Headwaters In Your Mailbox

The commission’s annual newsletter and annual report, Headwaters, is published and should be in your mailbox or inbox. This year’s publication highlights new commission members, a large land conservation project in the Salmon River Watershed, activity in our Councils of Governments, and much more. You can also find it on our website at www.tughill.org/publications/headwaters/.

LGC Final Schedule; DOS Consultations Available

Attendance at the 2018 conference is anticipated to be close to 700 people, including attendees, exhibitors and speakers. The final schedule of 23 individual sessions on a wide variety of topics is available on the commission’s website at www.tughill.org/lgc2018/.

Twenty-nine exhibitors will be on display in the gymnasium highlighting a wide variety of services offered to local governments. This year’s platinum level sponsors are BCA Architects & Engineers, C2AE Architecture and Engineering, Development Authority of the North Country, Faculty Student Association of Jefferson Community College, and GYMO Architecture, Engineering, Environmental & Land Surveying. Gold level sponsors are Comp Alliance and Williamson Law Book Co. Bronze level sponsors are the Local Government Education Committee of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, NYS Association of City & Village Clerks, and the North Shore, Northern Oneida County, River Area, and Salmon Rivers councils of governments.

Additionally, Department of State’s Division of Local Government Services will have staff available for individual consultations during the conference, on topics ranging from sharing, to planning, to funding. If interested, please call DOS office at 518-473-3355 by March 26th.
Planning Board & ZBA Basic Training April 5 & 12

Hosted by the Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program, trainings will be held at the Oneida County Planning Department, 3rd Floor, Boehlert Center at Union Station, 321 Main Street, Utica from 5:00-7:00 p.m..

- **Thursday, April 5** - Planning Board Basics
- **Thursday, April 12** - ZBA Basics

Registration fee is $10 per session and refreshments will be provided. Space is limited so please RSVP. Registration form and details available at [www.ocgov.net](http://www.ocgov.net). For more information: kcampbell@ocgov.net or 315-798-5710.

This training provides an opportunity for local planning and zoning board members to receive training on a variety of land use topics and to receive 2 hours of training credits.

Comments Accepted on Draft Salmon River Fisheries Management Plan until April 23

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has released a draft Salmon River Fisheries Management Plan to guide the agency’s continuing efforts to sustain and improve the Salmon River, one of New York’s premier sportfishing destinations. DEC’s goal is to manage the Salmon River and its tributaries as a year-round sport fishery that provides anglers with the opportunity to catch an array of trophy-sized salmonids. DEC proposes a variety of strategies to achieve this goal, including improvements to its Salmon River Fish Hatchery, improved and increased angler access, efforts to promote ethical angling, protection and enhancement of critical fish habitats, and utilizing science and adaptive management to measure and achieve success.

The plan covers the period from 2018 to 2033 and focuses on lake-run trout and salmon in the 17-mile Salmon River corridor and the river’s major tributaries below the Lighthouse Hill Reservoir in the town of Orwell. The plan is available on DEC’s website at [http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/112992.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/112992.html).

DEC will accept public comments on the draft plan until April 23, 2018. To comment on the plan, send an email with the subject line “Salmon River Plan” to fwfish7@dec.ny.gov or send written comments via mail to: David Lemon, Regional Fisheries Manager, NYSDEC Region 7, 1285 Fisher Road, Cortland, New York 13045.

April 30 Grant Preparedness Workshop for Municipalities

The Tug Hill Commission and Lewis County Planning Department are partnering to host a workshop on Grant Preparedness. Being prepared when a grant opportunity becomes available is important for submitting a timely and complete application. The workshop will cover some simple but important items to work on so that towns and villages are ready to apply when the time comes.

The workshop will take place at **6:00 pm on Monday April 30, 2018** at the **Port Leyden Fire Hall**. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP’s are appreciated. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Casandra Buell, Planner, at the Lewis County Planning Department at (315) 376-5919 or casandrabuell@lewiscounty.ny.gov.
CTHC Spring Meeting Scheduled

On Thursday, April 26, the Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) will hold their annual spring meeting at the Central Hotel, 6032 Main St., Glenfield. Social hour will start at 6:00 pm, with dinner at 7:00 pm and the business meeting to follow.

On the agenda are review of the September 2017 meeting minutes and the current financial report, as well as election of officers for 2018. The Tug Hill Commission will provide updates on CTHC projects. The locally approved Special Areas map from Turin will be reviewed, the town of Adams interest in joining the Council will be discussed, and the proposed work goals for 2018 will be reviewed for approval.

