed at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ag2Ry\\_RPOj4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ag2Ry_RPOj4).

## Covered Bridge Challenge on NY Snowmobile Web Map

Covered bridges in both Oswego and Oneida counties are two of several locations highlighted in this year's inaugural Covered Bridge Challenge. The route includes a covered bridge on the Square Valley Trail Blazer's trail system in Happy Valley, as well as the covered bridge in Boonville's Erwin Park. Organized by the creators of the NY Snowmobile Webmap, the idea is to encourage use of the interactive website and increase tourism and recreation across the state.

To view the map and route, go to [www.nysnowmobilewebmap.com](http://www.nysnowmobilewebmap.com). More information is also available at [www.coveredbridgechallenge.com](http://www.coveredbridgechallenge.com).

# DEC Announces Grant Program for Aquatic Invasive Species

Two million dollars in grants are available to organizations for projects to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in New York State's waterways. The NYS Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) is providing the \$2 million for eligible projects. Grant amounts will range from a minimum of \$25,000 up to a maximum of \$100,000. A 25% match is required. The Request for Application (RFA) is available at [www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/103921.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/103921.html).

The new grant program builds on the success of several boat steward programs, which are already underway in New York State. The pilot Adirondack AIS spread prevention program, initiated earlier this year, deployed boat stewards at 14 high priority sites and installed 11 new boat decontamination stations.

The highest scoring projects will have a statewide or regional focus rather than a local focus and involve multiple partners and stakeholders. Grants will be awarded to applicants who clearly demonstrate that they have the knowledge and skill to successfully complete the project. Priority will be given to projects located on or in close proximity to waterbodies where the shoreline is 50 percent or higher in public ownership. Targeted waterbodies must be located wholly within New York State.

The deadline for grant application is January 29, 2016. DEC anticipates announcing grant awards in April 2016. Applicants can apply for the grant through the Consolidated Funding Application by visiting the following <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/>.

## Black River Watershed Conference – Save the Date

Preparations are already under way for the 2016 Black River Watershed Conference. Set for June 8, 2016, the conference is moving to Jefferson County this year and will likely be held at Maggie's on the River in Watertown (waiting on a confirmation from Maggie's). The conference will feature talks about recreation, geology, the MS4 work occurring and other projects currently underway in the Black River watershed. It is our intention to provide a morning of speakers, lunch and an afternoon bus tour around the Jefferson County portion of the Watershed.

The conference is organized by the Tug Hill Commission, DEC Region 6 and the Jefferson and Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation Districts and is financially supported through the Beaver River Advisory Council and the Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance.

Please mark your calendars for June 8th and watch your email for more information. We hope you'll join us.

## DEC Offering Municipal Sewage System Asset Management Pilot Program

DEC has developed a [Municipal Sewage System Asset Management Guide](#) and will conduct a three year pilot program to test and improve the guide. Asset management is the practice of managing a wastewater system's critical components, or assets, in a way that protects public health and the environment, while also minimizing the total cost of owning and operating those assets and delivering the desired service levels.

DEC is offering municipalities with publicly owned treatment works and/or publicly owned sewer systems the opportunity to participate in the pilot program. For more details about what is expected of participating municipalities and anticipated pilot program activities, see DEC's website at [www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/101419.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/101419.html). The application and data surveys for the program are due by January 20, 2016.

DEC will work up to 20 municipalities to help them develop and start implementing their municipal sewage system asset management plan. At the conclusion of the program, the participating municipalities can expect to have a completed municipal sewage system asset management plan and the tools (e.g., computerized asset management system) to implement the plan. There are no out-of-pocket costs to the municipalities for participating in the pilot.

Participating municipalities will work with an environmental engineering firm to complete a municipal sewage system asset management plan and implement the plan for two years. Municipalities are expected to provide the state with feedback about many aspects of developing and implementing the municipal sewage system asset management plan.

