



March 25, 2016

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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.

NYS Farmland Protection Grant Applications Available; Due June 13

New York State has announced the availability of \$26 million for farmland protection projects. The funding opportunity helps enable local initiatives intended to maintain the economic viability of the state's agricultural industry and its supporting land base and to protect the environmental and landscape preservation values associated with agriculture. The application as well as webinar materials are available at www.agriculture.ny.gov/RFPS.html.

Eligible applicants include:

- counties with state-approved agricultural and farmland protection plans;
- municipalities that have adopted a local farmland protection plan;
- soil and water conservation districts; and
- not-for-profit conservation organizations referred to as "land trusts"

Farms in the four-county Tug Hill region interested in learning more about the program should contact Linda Garrett at the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, (315) 779-8240 or thtomorr@northnet.org.

Tug Hill Commission Job Announcement

The Tug Hill Commission currently has an opening for an Associate Director/ Director of Community and Regional Projects. The position is part of the commission's management team, and will oversee staff in the areas of natural resources, community development, GIS and community outreach. Interested persons should submit a cover letter and resume to executive director Katie Malinowski by April 11, 2016. The anticipated start date for the position is July 1, 2016.

The full job description is available on the commission's website, www.tughill.org.

New Tug Hill Commission Facebook Page

If you use Facebook, please check out our new Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission. Our first foray into social media, we hope our Facebook page will complement the commission's website and biweekly Tug Hill Times newsletter. Look for information on commission sponsored events, new grant opportunities, and other information pertinent to Tug Hill.



Tug Hill Commission Meeting

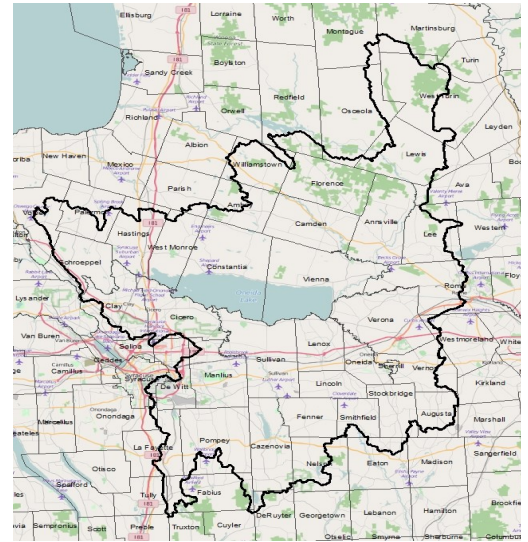
March 30th, 4:00 p.m. at the commission offices, 317 Washington St., Watertown.

NYS Department of State Consultation Center at Local Government Conference

The Department of State, Division of Local Government Services will have staff available for individual consultations with local government leaders interested in discussing resources available to address specific areas of concern. Conference attendees can drop in or pre-schedule an appointment to meet with staff and discuss how the Department of State may be able to assist them; technical assistance, liaison to other state agencies or potential funding. They will have information and technical assistance available regarding specific funding opportunities, including the new Municipal Restructuring Fund. Those interested in this service can to schedule a time to meet with them at the conference on March 31st and to discuss potential projects. The contact number is 518-473-3355.

Oneida Watershed Risk Map Discovery Project

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), has started a new Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) “Discovery” project for the Oneida watershed. FEMA's Risk MAP program is designed to provide quality flood maps and data and other tools and support to help communities take action to reduce flood risk and the potential loss of life and property.



During this Discovery project, FEMA and NYSDEC will ask for input from communities in the Oneida watershed on local flooding issues and mitigation activities, flood mapping needs, recent development, and other concerns related to flood risk. The results will be used to determine if a Risk MAP project to create revised flood maps or other products based on needs identified during the process is necessary.

Community involvement is very important because it will ensure that FEMA and NYSDEC are aware of local flooding problems, flood mapping needs, and other related issues that communities in the watershed may be facing. This is your opportunity to discuss the local flood risks and the challenges your community faces when it comes to managing that risk directly with FEMA and NYSDEC.

You are invited to attend a Pre-Discovery webinar during which FEMA and NYSDEC will provide an overview of the Risk MAP program and the Discovery project.

Please RSVP to gracevinson@clarkgroupllc.com with your choice of session by Monday March 28th 2016. If you have questions about the project prior to the webinar, please contact the NYSDEC team at (518) 402-8185 or at floodplain@dec.ny.gov.

Webinar Session 1

Date: Tuesday April 5, 2016
Time: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

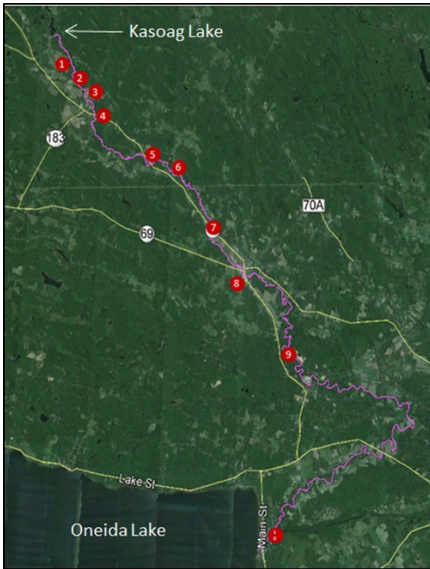
Webinar Session 2

(Repeat of Session 1)
Date: Thursday April 7, 2016
Time: 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Osceola Tug Hill Cross Country Ski Center to Host Weather Station

Construction will take place this spring at the Osceola Tug Hill XC Ski Center (www.uxcski.com/) to build a weather station as part of NYS's Mesonet Program (www.nysmesonet.org/). The station will be located near the main building and will not interfere with the ski trails or disc golf course. Additional sites are planned around the region.

