



January 31, 2014

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Vienna Woods UMP Presented
- NYS DEC Endorsed 4 Hour Contractor's Training in Erosion and Sediment Control
- South Lewis Wood Chip Heating to be Featured in National Publication
- Governor's Regional Budget Presentation
- NYS Maple Weekend
- Demystifying Parliamentary Procedures
- Central Square School District Holds 'Planning for the Future' Meeting
- Save the date!

February 2, 2014



Groundhog Day

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.

Vienna Woods UMP Presented

The Department of Environmental Conservation held a public meeting in Vienna on Thursday, January 30 to present the draft Vienna Woods Unit Management Plan (UMP). DEC officials were available to present the draft plan, answer questions and accept comments from the approximately forty interested parties who attended the session.

The state forest lands included in the unit are Stone Barn and Fish Creek, comprising about 1,299 acres in the towns of Annsville, Camden and Vienna in Oneida County. Additionally, in the general vicinity of the two State Forests are 11 parcels of land categorized as Detached Parcels of Forest Preserve, totaling 888 acres, and another parcel which is currently being transferred to the DEC – all which will also be addressed in the UMP. The total acreage for all the parcels in the UMP is 2,188.

Public comments made at the meeting were to include the development of trails for biking, hiking and cross country skiing, the consideration of gaining public access to one of the parcels which is currently landlocked, consideration of conducting a salmon survey in the West Branch of Fish, and making the northwest corner on the lands on Elpis Road in Vienna a "high conservation value forest" due to the number of wild flower varieties, tree plantations and wildlife observed in that area.

The goals of the unit are:

- To provide a healthy, sustainable and biologically diverse forest;
- To provide forest-based recreational opportunities;
- To provide economic benefits to local communities and to the State of New York;
- And sound stewardship.

Proposals for this unit include:

- Kiosks for each of the individual state forests to provide more information on the each forest and recreation opportunities.

Public comments are encouraged during the development of the draft plan and will be accepted until March 3, 2014. If you wish to review the draft plan, it is available on the DEC website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/90760.html>. Also copies of the plan on compact disk (CD) are also available for public review at the following locations:

- DEC Region 6 Headquarters office at 317 Washington Street, Watertown (315-785-2263),
- DEC Herkimer Sub-office at 225 North Main St, Herkimer, NY, 13350, or
- DEC Utica Sub-office at 207 Genesee Street, Utica, NY 13501, 14th floor.

Those unable to attend the meeting are invited to submit comments to the DEC by mail to: NYSDEC, Division of Lands and Forests, Attn: Mary Kay Allen, 225 North Main St, Herkimer, NY, 13350 or alternatively by e-mail to r6ump@gw.dec.state.ny.us. Written comments will be accepted until March 3, 2014.

NYS DEC Endorsed 4 Hour Contractor's Training in Erosion and Sediment Control

The Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a 4 Hour Sediment and Erosion Control Training Session to be held March 7th from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm at the Bruce M Wright Memorial Conference Center, 1291 Faichney Drive, Watertown, NY 13601. The presenter will be Steve Botsford of NYS DEC.

Under the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Stormwater Permit GP-0-10-001, all developers, contractors and subcontractors must identify at least one trained contractor from their company that will be responsible for the implementation of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans, and have at least one trained contractor on site on a daily basis when soil disturbance activities are being performed. Also, developers must have a qualified inspector conduct regular site inspections in accordance with GP-0-10-001.

Qualified inspectors and trained contractors must have 4 hours of training in the principles and practices of erosion and sediment control endorsed by NYS DEC, SWCD, or CPESC, Inc. Training is good for three (3) years. Training is not required for CPESC, LA, and PE certified persons. Upon completion of the course, each participant will receive a NYS DEC Stormwater Training Number on a certificate and wallet card good for 3 years. This training does not allow contractors to conduct their own Qualified Weekly Inspections.

Cost: \$75 per person, non-refundable
Blue-Book "Lite" provided with each registration
Light refreshments provided.

Registrations must be received by 4:00 p.m. on March 5, 2014

For questions about the training or to register, contact Jacob Ambrose at the Jefferson County SWCD at jmambrose@centralny.twcbc.com or call (315) 782-2749.

South Lewis Wood Chip Heating to be Featured in National Publication

Tug Hill Commission staff was given another opportunity to tour and learn more about the South Lewis School's wood chip boiler. Mr. John Siegenthaler of Appropriate Designs in Holland Patent, NY will be writing an article about the boiler in a national trade magazine, *PM Engineer*, which goes out monthly to about 25,000 readers, most of whom are mechanical engineers in the HVAC and Plumbing industry. Mr. Siegenthaler interviewed South Lewis CSD Business Administrator, Barry Yette and the two talked at length about the system and about details on the operation of the boiler. Barry spoke about the school's true operational experience with the wood chip boiler and shared maintenance and operation experiences that could be useful for other institutions considering making similar installations. Mr. Yette also stressed the importance of touring similar facilities what similar installations for anyone considering a similar project.