The speakers for the evening will be Ryan Piche, Lewis County Manager, and his team to discuss economic development opportunities. The meeting will close, as usual, with Supervisor topics and comments from the floor.

Guest dinners are $24 per person, and the meeting itself is open to the public and free to attend. RSVP by April 18 to Angie Kimball at angie@tughill.org, (315) 599-8825 or (315) 480-6857, or through your Circuit Rider at a meeting.

Town of Lowville Joins RACOG

The five communities of the River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) have approved a new inter-municipal agreement that adds the town of Lowville as the sixth member of RACOG. The town of Lowville joins the town of Champion, town of Wilna, village of Carthage, village of Deferiet, and village of West Carthage, and is the first Lewis County community to join RACOG.

The Black River physically connects all of the RACOG communities together. They also share other commonalities and characteristics that make sense for these communities to work together and share services.

RACOG’s next board meeting will be at the village of Carthage on April 17, 2018 at 6pm. For more information you can contact Mickey Dietrich the RACOG Circuit Rider by emailing him at mickey@tughill.org or by phone at (315) 681-5023.

No-Match Grant Funding Available

**Community Energy Engagement Program**

*Assistance for Residents and Businesses in Your Community*

**Wednesday**

**April 25, 2018**

**6:30 to 8:30 pm**

**Check-in: 6:00 pm**

**Town of Schuyler Town Hall**

**PRESENTED BY:**

Local Government Education Committee’s (LGEC). Visit our website for more information:

[www.LGEC.org](http://www.LGEC.org)

*There is a $10 fee to attend the workshop.*

Please register for the session at [http://lgec.org/workshop](http://lgec.org/workshop)

Fee collected at the door.

Or mail your registration form and payment by:

**Friday, April 20, 2018**

**TO:**

Digital Towpath Cooperative

LGEC Registration

PO Box 449

Barneveld, NY 13304
FY 2017 SAFER Grants Open

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Grants Program Directorate have issued a notice of the FY 2017 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants, which will begin accepting applications on March 26, 2018. The SAFER program is composed of two activities: 1) hiring of firefighters by career, combination or volunteer fire departments and 2) re-recruitment/retention of volunteer firefighters by combination or volunteer fire departments.

Funding may be applied for ONLY by volunteer and combination fire departments in either category; by career fire departments in the “hiring of firefighter candidates” only and by municipalities and districts on behalf of fire departments which lack the legal standing to do so.

There is no requirement of matching funds for the SAFER Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity grants, however the SAFER Hiring of Firefighter Activity grants are required to contribute non-federal funds subject to a “position cost limit and a cost share” program. In order to apply for this funding opportunity you must have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM). Be aware that it can take up to 4 weeks after submitting your SAM registration for it to become active and then recognized by the Grants.gov system.

There is $345,000,000 in funding available and there is no maximum grant award. For more information on the SAFER grant program visit https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1520885778340-63be0643f104f6e5e598312a80caf2bf/FY2017SAFERNOFORFINAL.pdf. Deadline to apply for the SAFER grant program is 4/27/2018 at 5 pm Eastern Time.

Northern Border Regional Commission
Grant Deadline May 11

The Northern Border Regional Commission’s (http://www.nbrc.gov/) 2018 grant round has been announced, with a deadline of May 11, 2018. For infrastructure grants, the maximum award is $500,000; for all other categories, the maximum amount is $250,000. A Letter of Notification is due March 30, 2018, and is required to be sent to the state so they are aware of potential applications.

Eligible counties in NY are: Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Oswego, Seneca, and St. Lawrence. All counties in NY are classified as “distressed,” which makes them eligible for 80% funding and require a 20% match.

Eligible applicants are: State governments of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York; Local governments (village, town, city and county); Other political subdivisions of States (regional planning commissions, authorities of the state); Indian Tribes; Non-profit entities.

Infrastructure is defined for NBRC purposes as publicly owned and publicly accessible fixed/physical ‘hard’ installations necessary for the movement of utilities, services, goods and people necessary to conduct business. Subcategories are:

1. Transportation
2. Basic Public
3. Telecommunications

Other grant categories are: Business and Workforce Development; Renewable and Alternative Energy; Basic Health Care Resource Conservation, Tourism, and Recreation

Helping local governments and citizens shape the future of the Tug Hill Region for over 40 years.