SLELO PRISM To Work Along Fish Creek



The St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM) plans to do an assessment in 2016 in Fish Creek. Fish Creek originates at Kasoag Lake in Oswego County, near the town of Williamstown. The creek meanders southeasterly for approximately 47 miles terminating into Oneida Lake. Both Kasoag Lake and Fish Creek are public fishing areas and although neither waterbodies are on the PRISM's Priority Conservation Area list, Oneida Lake is, and preventing the spread of invasive species into Oneida Lake is a priority for SLELO PRISM.

Fanwort, an invasive aquatic macrophyte, was recently discovered in Kasoag Lake. The Kasoag Lake Conservation Association has taken the initiative to conduct control measures beginning in 2016. There is however concern that fanwort may have found its way into the outlet of Kasoag Lake (Fish Creek), and therefore poses a threat to downstream areas including Oneida Lake. In autumn of 2015 the SLELO PRISM was approached to assist with conducting a rather intensive assessment of Fish Creek to determine the downstream extent of the fanwort population, if any, and to determine its proximity to Oneida Lake. With PRISM resources already being stretched and given the 47 mile assessment area, PRISM partners have come together to form an ad-hoc work group in support of this assessment.



Fish Creek from Kasoag Lake to Oneida Lake. Red dots depict initial HPA's to be surveyed.

This summer the SLELO Early Detection Team will begin an assessment of several highly probable areas along the length of Fish Creek in search of remote fanwort populations within the creek. This effort may be supplemented with volunteers who would expand the search in high risk areas along the creek.

Fanwort, Photo Credit: Lower Hudson PRISM: <http://www.flowgrow.de/db/images/wasserpflanzen/detail/cabomba-caroliniana-var-caroliniana-4f7a014f37c6c.jpg>

Northern Border Regional Commission Unveils New Website and Grant Round

The federal Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) has unveiled a new website, www.nbrc.gov, and announced the availability of a new round of grants, due June 17, 2016. The NBRC will fund economic and infrastructure developments that:

- Develop the transportation, telecommunication and basic public infrastructure within the region;
- Assist the region in obtaining job skills and employment related education, as well as entrepreneurship, technology and business development;
- Provide basic health care and other public services for those areas that are severely economically distressed and underdeveloped;
- Encourage resource conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open spaces in a manner consistent with economic development goals; and/or,
- Support the development of renewable and alternative energy sources.

Eligible counties in New York are Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Oswego, Seneca, and St. Lawrence counties. All four Tug Hill counties are considered distressed and are eligible to request up to 80% of project cost. Eligible grant recipients include municipalities, counties, non profits, Native American tribes, and state agencies. The maximum grant award is \$250,000, and there is approximately \$1.7 million available for projects in NY. Successful grant applicants will be notified in August 2016. The full application package is available at www.nbrc.gov/content/2016-eid-investments.

Contact us at:

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Commission**

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and citizens shape
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Tug Hill region,
for over 40 years.*

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Clean Energy Economy Conference Registration Now Open

The 2016 Clean Energy Economy Conference is set for June 13-15 in Utica, at the beautiful SUNY Polytechnic Institute campus. Now in its fifth year, the CEEC remains the premier forum in Northern New York for connecting around Clean Energy issues and opportunities. Organized by the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA), this conference serves as a forum for individuals, businesses, educators, community leaders, industry professionals and others to share information about cleaner, greener energy opportunities across the region.

You will find the link to the registration at the conference's website www.ncenergyconference.org/. The Local Government and School District Employee (must show ID) rate to attend is \$50.00. The rate for a general attendee is \$97.00 or \$75.00 for a student (must show ID)

Floodplain Management Trainings Offered by NYSDEC

NYS DEC is hosting a series of floodplain management trainings across the state in the upcoming months, with two scheduled in Cooperstown, NY on Tuesday, May 10th, and in Norwich, NY on Wednesday, May 11th. The free, full-day training session will provide a detailed overview of FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and review the community's roles and responsibilities in administering this program at the local level. The training has been approved for 6 hours of code enforcement, professional engineering, and certified floodplain management continuing education credits, and is targeted at code enforcement officers, floodplain administrators, building inspectors, planners, and engineers.

Please note that the trainings are FREE, but that they are also limited to the first 50 registrants. Registration information and forms are available on DEC's website at www.dec.ny.gov/lands/101275.html.

Comprehensive Plans with Sustainability Elements Climate Smart Communities Webinar

Comprehensive plans provide a vision, goals, and strategies for how a community wants to grow in the near future. This Climate Smart Communities webinar will explore how sustainability elements, including both greenhouse gas emission reductions and community resilience, can be incorporated into a new or updated comprehensive plan, or as a sustainability amendment to an existing plan. Speakers will describe examples from New York State where communities have broadened the vision of their plans to include sustainable elements like renewable energy, pedestrian-friendly designs, and the conservation of green spaces.

For information on the webinar go to: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NYSDEC/bulletins/13d97c1>