The biomass boiler, which went online in December of 2011, continues to provide the school with an estimated \$100,000 in annual heating savings over #2 fuel oil. The boiler was implemented without additional cost to school district tax payers and without adding any staff to the school's payroll. While some oil and propane are still used in the district, especially for domestic use and warmer season heating, the wood chip boiler provides all heat and hot water at the Junior-Senior High School building during the cold winter season.

The SLCSO biomass boiler was also featured on page 9 of the Rural Futures newsletter, which can be found here: <http://www.nysenate.gov/report/winter-rural-futures-newsletter-2013-14>.

The Commission is hoping soon to learn more about the Governor's Renewable Heat NY program, which can be viewed at <http://publications.budget.ny.gov/eBudget1415/fy1415littlebook/BriefingBook.pdf> on page 36. It is hoped that there will be incentives for more biomass installations in the state .

Governor's Regional Budget Presentation

Governor Andrew Cuomo last week released his Executive Budget Proposal for SFY 2014-15. On Thursday, February 6, Deputy Secretary of State for Local Government Dede Scozzafava will present an overview of the Governor's proposals at the Lewis County Board of Legislators Chambers in Lowville. The presentation will be at 3:30 p.m. This will be an opportunity to hear more about the Governor's proposals from education to the economy, agriculture to local property taxes. Deputy Secretary Scozzafava will provide highlights of the budget and address proposals of particular interest to the North Country.

There is no need to RSVP for this event but please arrive early as the presentation will begin right at 3:30 p.m. The Legislative chambers are located at 7660 N. State St., Lowville, NY 13367.

These sessions usually last about 90 minutes including questions from the audience.

NYS Maple Weekend



Bring your family to a sugarhouse and see maple syrup being made and enjoy family activities.

Lewis, Jefferson, Oneida and Oswego Counties

Visit www.mapleweekend.com for more detailed information and directions for each producer.



Demystifying Parliamentary Procedures (Robert's Rules Explained)

The NYS GIS Association offered a free webex for members on January 9th, 2014. This webinar was for anyone who participates in meetings, not just GIS professionals. The presenter was Bill Johnson, GIO, NYS Office of the CTO, a self-taught student of Robert's Rules of Order. This was an overview of the standard rules for conducting business meetings of organizations with an emphasis on understanding the fundamentals and rationale for these widely used procedures.

Below is the description that the presenter gave for his presentation:

"You have no doubt participated in business meetings conducted under Robert's Rules of Order, and the odds are high that the rules were not followed properly. As a result, you have probably witnessed a lot of arcane and confusing disorder that left you wishing those 'stupid' rules would be abandoned. Truth be told, they are excellent rules when used properly and with a reasonable understanding of their foundations. Just like traffic rules for drivers, business meetings go smoothly and efficiently when everyone follows the rules properly. Start 2014 on the right foot and learn what you need to know about Robert's Rules of Order."

This webinar video is available on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GBRPDLiJWE>, or go to the NYS GIS Association YouTube channel to find the video.

Contact us at:**NYS Tug Hill
Commission**

317 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601

We are located on the
6th Floor of the Dulles
State Office Building.

Phone: 315-785-2380
Toll Free within the
region:
1-888-785-2380

Email:
tughill@tughill.org
Website:
www.tughill.org

**Assisting Communities
and citizens for
over 40 years.**

**Please help us
reduce our costs
and let us send you
this newsletter
electronically. Send
an email request to
gwen@tughill.org
or call
1-888-785-2380.
Electronic versions
appear in full color!**

Central Square School District Holds 'Planning for the Future' Meeting

The Central Square Central School District held a public meeting on Wednesday, January 29, 2014 at which Dr. Paul Seversky presented findings of a district consolidation study. In the face of declining district enrollment and state aid, the school board contracted with Dr. Seversky to help the district answer the question "Are there options that might provide more cost-effective ways or patterns to organize how the PreK - 12 program is implemented/delivered over the next three years?" Dr. Seversky's previous experience includes assisting the Camden school district with analyzing their system's needs, a process which resulted in the school board deciding to close North Bay Elementary School in the town of Vienna.

This study is the first part of the results of that process. Approximately 70 area citizens attended Wednesday's meeting. Next will be the formation and meeting of a 32-member community focus group which will meet Saturday, February 15 to review the study results and formulate recommendations to the school board. By the end of February, the school board hopes to have focus group recommendations on which they can base a decision about service delivery in the future.

Study implications include the possibility of closing one or more Central Square Central School facilities. Other than the "no action" alternative, every scenario analyzed recommended at the very least, closing either A.A. Cole Elementary School in Constantia or Cleveland Elementary School in Cleveland. Other scenarios envisioned closing two or three facilities with an estimated cost savings approaching 2.5 million dollars a year.

While the possibility arose late in the study process, the study also does touch on the implication of Central New York Raceway's interest in purchasing the middle school, and the implications of that for capacity and distribution of students through the rest of the system.

The district consolidation study can be found on the district's "Planning for the Future" web page, www.cssd.org/community.cfm?subpage=50822, along with supplementary studies and an application form for those wishing to be considered for inclusion in the February 15 focus group.

Save the date!



Black River Watershed Conference

June 4, 2014.

Stay tuned for more details!