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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.



Tug Hill Commission Highlighted in SLELO Newsletter

The Summer 2015 newsletter of the St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM) highlighted the Tug Hill Commission as one of the group's many partners. The newsletter can be found on SLELO's website at <http://www.sleloinvasives.org/news/newsletters/2015-june-newsletter-newest-revision/>. The Commission serves on the group's Education and Outreach Committee, and has helped organize their Invasive Species Symposium the past two years, and partnered with Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust and SLELO to develop and install invasive species education signage around Tug Hill over the past few years. Above is a picture of a recently installed sign at the Jefferson County Forest Worth lot.

NOCCOG Conducting Bi-Annual Salary Survey

Town and Village Clerks in the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments are participating in this year's salary survey by providing information about salaries to be compiled and shared among participating communities.

General information including annual general and highway budget figures and tax rate information, as well as salary data for a variety of elected and appointed positions is collected and compiled every other year by NOCCOG. Local officials are then furnished with the data for each municipality, helping guide decisions during the upcoming budget process. Although a wide range of circumstances affect salaries, municipalities have expressed that the information is helpful in maintaining costs at a reasonable level.

Grants Available for Local Drinking Water and Wastewater Improvements

The New York State Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) of 2015 provides \$200 million in grant funding over the next three state fiscal years to fund municipal wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects that improve water quality and protect public health.

For State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2015-2016, \$50 million in grant funding will be available to assist in funding water quality infrastructure projects - \$30 million for clean water (wastewater) projects and \$20 million for drinking water projects. Funds will be administered by the state Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) and the state Department of Health (DOH).

\$75 million in additional grant is expected to be available in both SFY 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

To be considered for grant funding in SFY 2015-2016, complete applications must be submitted to NYSWaterGrants@efc.ny.gov no later than the close of business on **Friday, September 4, 2015**.

Clean Water Grants:

This year, EFC will allocate \$30 million in grant funding for clean water (wastewater) projects that improve water quality. Applicants seeking grant funding for wastewater projects may receive up to \$5 million in grant, not to exceed 25% of the project cost after discounting other grant funds.

EFC gives preference to projects that meet EFC's hardship criteria with a focus on an applicant's median household income among other factors. Priority will also be given to wastewater projects that mitigate combined sewer and storm water overflows, as well as for projects that increase resiliency by protecting wastewater collection and treatment systems from sea level rise and damage from extreme weather.

Drinking Water Grants:

This year, EFC and DOH will allocate \$20 million in grant funding for drinking water projects that protect public health. Applicants seeking grant funding for drinking water projects may receive up to \$2 million in grant, not to exceed 60% of the project cost after discounting other grant funds.

EFC and DOH give preference to projects that meet EFC's hardship criteria and result in the greatest reduction in risk to public health.

Stand alone planning projects are not eligible; however, planning is eligible if tied to a construction project. Guidelines for both programs can be found at www.efc.ny.gov/nyswatergrants.

Emerging GIS in NYS Survey

The Fund for the City of New York has commissioned the NYS GIS Association to assess the extent and availability of GIS in municipal governments across New York State with an eye to assist interested municipalities start and further develop GIS capabilities.

- The New York State GIS Association is a non-profit organization that is committed to supporting GIS in its many settings throughout the state and connecting users to the resources they need to advance.
- GIS is a computer-based system that allows for the storage of the location of real world features along with information related to those features, enabling map creation and data management. Overlays of different features at the same location can allow for analysis of relationships between features and custom solutions to issues.

Whether you are currently using GIS or not, your input will help us. Please take the survey and help to assess the needs and increase GIS resources for municipalities throughout New York State. If you currently utilize GIS services and it is through an outside organization, please enter them in question 5 of the survey, along with your response to that question.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NYSGISGRANT>

2015 Black River Trash Bash

The 2015 International Coastal Cleanup Day is September 19th. This year will mark the 30th year the Northeast Chapter of the American Littoral Society (ALS) has organized, supported and funded New York's participation in this important annual event.

Please keep the 2015 Black River Trash Bash in mind as you meet and talk amongst your boards and committees and groups! Pick a date in September or October and pick a place in the Black River Watershed for your group to clean. And then, contact Jennifer Harvill at the commission office at 785-2392 or jennifer@tughill.org in the coming weeks so we can start organizing!

During the 2014 New York State Beach Cleanup, 6,891 volunteers removed 92,677 pounds of debris from over 245 miles of shoreline. Though these numbers are impressive, the ALS hope to increase participation and reach out to new groups, counties, schools and organizations.

Locally, **30 Black River Trash Bash volunteers and workers removed over 600 pounds of garbage and recyclables from the shores of the Black River in 2014.**

All of your hard work and enthusiasm is greatly appreciated and we hope we can count on you again this year to organize your group(s) and help to solicit others to join our effort. School children, from elementary through college have engaged and benefited from participation in the cleanup. Please encourage any educator, community group or scout leader you know to participate at your cleanup site.

Jefferson County SWCD Awarded \$175,000 for Green Infrastructure in Lower Black River Watershed

The Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has secured a \$175,000 grant through the U.S. Forest Service's State and Private Forestry FY 2015 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. In collaboration with the Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition and the NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation, the SWCD will implement green infrastructure projects to reduce runoff and improve stormwater management on county and municipal lands throughout the lower Black River watershed. The project anticipates to plant 750 native trees and reduce 44,250 gallons of runoff (59 gallons/tree). The project will also install 3 rain gardens using the DEC Stormwater Management Design manual and will promote green infrastructure implementation projects on private lands through education and outreach.

The Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition was formed in 2014 in response to new stormwater regulations put in place as a result of the growing population around Watertown and Fort Drum. This is the second sizable grant secured by the Coalition to undertake the necessary actions to meet stormwater management requirements. The first grant was secured through the DEC's Water Quality Improvement Program with the Town of LeRay as applicant.

More information about the Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition can be found on their website, <http://www.jcnystormwater.com/>.

CNY Regional Visitor Profile Study Presentation

There will be a presentation of a study on Central New York tourism on Monday, July 27, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the Martha Eddy Room at the Arts and Home Center Building of the New York State Fairgrounds.

This study, commissioned by the tourism promotion agencies of Cayuga, Cortland, Onondaga, Oswego, and Madison County, was conducted by Young Strategies to learn about the source of tourist visits, what they valued the most about their visit, and other market trends. The survey group consisted of about 4,600 central New York residents and 3,000 visitors from outside the region.

This presentation is open to the public, and there will be signs at the Fairgrounds to provide directions to attendees.

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Town of Wilna Proceeds with Eminent Domain

Board members of the Town of Wilna approved a motion to proceed with eminent domain proceedings at the July 13th meeting to acquire the privately owned trailer and outbuildings located on publically owned property known as "Crown Cleaners of Watertown, Inc. Superfund Site." Based upon recommendations provided by the town attorney, Mark Gebo, the town contracted with an appraiser to place a fair market value on the 40-year old trailer and adjacent buildings to guide negotiations.

The town assumed ownership of the 9 acre site in June 2012 to guide development of the site as a waterfront park. Located along State Rt. 3, Black River & Olympic Scenic Trails and Blueway Trail Corridor, the town is working with EPA, DEC, attorneys, Tug Hill Commission and legislative representatives to implement recommendations outlined in the 2012 Site Cleanup Plan.

South Main Street Trailhead Project Nears Completion

The Village of West Carthage is nearing completion on the construction of the South Main Street Trailhead Project. Located along S. Main Street, Powis Construction installed a retention wall, parking lot, access road, handi-capped accessible walkways and landscaping at the 2.1 acre picnic and boat launch area. According to Ron Blineby, Chair of the West Carthage Planning Board and S. Main Street Trailhead Project Committee, "coordinated efforts with the Jefferson County Highway Department, village DPW, T/Champion and volunteers/donors to install and construct an open air pavilion/ gazebo, lighting, pedestrian trail/walkway/access road, vehicular parking, tree plantings, park benches/bar-b-q's and other park amenities will provide local residents and visitors with an enjoyable attraction to enjoy."

Assisted and supported by GYMO Engineering Firm, NYS Tug Hill Commission, DEC/ACOE and OPRHP, the project advances recommendations outlined in the Destination Blueway: a Waterfront Plan for the Villages of Carthage and West Carthage. When completed, the project will provide linkages to existing motorized and non-motorized trails while interconnecting the waterfront and downtown areas.

State Archives Redesigns Website

Check out the redesigned New York State Archives website at www.archives.nysed.gov. While the content and navigational structure generally remain the same, you will notice a new look particularly to the homepage.

In addition to the new look, they have redesigned the

- Workshop registration
- Digital Collections
- Documents and learning activities for educators
- Name indexes
- Motion picture script index

Please check and update your links to their pages, which have changed. If you need help finding your old favorites, contact State Archives at RECMGMT@nysed.gov.