## Oswego County Task Force Report Rollout December 8

The public is invited to attend a meeting of the Oswego County Community Health and Poverty Reduction Task Force on Tuesday, December 8 at 6 pm in Mexico at the CiTi Mexico Campus Multi-Purpose Room (BOCES). The Task Force, a partnership of the Oswego County Legislature and Oswego County School Districts, has developed the plan over the past year to help spark a county-wide revitalization and economic resurgence. Oswego County has the highest unemployment rate in NYS, and is in or near last place in a variety of health related categories.

This “self-help” action plan is the culmination of hours of community dialogue, discussion, meetings and research. The plan focuses on five primary topics:

1. Creating a comprehensive economic development strategy for the county
2. Implementing new strategies for human services delivery and workforce development
3. A focus on youth and schools to end generational poverty
4. Maximizing the strengths of Oswego County communities
5. Establishing a culture of constant improvement that focuses on promoting best practices and replacing broken policies

For more information, contact the Task Force chairman, Hon. Roy Reehil, 5th District Oswego County Legislator, [Legislator@Reehil.com](mailto:Legislator@Reehil.com), 315-675-9704.



## Workshop held on NYS Ag Districts and Local Zoning Regulations

Over 65 local officials attended the workshop held Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at JCC presented by Robert Somers, Manager of the Agricultural Protection Unit of the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets. The presentation discussed the interaction between NYS Agricultural Districts Law and local zoning regulations, local regulation of farming operations, and how farmers can request a review of potentially restrictive regulations. Because of the unexpected turnout, there were not enough handouts to go around so the Commission has posted Bob's handout to the website at <http://www.tughill.org/services/training/>. Bob also referenced the Ag & Markets website with numerous guidance documents on various topics available at [www.agriculture.ny.gov/ap/agservices/agdistricts.html](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/ap/agservices/agdistricts.html).

Additional workshops regarding agriculture and local regulations will be presented at the March 31, 2016 Local Government Conference. Registration brochures for the LGC will be in the mail right after Christmas.

## REDC Award Ceremony December 10

Announcements on this year's Regional Economic Development Council grant awards and the Upstate Revitalization Initiative are expected next Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Contact us at:

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Commission**

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1-888-785-2380.  
Electronic versions  
appear in full color!

## New Community Planner Liaison with Fort Drum

Communities around Fort Drum have a new resource with the hiring of Hartley Bonisteel Schweitzer by the Development Authority of the North Country as the Community Planner liaison for municipalities around the installation. Hartley will be reaching out to towns and villages over the next few months to introduce herself, although many will be familiar with her from her previous position at Jefferson County Planning. The role of the community planner is to serve as a liaison between the garrison and communities and to allow for a two-way exchange of information. In addition Hartley will be working on a BOA grant project for Lewis County and other Authority projects.



## DOS LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEBINARS

### WHEN

**December 2015  
January 2016**

### WHERE

Attend from wherever you are - You  
need a computer with speakers or a  
mobile device

### COURSES

Financial Implications of Shared Services · Sign  
Regulation · Land Use Moratoria · Planning  
Board Overview · Zoning Board of Appeals  
Overview

### WHO

Planning Board Members · Zoning Board of  
Appeals Members · Governing Board Members ·  
Planning Staff · Other Local Officials

### MORE TRAINING INFORMATION

<http://www.dos.ny.gov/lg/lut/index.html>

### TO REGISTER:

Click on each course below  
that you want to attend to  
register.

Once registered and ap-  
proved, you will receive a  
confirmation email with  
instructions for joining  
each session.

#### **DECEMBER 15, 2015**

[Financial Implications of  
Shared Services](#)  
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

#### **DECEMBER 17, 2015**

[Sign Regulation](#)  
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

#### **DECEMBER 29, 2015**

[Land Use Moratoria](#)  
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

#### **JANUARY 7, 2016**

[Planning Board Overview](#)  
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

#### **JANUARY 12, 2016**

[Zoning Board of Appeals  
Overview](#)  
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM